

15th May 2020

The Dunster Benefice

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



Newsletter

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From one who is ill or isolated

O God,
help me to trust you,
help me to know that you are with me,
help me to believe that nothing can separate
me from your love
revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Sixth Sunday of Easter Readings

Acts 17:22-31

John 14:15-21

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

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

Collect

Risen Christ,
by the lakeside you renewed your call to
your disciples:
help your Church to obey your command
and draw the nations to the fire of your love,
to the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

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

Alone [Together] comes
from the Benedictine
Community and is a guide
to finding a daily rhythm
within isolation and social
distancing from those who
know all about it. It
includes, how to guides,
reflections and suggestions
on shaping the day. To visit
the website click [here](#).

Bells on Sunday For those
missing the sound of our
church bells you can listen
to clips from various
churches on the BBC by
clicking [here](#).

Rector's Note

I have tidied everything else. I am reduced to re-organising the freezer. I was going to start knitting, but I don't have a pattern and anyway, I need to get real. Knitting takes ages. Two broody chickens and one laying in the garden. No eggs. Shopping on the internet never looked more attractive.

Paul is teasing the people of Athens who have temples for everything. Just in case they don't appease the right deity, they have a temple to the unknown God. Paul is telling them who this God is. The phrase most familiar to us is "in Him we live and move and have our being", which is in fact a quote from a Greek philosopher. Since we owe everything to God, we should look to him for all we need.

It is one thing to say the church is the people, not the building, another to tell disappointed brides and the bereaved, bell ringers and parishioners, that it is still not feasible to go into church to be together. We must continue to look for God in the kindness of our neighbours, the new contacts we have made with each other, the service and sacrifice of those who help us.

Paul said explicitly that God is not far from any of us. In the frustrations and tediousness of lockdown, we have all dug deep. Some of us have found treasure, the rest – keep looking. It's there, just around the corner, like God. Not easy to find, but worth it if we make the effort.

Caroline
