

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



**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

Collect: Almighty God, in Christ you make all things new: transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your heavenly glory; 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

1 Samuel 3:1-10 (ESV) - The LORD Calls Samuel

Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD in the presence of Eli. And the word of the LORD was rare in those days; there was no frequent vision. At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his own place. The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was. Then the LORD called Samuel, and he said, "Here I am!" and ran to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down. And the LORD called again, "Samuel!" and Samuel arose and went to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. And the LORD called Samuel again the third time. And he arose and went to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy. Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down, and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant hears.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place. And the LORD came and stood, calling as at other times, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant hears."

COMMENT: This story of Samuel's call to be God's prophet in Israel has the flavour of an ancient folktale. Before being written down, it was told and retold by one generation to another because Samuel was such a towering figure in Israel's religious and political history. The story concludes another instance when God intervened to change in the direction of the nation's history. This event was seen as God keeping the covenant made long before with Abraham and with Moses.

John 1:43-51 - Jesus Calls Philip and Nathanael

The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him of whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." Jesus saw Nathanael coming towards him and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no deceit!" Nathanael said to him, "How do you know me?" Jesus answered him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." Nathanael answered him, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" Jesus answered him, "Because I said to you, 'I saw you under the fig tree', do you believe? You will see greater things than these." And he said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man."

COMMENT: John's Gospel tells of many incidents in Jesus' ministry not found in the other gospels. The way Jesus gathered his disciples in one such instance. Those who followed Jesus did so because they were convinced that he was God's Messiah. Certain details found in John's Gospel often give us a different view from the so-called Synoptic Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke. The figure of Nathanael stands out in this passage as a disciple who does not appear in any other Gospel, yet one who obviously had attracted Jesus' special attention. Attempts have been made to identify him with Bartholomew, Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, John the son of Zebedee, and Simon the Zealot. The twelve disciples known later as Apostles were chosen from a larger group of disciples (Luke 6:13), and so not every disciple named in the Gospels was part of the twelve. Nathanael's appearance here symbolises the pious Israelite, who recognises the Messiah. Nathanael's confession that 'Jesus is the Son of God and King of Israel' is nothing short of a full messianic declaration of faith. Despite his deeply sincere religious life and faith as a Jew, he was willing to set aside his intellectual doubts and difficulties to put his trust in Jesus. This trust was rewarded as Nathaniel, according to (John 21:2), was a witness to the Resurrection.

Short Preface: And now we give you thanks because, in the incarnation of the Word, a new light has dawned upon the world, that all the nations may be brought out of darkness to see the radiance of your glory.

Post Communion: God of glory, you nourish us with your Word who is the bread of life: fill us with your Holy Spirit that through us the light of your glory may shine in all the world. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Blessing: Christ the Son of God perfect in you the image of his glory and gladden your hearts with the good news of his kingdom; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen**

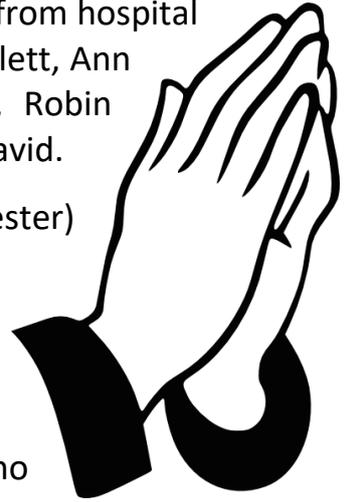
Benefice Prayer list.

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, Hannah Parsons, June Kellaway, Robin Saunders, Anna Thomas, Cathy Binks and the late Ian Binks, Bernard & David.

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

Please pray for those in the benefice (and the wider community) who are self-isolating or shielding at this time.

Please pray for the work of the Dorchester and Blandford Foodbanks who are seeing unprecedented demand for the food parcels.



School Work continues; this Week's Assembly presentation is on Communion, you can access it via YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v6QLareKWmc>



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.

THE
WEEK
AHEAD

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

Foodbank: Please donate.

- *Donations can be left in any of the benefice churches when open for private prayer (Cheselbourne also has a box in the porch).*
- *Donations can also be left at The Vicarage, Piddletrenthide (box in porch).*
- *Covid Safety: donations are quarantined for 48-72 hrs before delivering to Dorchester.*
- *Please ensure all donations are in date.*



Thank you for support this much needed service.

Sunday 24th January 2021

Epiphany 3 – Altar Colour White / Gold

Readings: Gen 14:17-20, Psalm 128, Rev 19: 6-10, John 2: 1-11

9.30 Communion at Cheselbourne – Fr. Roger

11am Communion at Alton – Fr. Roger

6.00pm Evening Prayer at Hilton – 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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