



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

**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

Collect: Almighty God, you have broken the tyranny of sin and have sent the Spirit of your Son into our hearts whereby we call you Father: give us grace to dedicate our freedom to your service, that we and all creation may be brought to the glorious liberty of the children of God; 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**

Job 38:1-11 (ESV) – *The LORD Answers Job*

Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind and said: “Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge? Dress for action like a man; I will question you, and you make it known to me. “Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding. Who determined its measurements surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? On what were its bases sunk, or who laid its cornerstone, when the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy? “Or who shut in the sea with doors when it burst out from the womb, when I made clouds its garment and thick darkness its swaddling band, and prescribed limits for it and set bars and doors, and said, ‘Thus far shall you come, and no farther, and here shall your proud waves be stayed’?”

2 Corinthians 6:1-13 (ESV) - *The Apostolate in Action*

Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. For he says, “In a favourable time I listened to you, and in a day of salvation I have helped you.” Behold, now is the favourable time; behold, now is the day of salvation. We put no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: by great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labours, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love; by truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; through honour and dishonour, through slander and praise. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold, we live; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, yet possessing everything. We have spoken freely to you, Corinthians; our heart is wide open. You are not restricted by us, but you are restricted in your own affections. In return (I speak as to children) widen your hearts also.

COMMENT: This passage is not self-contained and should be read in connection with the preceding part of the letter beginning at 5:11. Paul had a continuing conflict with the Corinthians Christians. They did not always accept him and his preaching as he would have preferred. Despite extreme difficulties he reiterates his appeal that they respond to the message of reconciliation with God through Jesus Christ. Faced with their determined opposition to his ministry, Paul sought a cooperative rather than a confrontational relationship with the Corinthian community (verse 1). He saw them “working together” in a common mission, to make God’s reconciling love in Christ known everywhere and to everyone. To him that was the only possible human response to what God had done in Christ. Any other response to this grace would be utterly in vain. To emphasize his point that the time to respond is now, as they heard the gospel preached, Paul quoted from the Greek version of Isaiah 49:8. Paul launched into a defence of his ministry with particular emphasis on his diligence and how much it has cost him in personal suffering. He set this in the context of the general apostolic mission, as if his experiences had not been particularly unique. Hence the use of the phrase “as servants of God” and the first person plural in verse 4. It makes quite a list of what the sincere evangelist in those times might well expect. Is he just boasting as he denied he was doing in 3:1 and 5:12? Commentators have noted that this is the one place where Paul addressed the Corinthians by name (verse 11). Thus the citation of general apostolic sufferings had a particular reference to this community. It was for them that he endured so much. Paul’s main purpose in listing these ordeals was to reassure the Corinthians that he truly did love them for Christ’s sake and to remind them that their problem was with their own attitudes (verse 12). In other words, “It’s your problem, not mine!” The text conveys a not so gentle sense of rebuke. The ministry about which the apostle is talking is not just a defence of his actions before the Corinthians, but relates to the gospel in the eternal purpose of God.... Far from being an idealisation of the apostle, it explains why his suffering was not simply an unfortunate accident, but offered as the true evidence of his divinely commissioned apostolic office.

Mark 4:35-41 (ESV) - Jesus Calms a Storm

On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, “Let us go across to the other side.” And leaving the crowd, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. And other boats were with him. And a great windstorm arose, and the waves were breaking into the boat, so that the boat was already filling. But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion. And they woke him and said to him, “Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?” And he awoke and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, “Peace! Be still!” And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. He said to them, “Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith?” And they were filled with great fear and said to one another, “Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?”

COMMENT: The question about who Jesus really is comes to the fore in this brief story. He calms a storm which had suddenly arisen as the disciples were taking him across the Sea of Galilee in a boat. Not only did he rebuke the waves, he also rebuked the disciples for their lack of faith. That is the whole point of the story: nothing could harm the disciples while he was with them because he exercised divine control over the forces of nature. Many people have found great comfort in sensing Jesus’ constant presence in the most difficult and dangerous crises. Those for whom Mark wrote his Gospel in Rome in the AD 60s surely felt that way as they had faced persecution by Emperor Nero. It is probable that both Peter and Paul were martyred during this period. This event is one of several lake crossings in Mark’s Gospel, which he calls a sea (thalassa – a term usually referring to the Mediterranean Sea). The term may be an exaggeration for emphasis. It resonates powerfully with “God’s creative and redemptive control of the

waters (Genesis 1; Exodus 14; Psalms. 69, 89, 93, 104-107; Isaiah 43; 51:9-10).” It develops Mark’s theme of “faltering trust and faulty comprehension of Jesus’ band of followers.” The words the disciples used to waken Jesus were usually addressed to God (Psalm 44:23). Jesus stilled the storm as if exorcising a demon in much the same way as he did in many of Mark’s miracle stories. To any Jewish hearer, there may be echoes within the story of Psalm 107:23-30, especially verses 28-29; “Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress. He made the storm be still, and the waves of the sea were hushed.” Tourists who have taken the boat ride to Capernaum on Lake Galilee and have been caught in one of these squalls can attest to the sense of terror that the disciples must have felt. It takes a very few minutes for a storm to develop from dead calm to a raging torrent of rain, mighty waves and contrary winds. Galilean fishing boats of that era with oars and flimsy sails were much smaller vessels than the diesel-driven tourist boats now plying these waters. One tourist who had such an experience told me that it was a moment of revelation for her despite her reassuring trust in the skill of the helmsman and the size of the vessel.

Post Communion: O God, whose beauty is beyond our imagining and whose power we cannot comprehend: show us your glory as far as we can grasp it, and shield us from knowing more than we can bear until we may look upon you without fear; through Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen**

Blessing: Christ, who has nourished us with himself the living bread, make you one in praise and love, and raise you up at the last day; 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 all affected by the pandemic, for all who are anxious, lonely or grieving. Please pray for our schools: Piddle Valley and Cheselbourne, for their staff, governors, pupils and parents.

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)

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:

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.**
- **Marriages and Funeral: attendance numbers according to Church Size allowing for 2m personal distancing - at the Rector's Discretion.**

THE
**WEEK
AHEAD**



Thursday 24th June 2021 Birth of John the Baptist (Altar Colour – White)

Readings: Isa. 40: 1-11, Luke 1: 57-66, 80

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

All Welcome to attend in person

Sunday 27th June 2021 – Trinity 4 (Prop 8) (Altar Colour – Green)

Readings: Wisd. of Sol. 1: 13-15, 2: 23-24, Psalm 30, 2 Cor. 8: 7-end, Mark 5: 21-end

9.30am Communion Service at Cheselbourne (Fr. Roger)

11.00am Communion Service at Alton Pancras (Rev'd Helier)

6.00pm Evening Prayer at Hilton (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

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