



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

28th February 2021 – Lent 2
(Altar Colour Purple)

Readings: Gen. 17:1-7, 15-16, Psalm 22: 23-end, Rom. 4:13-end, Mark 8: 31-end

Collect: Almighty God, you show to those who are in error the light of your truth, that they may return to the way of righteousness: grant to all those who are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's religion, that they may reject those things that are contrary to their profession, and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same; through our Lord Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

Genesis 17:1-7 (ESV) - Abraham and the Covenant of Circumcision

When Abram was ninety-nine years old the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless, that I may make my covenant between me and you, and may multiply you greatly." Then Abram fell on his face. And God said to him, "Behold, my covenant is with you, and you shall be the father of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham, for I have made you the father of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make you into nations, and kings shall come from you. And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.

Isaac's Birth Promised

And God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her name Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her, and moreover, I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall become nations; kings of peoples shall come from her."

Romans 4:13-25 (ESV) - The Promise Realised Through Faith

For the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith. For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law there is no transgression. That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring—not only to the adherent of the law but also to the one who shares the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all, as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into

existence the things that do not exist. In hope he believed against hope, that he should become the father of many nations, as he had been told, "So shall your offspring be." He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was as good as dead (since he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. No unbelief made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. That is why his faith was "counted to him as righteousness." But the words "it was counted to him" were not written for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.

COMMENT: Paul had a difficult task in writing to the Roman Christian community. By and large, they were unknown to him. He may have met some of them in his travels, but by and large he did not know them personally. He did know, however, that like so many other communities of faith he had founded in Asia Minor and Greece, they were a mixed group of Jews and Gentiles drawn from many different backgrounds with very little in common. He also carried with him the weight of his own background. A Jew of the Diaspora, he had sensitivity towards Greek-speaking Gentiles. As a thoroughly trained Rabbi of the Pharisees, he knew the Torah intimately as well. Then too, his mind and heart had been profoundly transformed by his conversion to Christ and his many years as a missionary apostle since that tumultuous experience on the Damascus Road. Paul's argument here was that God's promise to Abraham had special meaning for Christians. As for the patriarch, faith in God, not keeping the law, made the promise effective for them. Faith works in the same way for us. Our being given a right relationship with God (Paul calls it 'justification') depends on our faith in what God has done in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and not on any good behaviour of our own.

Mark 8:31-38 (ESV) - Jesus Foretells His Death and Resurrection

And he began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again. And he said this plainly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man." And calling the crowd to him with his disciples, he said to them, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? For what can a man give in return for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of Man also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

COMMENT: Jesus taught his disciples about his impending death, but Peter rebuked him. He still did not understand the 'kind of Messiah' Jesus had chosen to be. His participation in human life was to be total, to the point of death. Mark's narrative goes on to quote Jesus instructing not only the disciples but the

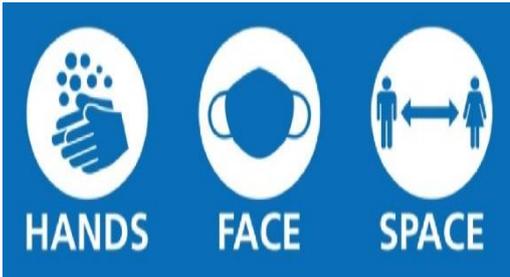
Benefice Notices



Foodbank: *Another car boat load has been delivered this week – thank you for continuing to donate.*

A tin/packet a week, dropped into church while out on your exercise helps supply the Dorchester Foodbank with supplies to feed those in need in the Dorchester and surrounding areas.

When attending a service please arrive in good time to ensure you can follow the Covid safety protocols set out in church.



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

Sunday 7th March 2021 - Lent 3 *(Altar Colour – purple)*

Readings: Exod 20:1-17, Psalm 19: 7-end, 1 Cor 1: 18-25, John 2: 13-22

9.30am Communion Service at Alton Pancras

11.00am Communion Service at Cheselbourne

6.00pm Evening Prayer at Hilton

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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