



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

4th April 2021 – Easter Sunday
(Altar Colour White/Gold)

Readings: Readings: Acts 10: 34-43, Psalm 118: 14-24, Mark 16: 1-8

Collect: Lord of all life and power, who through the mighty resurrection of your Son overcame the old order of sin and death to make all things new in him: grant that we, being dead to sin and alive to you in Jesus Christ, may reign with him in glory; to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be praise and honour, glory and might, now and in all eternity. **Amen**

Acts 10:34-43 (ESV) - Gentiles Hear the Good News

So Peter opened his mouth and said: “Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. As for the word that he sent to Israel, preaching good news of peace through Jesus Christ (he is Lord of all), you yourselves know what happened throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism that John proclaimed: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. And we are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, but God raised him on the third day and made him to appear, not to all the people but to us who had been chosen by God as witnesses, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. And he commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead. To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

COMMENT: Peter’s sermon to the household of Cornelius, the Roman centurion in Caesarea, may seem a strange lesson to be read instead of the alternate Old Testament selection. The thrust of Peter’s message, however, is the central theme of Easter. The resurrection of Jesus confirmed for all people and for all time that he is Lord of all (verse 38). The setting in a Gentile officer’s quarters, the assembled audience, mostly Gentiles to whom this Good News was proclaimed, and the linking of gospel and prophecy underline the universality of Peter’s message. Though Peter is the spokesman and his sermon as succinct a summary of the gospel as Acts provides, Cornelius is brought into focus. As an “upright and god-fearing” Gentile “well-spoken of by the whole Jewish nation” (verse 22), he bridges the gap between Judaism and Christianity. He represents the new reality that the Christian gospel introduced and yet maintained the rooting of the new in the seed-bed of the old. By seeking out and summoning Peter, listening to Peter’s sermon and accepting baptism with all his household, Cornelius symbolizes the distinctive element of the Christian gospel: God intends all people to receive the Holy Spirit and the gift of eternal life on the same basis, through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, not through obedience to the law.

Mark 16:1-8 (ESV) - The Resurrection

When the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. And they were saying to one another, “Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?” And looking up, they saw that the stone had been rolled back—it was very large. And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe, and they were alarmed. And he said to them, “Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen; he is not here. See the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.” And they went out and fled from the tomb, for trembling and astonishment had seized them, and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

COMMENT: Mark ends his gospel leaving his audience with many unanswered questions: Why did he end his narrative so abruptly? Was he interrupted in his task and never returned to finish the story of what happened next? The women who first witnessed the empty tomb could only respond in awe to what they had been told. Quite naturally they ran from the scene. Many speculative answers have been given over the years as to why the Gospel ended so abruptly. As it stands Mark’s gospel can be read in one sitting (although by today’s short attention spans be considered too long!) – thus the abrupt ending may be deliberate. Yet as it is, it still points to the resurrection, and therefore may well be self contained. Notice that in the Angel’s instruction to the women, Peter gets a special mention. In the earliest tradition of the Christian Community, it is Peter who first sees the risen Lord - noted in Luke 24:34 and 1 Corinthians 15:5. Matthew’s Gospel (much later than Mark’s), two women; Mary Magdalene and Mary the Mother of James appear to be the first to see the risen Lord. In John’s Gospel (some two decades on from Matthew’s) narrows that down to just Mary Magdalene as appearing to be the first witness. Accounts could be reconciled, and neither Matthew’s nor John’s Gospels specifically claim that the women were the first witness - and the appearance to one or both of the women could have followed on from an appearance to Peter.

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: God of Life, who for our redemption gave your only-begotten Son to the death of the cross, and by his glorious resurrection have delivered us from the power of our enemy: grant us so to die daily to sin, that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his risen life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Blessing:

God the Father, by whose love Christ was raised from the dead, open to you who believe the gates of everlasting life. **Amen.**

God the Son, who in bursting from the grave has won a glorious victory, give you joy as you share the Easter faith. **Amen.**

God the Holy Spirit, who filled the disciples with the life of the risen Lord, empower you and fill you with Christ’s peace. **Amen.**

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, Cynthia Legg and family including June Kellaway, Robin Saunders, Julia, Anna Thomas.

Please pray for our schools, their children, parents and staff as they prepare for the Easter holiday – a time for reflection upon the Easter feast and to rest from the busyness of the Spring Term, online and at school.

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



Requiescat in pace

Sarah Everard

Bett Kellaway, formerly Cheselbourne

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.



This week's school assembly was on the theme of Salvation, led by Fr. Roger outside on the playground at Piddle Valley with the whole school. It

was a real joy to be able to visit the school.

We wish the Staff, Governors, children and parents a restful and peace-filled Easter Holiday at both Piddle Valley and Cheselbourne School.



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*

8th April 2021 – Thursday (*Altar Colour – White/Gold*)

Readings: Acts 3: 11-end, Psalm 8, Luke 24: 35-48

9.00am Communion Service at Piddletrenthide (Fr. Roger)

Sunday 11th April 2021 – Easter 1 (*Altar Colour – White/Gold*)

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

9.30am Communion Service at Piddletrenthide (Fr. Roger)

11.00am Communion Service at Melcombe Horsey (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

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