



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

4th July 2021 – Trinity 5 (Prop 9)

(Altar Colour - Green)

Readings: Ezek. 2: 1-5, Psalm 123, 2 Cor. 12: 2-10, Mark 6: 1-13

Collect: Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church is governed and sanctified: hear our prayer which we offer for all your faithful people, that in their vocation and ministry they may serve you in holiness and truth to the glory of your name; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Ezekiel 2:1-5 (ESV) - Ezekiel's Call

And he said to me, “Son of man, stand on your feet, and I will speak with you.” And as he spoke to me, the Spirit entered into me and set me on my feet, and I heard him speaking to me. And he said to me, “Son of man, I send you to the people of Israel, to nations of rebels, who have rebelled against me. They and their fathers have transgressed against me to this very day. The descendants also are impudent and stubborn: I send you to them, and you shall say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord God.’ And whether they hear or refuse to hear (for they are a rebellious house) they will know that a prophet has been among them.

2 Corinthians 12:2-10 (ESV) - Paul's Visions and His Thorn

I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows. And I know that this man was caught up into paradise—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows—and he heard things that cannot be told, which man may not utter. On behalf of this man I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses. Though if I should wish to boast, I would not be a fool, for I would be speaking the truth. But I refrain from it, so that no one may think more of me than he sees in me or hears from me. So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited. Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

COMMENT: In the midst of a conflict with the Corinthian Christian community, Paul tells about two of his deepest spiritual experiences. In one he had an ecstatic theophany when he received an exceptional

revelation. He does not say exactly what the revelation was. Perhaps it was beyond words, as such experiences can be, but it was one which added to his certainty of the love of God in Christ. In the other spiritual experience described in this passage, Paul tells how he fervently prayed to have the unidentified cause of great suffering removed. Instead he was given the reassurance that God's grace would be sufficient for his every need. Much speculation has been expended as to the exact nature of Paul's problem. These vary from a painful and incurable disease, a physical disability due to paralysis, a facial disfigurement or poor eyesight. The fact is that we can never know for sure. More important, however, is the way he deals with his "thorn in the flesh." It became a source of power in that it made possible a deeper spiritual experience enabling him to withstand ever greater hardship in pursuing his mission as an evangelist.

Mark 6:1-13 (ESV) - Jesus Rejected at Nazareth

He went away from there and came to his home town, and his disciples followed him. And on the Sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astonished, saying, "Where did this man get these things? What is the wisdom given to him? How are such mighty works done by his hands? Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? And are not his sisters here with us?" And they took offence at him. And Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honour, except in his home town and among his relatives and in his own household." And he could do no mighty work there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and healed them. And he marvelled because of their unbelief. And he went about among the villages teaching.

Jesus Sends Out the Twelve Apostles

And he called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. He charged them to take nothing for their journey except a staff—no bread, no bag, no money in their belts— but to wear sandals and not put on two tunics. And he said to them, "Whenever you enter a house, stay there until you depart from there. And if any place will not receive you and they will not listen to you, when you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them." So they went out and proclaimed that people should repent. And they cast out many demons and anointed with oil many who were sick and healed them.

COMMENT: Those of Jesus' hometown felt uneasy with him in their midst, especially when he taught in their synagogue on a sabbath. We are not told why they were so offended. Certainly they thought he had far gone beyond what one of his status as a humble carpenter should go. They would have had respect for him as one skilled in such trades as carpentry that contributed to the general welfare of the community. But they would not have expected him to be skilled in the interpretation of the scriptures or to have any divine insight. Not discouraged Jesus then sent out those he had been teaching, with the basic rules for mission work – relying on God. Rather than this strategy being foolhardy, it is one with known results. These rules were later taken up by St Francis of Assisi, who in 1202, through a vision at first embraced poverty. It was this very message from today's Gospel (as related in Matthew 10) that inspired Francis to copy this method, and in so doing he gained followers, which then began the Franciscan Order, which was officially endorsed by the Pope Innocent III, in 1210.

Post Communion: Grant, O Lord, we beseech you, that the course of this world may be so peaceably ordered by your governance, that your Church may joyfully serve you in all godly quietness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **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

HAPPY MOMENTS,
Praise God.

DIFFICULT MOMENTS,
Seek God.

QUIET MOMENTS,
Worship God.

PAINFUL MOMENTS,
Trust God.

EVERY MOMENTS,
Thank God.

Please pray for those who are suffering: from illness, recovering from surgery or hospital treatment. For all medical staff and keyworkers, including clergy who are suffering from prolonged intense workload, 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)



Requiescat in pace

Paul Pennel, Cheselbourne

Please pray for our couples who are preparing for marriage in the benefice and elsewhere:



Andrew and Lynne	10 th July 2021	St Peter's Dorchester
Jacob and Leah	24 th July	St Mary's Ferndown
David & Victoria	23 rd July 2021	St Mary's Piddlehinton
Nick & Ruth	31 st July 2021	St Mary's Piddlehinton
Jonathan and Laura	6 th August 2021	St Nicholas Chaldon
Jonathan & Susan	14 th August 2021	St Martin's Cheselbourne
Simon & Paula	28 th August 2021	All Saints Piddletrenthide

