



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

11th April 2021 – Easter Sunday
(Altar Colour White/Gold)

Readings: Acts 4: 32-35, Psalm 133, 1 John 1:1-2:2, John 20: 19-end

(During Easter Acts is read as the first reading, then the Gospel for the day.)

Collect: Almighty Father, you have given your only Son to die for our sins and to rise again for our justification: grant us so to put away the leaven of malice and wickedness that we may always serve you in pureness of living and truth; through the merits of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Acts 4:32-35 (ESV) - They Had Everything in Common

Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common. And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold and laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

COMMENT: Readings from The Acts of the Apostles take precedence over all other Readings besides the Gospel during the seven-week Easter Season. Written perhaps as long as fifty years after the resurrection, much of Acts contains the recollection of events rather than contemporary, eye-witness reports. The central message of Acts is the kerygma (proclaimed message or teaching), of the Apostolic Church and its spread from Jerusalem to Rome under the leadership of both Peter and Paul. Prominent in the presentation of the apostolic kerygma are the several versions of the "sermon" preached by one or other of the apostles including Stephen. Some competition between the two apostles, Peter and Paul, may be discovered between the lines of Acts. They may have had their differences and their supporting enthusiasts, but the true hero of the story is the Holy Spirit. Peter and Paul are always successful in their various missions because they are under the protection and guidance of the Holy Spirit. The church is preparing to live in the world under the authority and guidance of the Holy Spirit. This may lead to martyrdom like that of Stephen (Acts 7) and James (Acts 12), but the blood of the martyrs only increased the fervour of their fellow Christians as they marched inexorably from Jerusalem to Rome declaring that Jesus is Lord, and is above all earthly rulers. In this brief passage we catch a glimpse of the life of the early Christian community. Motivated by the Holy Spirit, they generously shared what property they possessed, in a generosity that would shame us all.

John 20:19-31 (ESV) - Jesus Appears to the Disciples

On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld."

Jesus and Thomas

Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe." Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

The Purpose of This Book

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

COMMENT: John comments on the Resurrection appearances – this is now the evening of Resurrection Sunday. The author of John is more than aware of the Lucan Pentecost tradition but links the giving of the Spirit to the Resurrection. He also deals with the issue of doubt. In the opening of the story there is a confession of faith, which can easily be missed. "We have seen the Lord" (eorakamen ton Kyrion) John uses this title throughout the Gospel sparingly. It was very much a post-Resurrection title. Jesus' resurrection from the dead had proved his life and ministry – here indeed, in him is found the fullness of God made flesh – Jesus, the Lord. Upon Thomas' confession Jesus provides a beatitude; "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed".

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.



Short Preface: But chiefly are we bound to praise you because you raised him gloriously from the dead. For he is the true paschal lamb who was offered for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has restored to us everlasting life.

Post Communion: Lord God our Father, through our Saviour Jesus Christ you have assured your children of eternal life and in baptism have made us one with him: deliver us from the death of sin and raise us to new life in your love, in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen**

Blessing: The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the eternal covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight; 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.

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: Princhie McBride, Richard Drake, Richard Mitchell, Ann Lambert, Gill Howell, Geoff Harris, Reg Hanbury, Hannah Parsons, June Kellaway, Robin Saunders, Anna Thomas.

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



Requiescat in pace

Bet Kellaway,
Joan Banham,
Iain Gregory,
Rev'd Carol Langford (Purbeck Deanery)

Please pray for our couples who are preparing for marriage over the coming months:

Alex & Lara	24 th April 2021	Melcombe Horsey
Stuart & Jade	21 st May 2021	Piddlehinton
David & Victoria	23 rd July 2021	Piddlehinton
Nick & Ruth	31 st July 2021	Piddlehinton
Jonathan & Susan	14 th August 2021	Cheselbourne
Simon & Paula	28 th August 2021	Piddletrenthide



Benefice Notices



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 inside church*

15th April 2021 – Thursday (*Altar Colour – White/Gold*)

Readings: Acts 5: 27-33, Psalm 34: 1, 15-end, John 3: 31-end

9.00am Communion Service at Piddletrenthide (Fr. Roger)

Sunday 18th April 2021 – Easter 3 (*Altar Colour – White/Gold*)

Readings: Acts 3: 12-19, Psalm 4, 1 John 3: 1-7, Luke 24: 36b - 48

9.30am Communion Service at Hilton (Rev'd Helier)

11.00am Communion Service at Piddlehinton (Fr. Roger)

11.00am Horsey Half Hour at Melcombe Horsey.

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

Rector - Fr. Roger J. Butcher SSC KSJ

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