

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



**24th January 2021 – Epiphany 3
(Altar Colour White/Gold)**

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

Collect: Almighty God, whose Son revealed in signs and miracles the wonder of your saving presence: renew your people with your heavenly grace, and in all our weakness sustain us by your mighty power; 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 14:17-20 (ESV) - Abram Blessed by Melchizedek

After his return from the defeat of Chedorlaomer and the kings who were with him, the king of Sodom went out to meet him at the Valley of Shaveh (that is, the King’s Valley). And Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. (He was priest of God Most High.) And he blessed him and said, “Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth; and blessed be God Most High, who has delivered your enemies into your hand!” And Abram gave him a tenth of everything.

COMMENT: Psalm (110), a messianic psalm has this in verse 4 ‘The LORD has sworn and will not change his mind, *“You are a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.”*’ Hebrews 7:1-4 provides commentary on this man; “For this Melchizedek, King of Salem, Priest of the Most High God, met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him, and to him Abraham apportioned a tenth part of everything. He is first, by translation of his name, King of Righteousness, and then he is also King of Salem, that is, King of Peace. He is without father or mother or genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but resembling the Son of God he continues a priest forever.” Melchizedek through the note in Psalm (110) had already become a mystical figure; a King–Priest. Hebrews 7 argues that Jesus is this King–Priest on the basis of the Messianic Psalm. The Bread and Wine given in refreshment to Abram and his men is now seen as pre-figuring the Eucharist.

John 2:1-11 (ESV) - The Wedding at Cana

On the third day there was a wedding at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus also was invited to the wedding with his disciples. When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to him, “They have no wine.” And Jesus said to her, “Woman, what does this have to do with me? My hour has not yet come.” His mother said to the servants, “Do whatever he tells you.” Now there were six stone water jars there for the Jewish rites of

purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. And he said to them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the feast." So they took it. When the master of the feast tasted the water now become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and when people have drunk freely, then the poor wine. But you have kept the good wine until now." This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory. And his disciples believed in him.

COMMENT: The cycle of readings for Christmas and Epiphany are all about God revealing himself in Jesus the Christ. John's Gospel took its shape from a series of signs revealing Jesus as the Messiah, Son of God, and Saviour of the world. This miracle story described the first of these signs. The marriage feast at Cana symbolised that the messianic age had begun. The changing of water for ritual purification to wine for the marriage feast indicated that Jesus took the sacred into ordinary life in celebration, God entering the creation he made. The quality of wine also reveals something of the new creation, indicated in verse 1; 'the third day'. The opening of John's Gospel echoes the opening of Genesis. The identification with Genesis can also be seen in the seven day schema at the beginning of the Gospel; 1st day John 1:19-28; 2nd day John 1:29-34 (verse 29 "The next day"); 3rd day John 1:35-39 (verse 35 "The next day". In verse 39 the day ends); 4th Day John 1:40-42, 5th Day John 1:43-51 (verse 43 "The next day"); 6th Day John 2:1-11 where in Genesis 1:26-31 man is made but in John's Gospel named the 3rd Day – the day of New Creation/Resurrection where man is remade; 7th Day John 2:12 – where Jesus rests!

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: Almighty Father, whose Son our Saviour Jesus Christ is the light of the world: may your people, illumined by your word and sacraments, shine with the radiance of his glory, that he may be known, worshipped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth; for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **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, 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 Foodbanks and homeless charities.

Please pray for all keyworkers, including clergy & funeral directors; and all critical care staff who are under much pressure.



Requiescat in pace

David, formally from Piddlehinton

Foodbank: Please donate.

I have spoken to the Dorchester Foodbank this week and they do prefer food donations rather than financial contributions. This reduces the Coronavirus risk to their volunteers. (They are currently operating a delivery system for the food parcels.)



- *Donations can be left in any of the benefice churches when open for private prayer (Cheselbourne/Hilton - 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.*

I have delivered several bags of donations this week thank you.

A tin/packet a week added to your online shopping order can then be taken to church while you are out for your daily exercise.

Benefice Notices



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

THE
WEEK
AHEAD

- *Wear a face-covering*
- *Sanitise Hands*
- *Sign in,*
- *Find a seat allowing for 2m personal distancing from other households.*
- *Avoid mingling*

School Work continues; this Week's Assembly presentation is on Epiphany – copy the link to view
<https://youtu.be/dZ1IWS99OJ0>



Sunday 31st January 2021

Candlemas – Altar Colour White / Gold

Readings: Malachi 3:1-5, Psalm 24:7-10, Hebrews 2:14-18, Luke 2:22-40

9.30 Benefice Communion Service at Hilton – Fr. Roger

6.00pm Evening Prayer at Piddlehinton – 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



Rector - Fr. Roger J. Butcher SSC KSJ
The Vicarage, Church Lane, Piddletrenthide. DT2 7QY. Tel. 01300 348211 / 07502 118210
Email. rector.piddlevalleybenefice@gmail.com

 Facebook: @piddlevalley

 Website: <https://piddlevalleybenefice.com>