



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



**14<sup>th</sup> March 2021 – Lent 4  
(Altar Colour Purple)**

**Readings: 1 Sam 1: 20-end, Psalm 34: 11-20, Col 3: 12-17, John 19: 25-27**

**Collect:** God of compassion, whose Son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary, shared the life of a home in Nazareth, and on the cross drew the whole human family to himself: strengthen us in our daily living that in joy and in sorrow we may know the power of your presence to bind together and to heal; 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 1:20-28 (ESV) - Samuel Given to the LORD**

And in due time Hannah conceived and bore a son, and she called his name Samuel, for she said, "I have asked for him from the LORD." The man Elkanah and all his house went up to offer to the LORD the yearly sacrifice and to pay his vow. But Hannah did not go up, for she said to her husband, "As soon as the child is weaned, I will bring him, so that he may appear in the presence of the LORD and dwell there forever." Elkanah her husband said to her, "Do what seems best to you; wait until you have weaned him; only, may the LORD establish his word." So the woman remained and nursed her son until she weaned him. And when she had weaned him, she took him up with her, along with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour, and a skin of wine, and she brought him to the house of the LORD at Shiloh. And the child was young. Then they slaughtered the bull, and they brought the child to Eli. And she said, "Oh, my lord! As you live, my lord, I am the woman who was standing here in your presence, praying to the LORD. For this child I prayed, and the LORD has granted me my petition that I made to him. Therefore I have lent him to the LORD. As long as he lives, he is lent to the LORD." And he worshiped the LORD there.

**COMMENT:** In the first part of the Chapter, which does not form part of the reading, we find that Hannah is the wife of Elkanah, a man with two wives. Every year Elkanah takes his whole household to the shrine at Shiloh to sacrifice to the Lord. His second wife, Peninnah, provokes and mocks Hannah, because Peninnah has children, and Hannah is childless. Elkanah loves Hannah, we are told, but perhaps he had taken a second wife because Hannah could not give him children. Hannah is desperate. She longs for a child - she prays for a child in the shrine at Shiloh - and she offers God a deal in exchange for a child. "God, if you give me a son, then I will give him back to serve you for the rest of his life." Eli the priest notices her unhappiness as she prays silently. She is so distressed that

he thinks she is drunk and chides her, but Hannah with great dignity explains she isn't drunk, but has a lot of troubles to pray about. God answers Hannah's prayer. She conceives, gives birth to a son and calls him Samuel. When Samuel is old enough, perhaps barely more than a toddler, she takes him with her on the annual trip to Shiloh, and leaves him there with Eli. 'For this child I prayed,' she tells Eli; 'and the Lord has granted me the petition that I made him. Therefore I have lent him to the Lord; as long as he lives, he is given to the Lord.' In the last part of the story, not part of the reading, we are told that every year Hannah makes a little robe for Samuel and brings it to him in Shiloh, when she goes there with her husband Elkanah for the sacrifice. Every year Eli blesses them for her gift to the Lord. And over the years the Lord blesses Hannah with three more sons and two daughters. What sort of a mother was Hannah? An initial reaction might be to think she isn't a very good one. How could a good mother abandon her baby at the gates of a religious institution, as Hannah did, leaving Samuel at the House of the Lord at Shiloh? It would surely be a mistake to judge Hannah by the standards of our own time - we must apply the standards of her own society, not ours. Many parents who are able, still send their children away to Preparatory School as boarders when not much older than Samuel was when Hannah left him with Eli. Hannah must have felt her heart breaking as she left Samuel behind to be fostered by Eli. But by doing so she ensured that he had a fine education and a good home. She was able to visit him, to give him presents, and Eli looked after him well. Fostering has been an honourable tradition in many societies. Living in the shrine at Shiloh, Samuel learned to know and serve God. He grew up to be a great prophet - and eventually the leader of his people. It was Samuel who anointed Saul to be the first King of Israel, and David to be their greatest King ... and when Samuel died as an old man, the whole nation of Israel gathered to mourn him. The fact is, by leaving Samuel with Eli, Hannah allowed him to grow up to be what God called him to be - a prophet, and a leader. Her sacrifice was not only good for Samuel, and turned out well, but it was good for the nation. In human terms perhaps she wasn't such a bad mother after all! Not to be forgotten is that she did it in thanks to God.

### **John 19:25-27 (ESV) - Jesus's Provision for His Mother**

Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son!" Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.

**COMMENT:** The Evangelist sets the scene to the people present at the foot of the cross. Four women are mentioned: Jesus' mother, her sister, Mary Clopas' wife, and Mary Magdalene. The name of the second, the sister of Jesus' mother, is not mentioned. It is entirely possible that the sister of Jesus' mother mentioned here is to be identified with

the woman named Salome mentioned in Mark 15:40 and also with the woman identified as “the mother of the sons of Zebedee” mentioned in Matthew 27:56. If so, and if John the Apostle is to be identified as the Beloved Disciple, then the reason for the omission of the second woman’s name becomes clear; she would have been John’s own mother, and he consistently omitted direct reference to himself or his brother James or any other members of his family in the Fourth Gospel. From the cross Jesus saw his mother standing nearby, and the Beloved Disciple also standing nearby. He commended his mother to the care of the Beloved Disciple, speaking to both of them directly. From that moment on, the Beloved Disciple cared for Jesus’ mother as his own. If the beloved disciple stands in for all Christians, accepting the mother of the Lord as our own mother, means (among other things) that we are brothers and sisters of our Lord.

**Post Communion:** Loving God, as a mother feeds her children at the breast you feed us in this sacrament with the food and drink of eternal life: help us who have tasted your goodness to grow in grace within the household of faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen**

**Blessing:**

May the Lord who brought us to birth by his Spirit, strengthen us for the Christian life. May the Lord who provides for all our needs sustain us day by day.

May the Lord whose steadfast love is constant as a mother's care, send us out to live and work for others.

And the blessing of God Almighty; the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you and remain with you always. **Amen**

**Benefice Prayer list.**



Please pray for those who are suffering, from illness, recovering from surgery or hospital treatment, for those who are grieving, anxious or lonely.

Please pray for those who have asked our prayer including: Sarah Everard – her family and friends, Richard Mitchell, Bin Roy, Ann Lambert, Gill Howell, Geoff Harris, Reg Hanbury, Hannah Parsons, June Kellaway, Robin Saunders, Anna Thomas.

Please pray for those who have return to face to face education and are adjusting to new routines of testing and distancing.

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

## Benefice Notices

THE  
**WEEK**  
AHEAD



**Foodbank:** 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. I delivered donations from Cheselbourne, Alton Pancras and Piddletrenthide this week – thank you.

*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*

This Week's Assembly presentation 'Stand up for what is right' - you can access it via YouTube:

[https://youtu.be/s\\_XFIN2XPBs](https://youtu.be/s_XFIN2XPBs)



**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2021 - Lent 5 (Altar Colour – purple)**

**Readings: Jer 31: 31-34, Psalm 119: 9-16, Heb 5: 5-10, John 8: 1-11**

9.30am Communion Service at Hilton

11.00am Horsey Half Hour at Melcombe Horsey

11.00am Communion Service at Piddlehinton

6.00pm Evening Prayer at Piddletrenthide

### 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](mailto:rector.piddlevalleybenefice@gmail.com)



Facebook: @piddlevalley



Website: <https://piddlevalleybenefice.com>