

12th June 2020

The Dunster Benefice

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



Newsletter

In this issue:

- Readings & Collect for Sunday 14th June
- Opening our Churches
- St Paul's Cathedral
- Daily Prayer
- Rector's Note

Sunday 14th June (First after Trinity)

Readings

Romans 5:1-8 Matthew 9:35 - 10:8

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

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

Collect

God of truth, help us to keep your law of love and to walk in ways of wisdom, that we may find true life in Jesus Christ your Son. Amen.

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

We are able to **open the churches** for private prayer from 16th June as soon as they are cleaned and ready. They may not be open every day. Everyone will need to use hand sanitiser on entry and exit and keep 2m from any other person in the church unless you are part of the same family group.

In the benefice this is the present position:

Carhampton: awaiting the repair of the public footpath due to commence on 22nd June therefore will open after this is completed, we hope in the week beginning 29th June.

Timberscombe: open after the completion of building works, probably the first week in July.

Dunster: awaiting cleaning but will re-open as soon as possible.

Withycombe: open as soon as possible after cleaning.

Rodhuish and Wootton Courtenay: should be open on 22nd June or in that week.

Thank you to the amazing cleaners and the openers and closers who are setting back to work.

St Paul's Cathedral has a collection of video lectures to view on its website. Subjects include theology, art, and history along with some shorter poetry readings. Click [here](#) to view.

Daily Prayer for all times of day available in both contemporary and traditional forms (text and audio) on the Church of England's website. To go to the webpage click [here](#).

Rector's Note

MATTHEW 9:35-38 and 10.1

Our gospel passage is all about going out, which is exactly the opposite of what we seem to have been doing for three months. However, there has been quite a lot of "going out" in terms of care for others and some of the going out has been over the internet, like this bulletin. There is no doubt that COVID19 has provided a heaven-sent opportunity for different ways of worship and time with God. Many have peeked at church services online who would never have come through the doors.

But now the doors are about to re-open. What are church buildings for? What does it mean that worship is not possible in person on a Sunday? What do we want to keep of the new ways we have found God and what do we want to go back to? What has been learned?

Most of all, what is the cost? Loving God is not a transaction, a trade of this for that, a loss in one place for a gain in another. Loving God is the same as a loving human relationship, a giving and receiving of self and the beloved. As knowledge deepens, so does the relationship. For some people, lockdown has brought time, willing or unwilling. Time is a fertile ground for love of God to grow. Many have commented that birdsong has become more noticeable in the quiet, that the loss of traffic noise has been welcome. In the same way, we might hear the voice of God, the still, small voice that Elijah heard on the empty mountain after the wind, the fire and the earthquake. Our reading tells us that Jesus called the disciples to him. God also calls us and will continue to call, in church buildings and out of them.

Caroline