

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

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2020 – Advent Sunday  
(Altar Colour Purple)



**Readings:** Isaiah 64: 1-9, Psalm 80: 1-8, 1 Cor 1: 3-9, Mark 13: 24-end.

**Collect:** Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility; that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

## **Old Testament: Isaiah 64:1-9 (ESV)**

Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains might quake at your presence as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil to make your name known to your adversaries, and that the nations might tremble at your presence! When you did awesome things that we did not look for, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From of old no one has heard or perceived by the ear, no eye has seen a God besides you, who acts for those who wait for him. You meet him who joyfully works righteousness, those who remember you in your ways. Behold, you were angry, and we sinned; in our sins we have been a long time, and shall we be saved? We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls upon your name, who rouses himself to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have made us melt in the hand of our iniquities. But now, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Be not so terribly angry, O LORD, and remember not iniquity forever. Behold, please look, we are all your people.

## **New Testament: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 (ESV)**

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

### ***Thanksgiving***

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge—even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you— so that you are not lacking in any gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**COMMENT:** The letter was addressed to “the church of God that is in Corinth” (verse 2). The believers there met in some kind of assembly, designated by the Greek word “ecclesia.” A word used to translate the Hebrew “qahal,” which meant “the people of God.” Paul moves from the salutation (verses 1-3) to an introductory thanksgiving. While this may be normal for ordinary correspondence, in this situation it may be ironic compared with what follows in the later parts of the letter. Yet we cannot deny that Paul had a sincere love for those to whom he had brought the gospel. As a wise and loving pastor, he could only have confronted them as he did if he held them very much in his heart. In his thanksgiving Paul states briefly the inestimable value of Christian faith by telling the Corinthians that they have been greatly enriched spiritually and strengthened to live Christ’s way until he comes again. The introduction ends with Paul’s assurance that their reward for faithfulness will be - even now is - strength for life’s struggle, freedom from guilt, and fellowship with Christ.

### **Gospel: Mark 13:24-37 (ESV) - The Coming of the Son of Man**

"But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. And then he will send out the angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

#### ***The Lesson of the Fig Tree***

“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

#### ***No One Knows That Day or Hour***

“But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Be on guard, keep awake. For you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his servants in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to stay awake. Therefore stay awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or in the morning— lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake.”

**COMMENT:** Many church members frequently wonder why we begin preparing for the Christmas season with our focus on eschatology (study of last things) and the Second Coming of Christ at the end of time. We need to be reminded repeatedly that on the four Sundays of Advent preceding Christmas we read not only of Israel’s expectation of a Messiah who would save God’s people, but of the Christian Church’s expectation that Jesus Christ, who is that promised Messiah, will come again to establish God’s reign of justice, love and peace on earth. This passage sets forth what the day of Christ’s Second Coming will be like and how Christians should prepare for it. These words summarise the early church’s teaching. It draws heavily on the traditional Jewish apocalyptic tradition of the Day of the Lord, especially the Old Testament book of Daniel and the several apocryphal books of Maccabees and Esdras. Uncertainty as to the timing of the so called Second Coming is the key thought in this reading (verses 32-37). Two millennia later, many Christians have sincere, but serious difficulties with any belief in the Second Coming of Christ. “Is faith in the Second Coming essential to faith and salvation?” some may well ask. Even the great creeds of the church give this element of doctrine relatively slight treatment, despite the emphasis placed on it by New Testament authors. As time has passed in human history, the matter has become less and less meaningful. Biblical Christians and unfashionable

scholarship agree that the idea of a second coming is an integral and important element of the gospel tradition which traces the shape of the Christian hope. It deals symbolically with the end of history and as such is falsely subjected to the predictions of the limited human mind. Indeed the scripture makes quite plain that when the act occurs and how it occurs is not man's business but God's. The purposes begun in and by Christ will be fulfilled in him and his shall be the victory. The judgment that has been inaugurated by him will not lapse or be defeated, rather completed by him, as he establishes his kingdom. The coming of the Lord lies at the boundary of history beckoning man to share in God's triumph and eternal order. Human achievements must always stand under the judgment of that order and reflect it in person and relationship." This passage sets forth what the day of Christ's coming will be like and how Christians should prepare for it. Uncertainty as to the timing of the Second Coming is the key thought.

**Post Communion:** O Lord our God, make us watchful and keep us faithful as we await the coming of your Son our Lord; that, when he shall appear, he may not find us sleeping in sin but active in his service and joyful in his praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

**Short Preface:** And now we give you thanks because you sent him to redeem us from sin and death and to make us inheritors of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may with joy behold his appearing, and in confidence may stand before him.

**Blessing:** Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you, scatter the darkness from before your path, and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be upon you now and forever. **Amen.**

## **Benefice Prayer list.**

- Please pray for those who are suffering from poor health, those recovering from hospital treatment or surgery, for the grieving and lonely; including: Frances Mallett, Ann Lambert, Geoff Harris, Robin Dibble, June Kellaway, Robin Saunders, Anna Thomas, Bernard & David.
- Please pray for our friends, family and neighbours, as we move into new national tiered restrictions.
- 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.*

# Benefice Notices

## Public Worship & Live Streaming



- Public Worship will resume Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2020  
***Love God, Love your neighbour and please follow the Covid protocols in church.***
- Churches will continue to be opened for Private Prayer. (See separate timetable)
- Daily live streaming of the offices will continue.
- Live Streamed Sunday Services - 9.30am Communion and 6pm Evening Prayer.

Facebook to access livestream:

[https://www.facebook.com/piddlevalley/?eid=ARAxjQNj5mPHQUQD2hKEx\\_uzUyyf17basudX3D22bYJx4HsCh7ByYB8lltrMbHhsARvgwbTqvapn-Glq](https://www.facebook.com/piddlevalley/?eid=ARAxjQNj5mPHQUQD2hKEx_uzUyyf17basudX3D22bYJx4HsCh7ByYB8lltrMbHhsARvgwbTqvapn-Glq)

YouTube link: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0ru\\_v3\\_1MZyzx72ka63g4A](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0ru_v3_1MZyzx72ka63g4A)

**Food Bank:** Please leave donations in church or at the Vicarage, Piddletrenthide. We have received donations from Cheselbourne this week, thank you.

**Piddlehinton Toy Service:** This year the collection of new in box, unopened, unwrapped toys for the Woman's refuge will be collected on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> December at the 6pm Evening Prayer Service.

**December Rota:** This has not yet been finalised, we are waiting for guidance relating to Carol and Christingle/Nativity Services.

### **Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2020 – 2nd Sunday of Advent**

Readings: Isaiah 40: 1-11, Psalm 85: 8-end, 2 Peter 3: 8-15, Mark 1: 1-8

9.30am Communion at Alton Pancras

11.00am Communion at Cheselbourne

6.00pm Evening Prayer at Hilton

Rector - Fr. Roger J. Butcher SSC KSJ

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