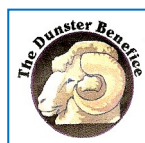


29th May 2020

# The Dunster Benefice

Carhampton, Dunster, Timberscombe, Withycombe  
with Rodhuish and Wootton Courtenay



## Newsletter

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- Request for Prayers
- Readings & Collect for Sunday 31st May (Pentecost)
- Exploring Prayer
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### Sunday 31st May (Pentecost)

#### Readings

**Acts 2:1-21**

**John 20:19-23**

If you do not have a Bible to hand you can find the readings on this website:

<https://www.biblegateway.com/?version=nrsv>

#### Collect

Holy Spirit, sent by the Father,  
ignite in us your holy fire;  
strengthen your children with the gift of faith,  
revive your Church with the breath of love,  
and renew the face of the earth,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

Common Worship Collect taken from Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England © The Archbishops' Council 2000

### Rector's Note

We have reached Pentecost, that great outpouring of the Holy Spirit promised by Jesus. He assured his followers that unless he departed, the spirit could not come and as we wait for the seemingly eternal restrictions and confinements now part of life, to be lifted, it might help to remember that the disciples too needed to be patient.

I always remember this time of year as the Whitsun bank holiday and of course normally it is associated with half term. At least in my earlier years, the summer term was a delightful time of warm days, summer dresses and the smell of mown grass at sports days. Later on, it was exams, exams, but I remember revising for my history O Level standing on a deserted railway station when a fox came out of the wood, trotted along the platform and sat to watch a man, completely oblivious, reading his newspaper.

In Acts, the coming of the Holy Spirit is the key to the beginnings of the early church. It is the great new beginning. A small group of locals who followed a local prophet finds the impetus to go out into the whole world and tell the story of God's love and forgiveness. Less dramatically, but just as important, we know that the Spirit intercedes for us with sighs too deep to tell when we enter into prayer, so that even if we cannot find the words, God knows what is in our hearts.

The Holy Spirit is the hardest part of God to understand. We might have a concept of a father, we can relate to Jesus as a human being like us, but the spirit is the divine wind, the breath on which we rest as feathers of God. We know what it is like, but we cannot say what it is. But that can be true of God too. Declaring our faith is one of the trials of a Christian life. It is not easy. In that too, we can ask the Holy Spirit to help us.

Caroline

### Prayers

We would love to include some prayers **written by you** in our newsletters. If you would like to send us a prayer for inclusion please email it to Tracey at [dunsterbenefice@gmail.com](mailto:dunsterbenefice@gmail.com).

**Exploring Prayer** is a five part series on speaking and listening to God by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby. To watch the videos on his website click [here](#).

**Abbeycast** A series of podcasts from Westminster Abbey with a reading, short address, anthem, prayers, blessing and music from the choir. Click [here](#) to listen via their website. The **June Prayer Diary** is attached to this email with thanks to Mary Dowrick for writing it this month.