

19th June 2020

The Dunster Benefice

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



Newsletter

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Stations of Hope
from the Taunton Archdeaconry. Fifteen reflections on what people have let go of, miss, have found and want to hold on to from this time of crisis. Each reflection includes a Bible passage and prayer. Click [here](#) to view.



Sunday 21st June (Second after Trinity) Readings

Romans 6:1b-11 & Matthew 10:24-39

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

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

Collect

Faithful Creator,
whose mercy never fails:
deepen our faithfulness to you
and to your living Word,
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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

On Wednesday we
celebrate the birth of
John the Baptist.
Let us pray for the
Parish of St John the
Baptist in Carhampton
and all those who have
been baptised in our
churches over the
years.



Rector's Note MATTHEW 10:24-39

The sparrow is my favourite bird. I have a lot of second favourites. I still aspire to travelling to the Americas to see condors and I have a soft spot for cranes, but sparrows do it for me. That cheep-cheep in the hedge or on the rooftop takes me right back to my earliest memories of going to school. In the Dr Dolittle books, the character of Cheapside, the cheeky London sparrow took centre role, even if the books are not very PC these days. Doctor Dolittle first appeared in the author Hugh Lofting's illustrated letters to his children, written from the trenches during World War I, when actual news, he later said, was either too horrible or too dull. Our news at the moment is both horrible and dull, so sparrows are a good thing.

We know that sparrows lived in the Holy Land from the earliest times. There is a psalm that talks about sparrows on the housetop and when Jesus says, not a sparrow falls without knowledge of the Father, it's a safe bet that Jesus likes sparrows too. It is the starting point for a reflection that God loves us deeply, to the point where the hairs on our heads are counted, like a parent looking on their child and noting each new tooth, each new curl on the head.

It is often commented that one of the most common phrases in the New Testament is "do not be afraid" and fear is something else we are grappling with, fear of others, fear of an unseen, unknown disease. Jesus in this passage is talking about boldness in proclaiming the good news. This is not so much insisting on telling all and sundry but a fundamental acknowledgement of who we are. If we can admit to ourselves how important and central God is to us, we can probably admit it to someone else. Perhaps we might be like a sparrow, cheeping from the housetop, a constant, background noise, that nevertheless is an important part of the day.

Caroline
