



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

13th June 2021 – Trinity 2 (Prop 6)
(Altar Colour - Green)

Readings: Ezek 17: 22-end, Psalm 92: 1-8, 2 Cor 5: 6-10, 14-17 Mark 4: 26-34

Collect: Lord, you have taught us that all our doings without love are nothing worth: send your Holy Spirit and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of love, the true bond of peace and of all virtues, without which whoever lives is counted dead before you. Grant this for your only Son Jesus Christ's sake, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Ezekiel 17:22-24 (ESV)

Thus says the Lord God: "I myself will take a sprig from the lofty top of the cedar and will set it out. I will break off from the topmost of its young twigs a tender one, and I myself will plant it on a high and lofty mountain. On the mountain height of Israel will I plant it, that it may bear branches and produce fruit and become a noble cedar. And under it will dwell every kind of bird; in the shade of its branches birds of every sort will nest. And all the trees of the field shall know that I am the Lord; I bring low the high tree, and make high the low tree, dry up the green tree, and make the dry tree flourish. I am the Lord; I have spoken, and I will do it."

2 Corinthians 5: 6-10 14-17 (ESV)

So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil. For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised. From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

COMMENT: In this excerpt Paul confidently celebrated faith in the love of Christ that had motivated and sustained him through years of difficult ministry to the Gentiles. He fervently proclaimed that anyone who believed and followed Christ had become a new creation. This gave him a whole new perspective on life in this world and life eternal from living in the Spirit. Paul had a very troubled relationship with the Corinthians, but he constantly strove to bring them to a new life of faith. The early part of this

passage (verses 6-10) deals with the subject of our unavoidable mortality which he had begun to discuss in the previous chapter, 4:7 – 5:5. Facing death was nothing new for him. Many times he had been threatened with imminent demise, yet he had never been afraid of it. He firmly believed in resurrection and life beyond death. This faith gave him the confidence to say what for any other person might be regarded as death wish (verse 8). His one desire was to serve Christ as long as he had breath, knowing full well that judgment awaited him as it did for every other human being. Beyond that too lay the glorious experience of the eternal presence of God and Jesus Christ.

Mark 4:26-34 (ESV) - The Parable of the Seed Growing

And he said, “The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground. He sleeps and rises night and day, and the seed sprouts and grows; he knows not how. The earth produces by itself, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. But when the grain is ripe, at once he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come.”

The Parable of the Mustard Seed

And he said, “With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable shall we use for it? It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when sown on the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth, yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes larger than all the garden plants and puts out large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.” With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it. He did not speak to them without a parable, but privately to his own disciples he explained everything.

COMMENT: Because we do not think in spiritual terms, Jesus’ parables of the kingdom of heaven often seem to defy interpretation for modern readers. In these two brief vignettes drawn from the rural life of Galilee, Jesus spoke about the way faith can provide those who believed in and followed him a full and abundant life. Seedtime and harvest would have been natural topics of conversation then, as life depended upon the harvest. In that region, especially in the Plain of Esdraelon nearby, there was abundant good soil for raising abundant grain crops. Because of the mountains of Lebanon to the north, rainfall was plentiful. Even though he was a carpenter, he might well have turned his own hand to the sickle to aid his neighbours at harvest time. This set of parables reflects that rural scene with sharp realism. The time between seedtime and harvest also come through almost as clearly in the words of vs. 27. It takes approximately ninety days for the farmer to sleep and rise before a field crop can ripen to maturity. Much can happen in the interim to prevent a fruitful harvest. That requires both faith and patience from the farmer. Mustard ... the smallest seed? the biggest tree? Mustard seed is about 1 – 2 mm in diameter. It was cultivated for the oil of its very small seeds. It is botanically not the smallest seed, but in Jesus’ culture, mustard seed is the smallest among the plants familiar to them. In fact, it is often used to describe something small during the time. Mustard is an annual shrub, a small tree that is able to grow up to 8 feet in height (or much higher in the wild), which is the tallest among other herbs in a Jewish garden.

Post Communion: Loving Father, we thank you for feeding us at the supper of your Son: sustain us with your Spirit, that we may serve you here on earth until our joy is complete in heaven, and we share in the eternal banquet with Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Blessing: God the Holy Trinity make you strong in faith and love, defend you on every side, and guide you in truth and peace; 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:, Margaret Morrissey, Pat Kenwick, Andy Brokenshaw, 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

Patricia Mary Riggs (Formerly from Piddletrenthide)

Please pray for our couples who are preparing for marriage:



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

Live Streaming

*The daily offices will continue to be streamed daily via Facebook;
you are invited to attend in person.*



Monday - 8am Morning Prayer at Hilton

Tuesday - 8am Morning Prayer at Hilton & 8pm Compline at Piddletrenthide

Wednesday - 8am Morning Prayer Hilton & 6pm Evening Prayer

Thursday - 9am Communion at Piddletrenthide & 8pm Compline at Piddletrenthide

Friday - 6.00pm Compline at Hilton

Saturday - 6.00pm Devotions / Evening Prayer

Sunday All services streamed except at those Melcombe Horsey

Benefice Notices:

THE
WEEK
AHEAD

National restrictions are still in place for all church services.

When attending a service please arrive **EARLY** 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.*
- *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 17th June 2021 (Altar Colour – Green)

Readings: 2 Cor. 11: 1-11, Matt. 6: 7-15

9.00am Communion Service at **PIDDLETRENTHIDE** (Fr. Roger)

All Welcome to attend in person

Sunday 20th June 2021 – Trinity 3 (Prop 7) (Altar Colour – Green)

Readings: Job 38: 1-11, Psalm 107: 23-32, 2 Cor. 6: 1-13, Mark 4: 35-end

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 (Nettie Drake)

6.00pm Evening Prayer at Piddletrenthide (Fr. Roger)

Please do attend person

Tea and a chat always available just ring the Rector and put a date in the diary. Happy to chat over the garden gate too!

Fr. Roger: 01300 348211 / 07502 118210



Rector - Fr. Roger J. Butcher SSC KSJ

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