



Benefice of the Piddle Valley, Hilton & Ansty, Melcombe Horsey and Cheselbourne

Sunday 1st November 2020 - All Saints at Hilton & Piddlehinton

Readings: Rev. 7: 9-end, Psalm 34: 1-10, 1 John 3: 1-3, Matt 5: 1-12

Collect: O almighty God, who hast knit together thine elect in one communion and fellowship, in the mystical body of thy Son Christ our Lord: Grant us grace so to follow thy blessed Saints in all virtuous and godly living, that we may come to those unspeakable joys, which thou hast prepared for them that unfeignedly love thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Revelation 7:9-17 (ESV) - A Great Multitude from Every Nation

After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honour and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen." Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where they have come?" I said to him, "Sir, you know." And he said to me, "These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. "Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence. They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat. For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

1 John 3:1-3 (ESV) - Children of God

See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

Matthew 5: 1-12(ESV) - The Sermon on the Mount

Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him.

The Beatitudes

And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons^[a] of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

COMMENT: The Beatitudes reveal how Jesus saw those who are to inherit the Kingdom of heaven. While this description may seem to project beyond current reality, it also provides a value system for a basis on how we can live from day to day as if the reign of God has already begun. This is the way of life lived by the saints now and eternally. The Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5-7 is a collection of sayings Jesus may have uttered at different times and places, and yet it may have been a single discourse. The Beatitudes summarise the values intended to guide those seeking to live to God. Each one is a sermon in itself, and the whole passage has generated many a sermon series. Beatitudes appear in the Old Testament according to a single pattern beginning with the Hebrew word 'esher' (blessed or happy) after which they usually described someone worthy of praise (e.g. Psalm 1:1; 2:12; Proverbs 8:34; Isaiah 56:2; Daniel 12:12). Matthew quoted Jesus using the same method and adding the reason for this happy state. Apart from Matthew and Luke where the formula appears most commonly, beatitudes occur seven times in Revelation (1:3; 14:13; 16:15; 19:9; 20:6; 22:7,14), three times in Paul's Letter to the Romans (4:7-8; 14:22), and once in John (20:29). The reign of God comes, the beatitudes insist, not by implementing human schemes of moral and social improvement, but by the gift of God. Another feature is the paradoxical quality of the beatitudes. The people identified are not supposed to be happy - the poor, the mourners, the persecuted. Many martyred witnesses to the faith went to their death believing that a vastly better life awaited them in the heavenly realm. Yet the message of the beatitudes is not exclusively for a distant future, rather, it is for the present. The words were spoken to generate trust in God in difficult circumstances, not simply to enable us to endure hard times. None of us can avoid the traumatic experiences that life so frequently presents. The challenge of Christian faith is to accept and live a sustaining relationship with God in the most trying circumstances. This was never more true than at this moment when in Africa and Asia millions of our fellow human beings suffer disease, privation and the effects of war and natural disasters we have never experienced let alone imagined. Members of a rural Jamaican congregation which had experienced much privation due to marketing issues, crop failures and devastating hurricanes spoke of how much they had been blessed, not of the poverty they struggled to escape. The beatitudes define the way that Jesus himself lived to the point of death as an unjustly condemned criminal. Such spiritual power comes not through our most noble human efforts, but through the gift of God.

Short Preface: And now we give you thanks for the glorious pledge of the hope of our calling which you have given us in your saints; that, following their example and strengthened by their fellowship, we may run with perseverance the race that is set before us, and with them receive the unfading crown of glory.

Post Communion: God, the source of all holiness and giver of all good things: may we who have shared at this table as strangers and pilgrims here on earth be welcomed with all your saints to the heavenly feast on the day of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

The Blessing: Christ our King make you faithful and strong to do his will, that you may reign with him in glory; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

*If you are required to self-isolate,
i.e. awaiting test result or advised to isolate via the NHS Covid-19 app;
and cannot obtain supplies, please do contact Fr. Roger and we shall try to assist.
Tel. 01300 348211*

Benefice Prayer list.



- Please pray for those who are suffering from poor health, those recovering from hospital treatment, for the grieving and lonely. Also for those who are anxious and concerned for the weeks ahead.
- Please pray for our friends, family and neighbours including: Ann Lambert, Geoff Harris, Robin Dibble, June Kellaway, Robin Saunders, Anita, Jon, Lesley, Bernard & David.
- For those in care homes including: Roger Gray (Dorchester) and June Smith (Warminster).

Any additions or amendments to the prayer list, please email the Rector.

We pray for those for whom
this morning is a mountain
they are forced to climb,
because of circumstances
over which they have no control.
Help them in their distress,
hear their fears and cries.
Circle them, Lord, with your love;
in their weakness bring strength,
in their sorrow, moments of joy.
May their journey become easier
in your company, we pray.

Benefice Notices



Food Bank: Please bring your food bank donation to church, or place in the box at the Vicarage, Piddletrenthide.

Police Chaplaincy: Fr. Roger has resumed his twice monthly visits to Dorchester Police Station, supporting all the officers and volunteers based in the building.

Returning to worship: As a benefice we are able to provide a 'Covid Safe Space' for worship and to receive communion.

- Please do travel to attend a service in one of the 6 benefice churches and follow the safety protocols set out in each church, **'Venue Check in' with the QR Code or sign in sheet provided.**
- The pre-covid rota is not manageable at this time. There are two communion and one evening prayer service available each Sunday.
- If you wish to read the lesson during a service, this is permit-able from your pew. Please volunteer before the service starts.
- The only singing will be by a cantor/s or a dedicated choir.

Live Streaming:

Sunday Services will continue to be live streamed and the 9.30am service will be uploaded to YouTube. All communion services follow the "Ordinary Time Pandemic Order of Service" available on the benefice website.

Sunday 9.30am Communion Service is uploaded to YouTube:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0ru_v3_1MZyzyx72ka63g4A

Facebook to access livestream:

https://www.facebook.com/piddlevalley/?eid=ARAxjQNj5mPHQUQD2hKEx_uzUyyf17basudX3D22bYJx4HsCh7ByYB8lItrMbHhsARvgwbTqvapn-Glq

Sunday 8th November 2020 Services Remembrance

Altar Colour – Red

Readings: Amos 5: 18-24, Psalm 70, 1 Thess. 4: 13-end, Matt 25: 1-13

9.30am Act of Remembrance at Cheselbourne with Fr. Roger

10.15am Communion with Act of Remembrance at Hilton with Fr. Roger

10.50am Act of Remembrance on the Green at Melcombe Bingham

10.50am Valley Remembrance Service at Piddletrenthide with Rev'd Helier

Rector - Fr. Roger J. Butcher SSC KSJ

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