



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

16th May 2021 – Easter 7 / Sunday after Ascension
(Altar Colour Gold/White)

Readings: Acts 1: 15-17, 21-end, Psalm 1, 1 John 5: 9-13, John 17: 6-19

Collect: O God the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: we beseech you, leave us not comfortless, but send your Holy Spirit to strengthen us and exalt us to the place where our Saviour Christ is gone before, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26 (ESV)

In those days Peter stood up among the brothers (the company of persons was in all about one hundred and twenty) and said, “Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus. For he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry. So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these men must become with us a witness to his resurrection.” And they put forward two, Joseph called Barabbas, who was also called Justus, and Matthias. And they prayed and said, “You, Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which one of these two you have chosen to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.” And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias, and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

COMMENT: This passage tells us of the first company of believers appointing a successor to Judas Iscariot. The twelve apostles stood symbolically for the twelve tribes. Their task was to lead the early Church in the task of proclaiming salvation through Jesus Christ until his return. The choice fell to Matthias who was probably one of the seventy-two who had been commissioned by our Lord (Luke 10:1), and who had been a witness to the resurrection. These were the two qualifications for being an apostle in the early church – although not a follower during our Lord’s earthly ministry, Paul was commissioned by the risen Jesus, and so qualified as an Apostle (Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 9:1; “Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are not you my workmanship in the Lord?”).

John 17:6-19 (ESV)

“I have manifested your name to the people whom you gave me out of the world. Yours they were, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything that you have given me is from you. For I have given them the words that you

gave me, and they have received them and have come to know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them. And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one. While I was with them, I kept them in your name, which you have given me. I have guarded them, and not one of them has been lost except the son of destruction, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves. I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth.

COMMENT: Known to many as “the high priestly prayer,” and whilst we can never know that these were the actual words of Jesus, John will have noted what Jesus prayed and sought to convey that in his noting down of that prayer said just before they entered the garden of Gethsemane (so named in Mark 14:32). It is a prayer for us as well as we live in a world still not rushing to hear of God’s saving love. Because he will no longer be with them, the work that Jesus had begun, would rest entirely upon the disciples. The whole world was not immediately in Jesus’ mind, only the few he had gathered about him during his earthly ministry (verse 9). Everything depended on their faithfulness. There is an ancient legend that when Jesus arrived in heaven the angel Gabriel asked what plans he had made for his work to continue. He replied that he had left it all in the hands of the disciples. “And if they fail?” asked Gabriel. And Jesus said, “I have no other plans” – or as we would say today – “there is no plan B” – it is down to us, who are today’s disciples of Christ.

Short Preface: And now we give you thanks that, after he had ascended far above all heavens, and was seated at the right hand of your majesty, he sent forth upon the universal Church your holy and life-giving Spirit; that through his glorious power the joy of the everlasting gospel might go forth into all the world.

Post Communion: Eternal God, giver of love and power, your Son Jesus Christ has sent us into all the world to preach the gospel of his kingdom: confirm us in this mission, and help us to live the good news we proclaim; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Blessing: The Spirit of truth lead you into all truth, give you grace to confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, and strengthen you to proclaim the word and works of God; 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.

For those who have asked our prayer including:, Pat Kenwick, Richard Drake, Ann Lambert, Geoff Harris, Reg Hanbury, June Kellaway, Robin Saunders, Anna Thomas.

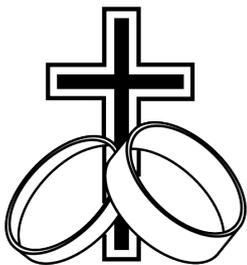
For all those in care homes, and the staff, including: Roger Gray (Dorchester) and June Smith (Warminster)



Requiescat in pace

Elisabeth Rennison

Please pray for our couples who are preparing for marriage:



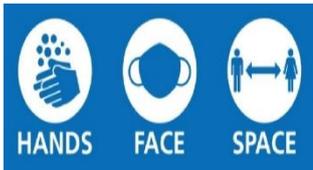
Stuart & Jade	21 st May 2021	Piddlehinton
David & Victoria	23 rd July 2021	Piddlehinton
Nick & Ruth	31 st July 2021	Piddlehinton
Jonathan & Susan	14 th August 2021	Cheselbourne
Simon & Paula	28 th August 2021	Piddletrenthide



School Work continues; this Week's Assembly presentation 'Love & Easter'

you can access it via YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vm1p9Fe110I>

Benefice Notices



National restrictions are still in place for all church services; this includes marriages and funerals which have limited attendance.

THE
WEEK
AHEAD

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/Bubbles.*
- *Avoid mingling inside church*

From 17th May

- *Marriage: maximum of 30 in attendance by invitation only*
- *Funeral: attendance numbers according to Church Size allowing for personal distancing - at the Rector's Discretion.*

Thursday 20th May 2021 – Alcuin of York, Decon, Abbot Tours 804 *(Altar Colour – White/Gold)*

Readings: Acts 22: 30, 23:6-11, John 17: 20-End,

9.00am Communion Service at Piddletrenthide (Fr. Roger)

All Welcome to attend in person

Sunday 23rd May 2021 – (Altar Colour – Red)

Readings: Acts 2: 1-21, Psalm 104: 26-end, Rom 8: 22-27, John 15: 26-27, 16: 4-15

9.30am Communion Service at Cheselbourne (Fr. Roger)

11.00am Communion Service at Alton Pancras (Fr. Roger)

6.00pm Evening Prayer at Hilton (Rev'd Helier)

All Welcome to attend in person

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

Sunday All services streamed except at those Melcombe Horsey



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