

THE  
**WEEK**  
AHEAD **Benefice Notices:**

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2021 Advent 3**

**Readings:** Zeph. 3:14-end, Psalm 146: 4-end

Phil. 4: 4-7, Luke 3: 7-18

10.30am Benefice Sung Communion Service  
at Piddlehinton

with bring and share buffet lunch in the hall.



**Food bank**

Donation boxes are available in all the benefice churches, the winter months often prove difficult for families financially with the ever increasing energy costs.

*Church Wardens/PCC Secretaries will be arranging delivery of donations to the Dorford Centre.*

**Benefice Prayer list:**

Please pray for your church wardens as they prepare for the interregnum.



Please pray for those who are sick, recovering from or receiving treatment or surgery in hospital:

Margaret Morrissey,  
Julia (Piddletrenthide),  
Jenny, Ann Lambert,  
Reg Hanbury, June Kellaway,  
Robin Saunders.

Judy

*Those in care homes:*

Roger Gray (Dorchester)  
June Smith (Warminster)  
Gladys Smith (Sherborne)  
Rex Goddard (Somerset)

Rector - Fr. Roger J. Butcher SSC KSJ  
The Vicarage, Church Lane, Piddletrenthide. DT2 7QY.  
Tel. 01300 348211 / 07502 118210  
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**Benefice of the Piddle Valley,  
Hilton & Ansty, Melcombe Horsey  
and Cheselbourne**

**TAKE THIS HOME**

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2021**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

*(Altar Colour – Purple)*

**Readings:** Mal. 3: 1-4, Psalm 75 (EP),

Phil. 1: 3-11

Luke 3: 1-6



**Collect:** O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power and come among us, and with great might succour us; that whereas, through our sins and wickedness we are grievously hindered in running the race that is set before us, your bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be honour and glory, now and for ever.

**Amen**

**Malachi 3:1-4 (ESV)**

“Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap. He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the LORD. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

## **Luke 3:1-6 (ESV)**

### ***John the Baptist Prepares the Way***

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Iturea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness. And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall become straight, and the rough places shall become level ways, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

**COMMENT:** The introductory stories of the births of both John the Baptist and Jesus completed, Luke skips over nearly three decades to place John the Baptist's ministry, and hence Jesus, in a specific historical context. The 15th year of the reign of Tiberius corresponds to AD 28-29. The Roman imperial government during this period included Pontius Pilate as governor of Judea and the named tetrarchs, Herod Antipas, Philip, Lysanias, of other nearby Roman provinces. The term tetrarch usually referred to a ruler whom Rome appointed over a limited territory who might or might not be a petty monarch. They had little power or purpose other than to maintain a watch for any threats against Roman sovereignty. By also naming the high-priesthoods of Annas and Caiaphas, Luke gave a religious context to this historical note. The gospel tradition he was about to relate was no minor event. It had both political and religious significance. By quoting from Isaiah 40, Luke recognized John as someone even more important than another of Israel's great prophets.

He defined John's role in the life and ministry of Jesus as that of the one of whom that earlier prophet spoke: "Prepare the way of the Lord." More significantly, he placed Jesus expressly within the sacred tradition of Israel.

**Short Preface:** And now we give you thanks because you sent him to redeem us from sin and death and to make us inheritors of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may with joy behold his appearing, and in confidence may stand before him.

**Post Communion:** Father in heaven, who sent your Son to redeem the world and will send him again to be our judge: give us grace so to imitate him in the humility and purity of his first coming that, when he comes again, we may be ready to greet him with joyful love and firm faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

**Blessing:** Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you, scatter the darkness from before your path, and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen**

