

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



10th January 2021 – Baptism of Christ
(Altar Colour White/Gold)

Readings: Gen 1: 1-5, Psalm 29, Acts 19: 1-7, Mark 1: 4-11

Collect: Eternal Father, who at the baptism of Jesus revealed him to be your Son, anointing him with the Holy Spirit: grant to us, who are born again by water and the Spirit, that we may be faithful to our calling as your adopted children; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Genesis 1:1-5 (ESV) - The Creation of the World

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

Acts 19:1-7 (ESV) - Paul in Ephesus

And it happened that while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul passed through the inland country and came to Ephesus. There he found some disciples. And he said to them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?” And they said, “No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.” And he said, “Into what then were you baptised?” They said, “Into John's baptism.” And Paul said, “John baptised with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, Jesus.” On hearing this, they were baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began speaking in tongues and prophesying. There were about twelve men in all.

COMMENT: The early Church regarded baptism in the name of Jesus as a ‘symbol of new creation’. The gift of the Spirit confirmed this spiritual experience and enabled the newly baptised to live the full implications of their life in Christ. In this passage Paul helped the disciples of Ephesus, baptised by Apollos to learn the full meaning of Christian baptism. Apollos may have been one of John the Baptist's disciples. An Alexandrian Jew of great eloquence (Acts 18:24), he is named half a dozen times in the New Testament, almost entirely in connection with the Corinthian Church except for one reference in Titus 3:13 (without geographic identification). Knowledgeable in the Hebrew scriptures, especially with reference to the Messiah, he had been a catechumen and had become a teacher of “the Way of the Lord.” The Church in Ephesus had encouraged him to proceed to Corinth and there greatly helped those who through grace had become believers (18:27). Just what the distinction between this teaching and that of Paul is not entirely clear. It has been assumed that he knew the whole story about Jesus and some of Jesus' teaching, but had not fully

accepted Jesus' soteriological (salvation, or redemption) function as the Messiah/Christ which was so important to Paul. It would appear that the purpose of this passage was to clarify the difference between the ministry of John the Baptist and Jesus in much the same way that Mark did in Mark 1:7-8. The key was the presence and power of the Spirit. It also appears that the apostles were mediators of the Spirit, which Apollos had been unable to do, apparently because he had not himself received the gift of the Spirit. This is mirrored in the Catholic view that it is a Bishop who alone can ordain new Priest and Bishops.

Mark 1:4-11 (ESV) - John the Baptist Prepares the Way

John appeared, baptising in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptised by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, "After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit."

The Baptism of Jesus

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptised by John in the Jordan. And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

COMMENT: The early Church believed that the teaching and work of John the Baptist fulfilled prophecies found in Exodus 23:20 and Isaiah 40:3. These had been given a messianic interpretation. A dramatic if controversial figure, John preached repentance and baptism as the way for Jews of his time to prepare for the coming of the Messiah. Then Jesus joined the crowds that thronged to hear John's message and accept baptism. The vision of the Spirit as a dove descending on Jesus after he had been baptised confirmed John's conviction that this was indeed the Messiah who would bring the gift of the Spirit to all believers. This introductory passage also points to the continuity of Jesus' ministry with his heritage as a Jew. There appears to have been an extensive baptismal movement prior to the baptism of Jesus and the later, post-Pentecost practice of the early Church (Mark 11:32; Acts 10:37). Jesus came to the Jordan where John was preaching and baptising to identify himself with the people of God. Like most prophetic voices before him, John sought to recall Israel to its historic covenant. His baptism had some similarity with the purification rites required of all Jews under the law and also the baptism which proselytes (converts) were required to perform after circumcision as the sign of their inclusion in the covenant. There can be no question, however, that Mark also regarded Jesus as entirely unique. This is the obvious meaning of the quotation from Psalm 2:7, an ancient hymn usually sung at a royal accession or coronation. Here it is used with an obvious Christian messianic connotation and linked with another messianic interpretation of Isaiah 42:1. Jesus was now equipped as "Beloved Son" to accomplish. As Mark quotes John in verse 15, "The time is fulfilled. The kingdom of God has come near; repent and believe the good news."

Short Preface: And now we give you thanks through Jesus Christ our Lord, whose willing submission to the way of righteousness is the pattern of our calling to be his people and live in his way.

Post Communion: Lord of all time and eternity, you opened the heavens and revealed yourself as Father in the baptism of Jesus your beloved Son: by the power of your Spirit complete the heavenly work of our rebirth through the waters of the new creation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Blessing: May God, who in Christ gives us a spring of water welling up to eternal life, perfect in you the image of his glory; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen**

Benefice Prayer list.

We 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, Gill Howell, Geoff Harris, Hurford Family, Dibble family, Felstead family, Hannah Parsons, June Kellaway, Robin Saunders, Anna Thomas, Bernard & David.

For all those in care homes, and the staff, including: Roger Gray (Dorchester) and June Smith (Warminster).

Please pray for our friends, family and neighbours, as we move forward in to January with care, taking the necessary precautions to continue keep one another safe.



Requiescat in pace
Colin 'Jimmy' Felstead, Hilton

NHS
**COVID-19 VACCINE
FACT CHECK**

-  The COVID-19 vaccine will always be available free of charge.
-  The NHS will never ask you to share bank details to confirm your identity.

Dorset Police have advised the current scam doing the rounds regarding the Covid-19 Vaccine.

The COVID-19 vaccine will always be available free of charge. The NHS will never ask you to share bank details to confirm your identity or pay for a vaccine.

For more on the COVID-19 vaccine visit <http://nhs.uk/CovidVaccine>

Benefice Notices



Please arrive in good time to ensure you can follow the Covid safety protocols set out in church.

- *Wearing a face-covering*
- *Sanitising Hands*
- *Signing In*
- *Find a seat allowing for 2m personal distancing from other households.*

The Rector is always available for a chat over the phone or in person, just ring to put a date in the diary. Happy to chat over the garden gate and I can bring my own Coffee too!

Fr. Roger 01300 348211



NEXT Sunday 17th January 2021

Epiphany 2 – Altar Colour White / Gold

Readings: 1 Sam 3: 1-10, Psalm 139: 1-9, Rev 5: 1-10, John 1: 43-end

9.30 Communion at Hilton – Rev'd Helier

11.00am Horsey half Hour at Melcombe Horsey

11am Communion Piddlehinton – Fr. Roger

6.00pm Evening Prayer at Piddletrenthide – Fr. Roger

Live Streaming

The daily offices will continue to be streamed daily via Facebook

Monday @ 8am Morning Prayer

Tuesday @ 8am Morning Prayer & 8pm Compline

Wednesday @ 8am Morning Prayer & 6pm Evening Prayer

Thursday @ 9am Communion & 8pm Compline

Friday @ 6.00pm Compline

Saturday @ 6.00pm Devotions / Evening Prayer



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