



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

9th May 2021 – Easter 6 / Rogation Sunday
(Altar Colour Gold/White)

Readings: Acts 10: 44-end, Psalm 98, 1 John 5: 1-6, John 15: 9-17

Collect: God our redeemer, you have delivered us from the power of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of your Son: grant, that as by his death he has recalled us to life, so by his continual presence in us he may raise us to eternal joy; 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**

Acts 10:44-48 (ESV) - The Holy Spirit Falls on the Gentiles

While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word. And the believers from among the circumcised who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out even on the Gentiles. For they were hearing them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter declared, “Can anyone withhold water for baptising these people, who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” And he commanded them to be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to remain for some days.

COMMENT: This story reads like the story of Pentecost in Acts 2 and was intended as its sequel. Before Peter had finished preaching, the Holy Spirit came upon the household of Cornelius, a Roman military officer and a Gentile. Jewish Christians accompanying Peter were astonished that the Spirit had come to a gathering of Gentiles. With the baptism of Cornelius and his household a new phase of the church’s mission began in earnest.

John 15:9-17 (ESV)

As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. These things I command you, so that you will love one another.

COMMENT: As in several other places in John's Gospel, chapters 14 to 16 use a familiar literary device of the time, an extended and stylised discourse. The style is characteristic of John's Gospel. These discourses were attributed to Jesus and through the centuries have been given literal authority. More probable, however, they contain profound theological affirmations of who Jesus is and what he means to the Christian fellowship and to the world. This is particularly true of the several places where John quotes Jesus as saying "I am" This discourse may well include some of Jesus' most incisive teachings remembered by the church 60 or more years after the resurrection. The dominant issue for the church had changed from awaiting the imminent return of Christ to living in a world that showed no signs of readiness to believe or to follow the Christian way. The theme of this brief excerpt concentrates on self-sacrificing love (agapé) as the unique focus and life force of every Christian. Behind this passage stands the intense shadow of the cross and the sovereign power of God to raise Jesus from the dead and give the Holy Spirit to all who believe. So John takes us to the heart of the Christian discipleship: Love for others as God has loved us. We cannot begin to imagine how disturbing the cross must have been to those early Christians immersed and they were in Roman civilization and frequently facing Roman justice. As a means of execution, crucifixion was the ultimate in cruelty, indignity and violence. Despite all that, the apostolic church transformed it into the only credible symbol of living creatively in a world for which death on a cross was the ultimate punishment for criminal behaviour. Could this really be understood as the ultimate joy for Jesus and for those who had committed themselves to follow him (verse 11)? Yet this is a repeated affirmation of other New Testament writers (Hebrews 12:2; Galatians 5:22; Romans 14:17; 15:13). Furthermore, as John has phrased this tradition, there can be no greater love for one's friends than to follow in Jesus' footsteps even to the point of death (verse 13). The emphasis on friendship has considerable significance. The Christian way of life exists only in effective human relationships. Every human institution – the church included – works best when relationships are firmly based on mutual respect and humanitarian values, at the root of which is love. As we move toward a global civilization no other value system will prove sufficient. The selfless relationships of agapé love have been proven in the divine-human gift to mankind which is Jesus Christ. This is what Jesus is saying throughout this passage.

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 our Father, whose Son Jesus Christ gives the water of eternal life: may we thirst for you, the spring of life and source of goodness, through him who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **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.

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

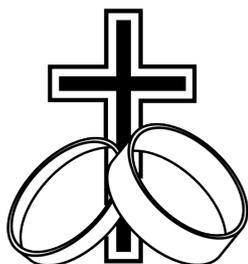
For all those in care homes, and the staff, including: Roger Gray (Dorchester) and June Smith (Warminster)



Requiescat in pace

Elisabeth Rennison

Please pray for our couples who are preparing for marriage:



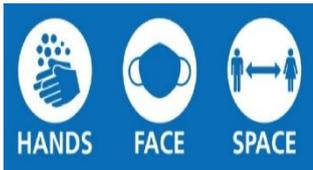
Stuart & Jade	21 st May 2021	Piddlehinton
David & Victoria	23 rd July 2021	Piddlehinton
Nick & Ruth	31 st July 2021	Piddlehinton
Jonathan & Susan	14 th August 2021	Cheselbourne
Simon & Paula	28 th August 2021	Piddletrenthide



School Work continues; this Week's Assembly presentation 'I am the vine'

you can access it via YouTube: <https://youtu.be/GXOwO1GwOy4>

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.*
- *Avoid mingling inside church*
- *Marriage maximum of 15 in attendance by invitation only*
- *Funeral maximum of 30 in attendance by invitation only/Church Size permitting*

Thursday 13th May 2021 – Ascension Day (Altar Colour – White/Gold)

Readings: Acts 1: 1-11, Psalm 47 or 93, Luke 24: 44-end

9.00am Communion Service at Piddletrenthide (Fr. Roger)

All Welcome to attend in person

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

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

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)

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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