

The Dunster Benefice
Carhampton, Dunster, Timberscombe,
Withycombe with Rodhuish, Wootton Courtenay
Newsletter 14th August 2020



In this issue:

- Black Lives Matter Talks
- Readings & Collect for Sunday 16th August
- Services on Sunday 16th August
- Rector's Note

Sunday 16th August (Tenth after Trinity)
Readings & Collect

Lord of heaven and earth, as Jesus taught his disciples to be persistent in prayer, give us patience and courage never to lose hope, but always to bring our prayers before you; 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

Romans 11: 1-2a, 29-32

I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.

...for the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, so they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy. For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

Matthew 15: 21-28

Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, 'Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.' But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, 'Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.' He answered, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.' But she came and knelt before him, saying, 'Lord, help me.' He answered, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs.' She said, 'Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table.' Then Jesus answered her, 'Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.' And her daughter was healed instantly.

Services on Sunday 16th August

St John the Baptist Carhampton – 9.30am Holy Communion

St Nicholas Withycombe – 9.30am Holy Communion

St Petrock Timberscombe – 11am Morning Prayer

All Saints Wootton Courtenay – 11am BCP Holy Communion

St George's Dunster – open for private prayer

Most churches will be open for private prayer on a Sunday or some other day of the week, please keep an eye on the notice boards.

Rector's Note

I've been pondering the unfairness of life. Many of you will have heard that after four years of an appallingly heavy work load as lead bishop for safeguarding, hearing harrowing tales of survivors of abuse day after day, Bishop Peter has been diagnosed with acute myeloid leukaemia. He begins a month in hospital this week with extremely unpleasant treatment. Please pray for him. In Lebanon, a country that has suffered more than most even in that devastated part of the world, an enormous explosion has laid Beirut waste with a quarter of a million people made homeless in an instant. In the world, many brave and selfless workers have contracted COVID19 in caring for others and died in consequence.

Big examples are not always the best ones. It can feel as though everyone, which means, *it's never me*, has success, finds the perfect job, the lovely house, the great holiday, the easy part of life. *Still never me*. This is part of envy and covetousness and needs to be recognised as such, but it's still true. Life, meaning events, can be very hard and very unfair.

God is neither arbitrary, nor unfair. God does not make bad things happen to "test us", nor good things to "reward us". Part of growing in faith is realising that sometimes things are just hard. But God is indeed present, in all things, bidden or unbidden, a source of strength and comfort. This is what the psalms say, what Jesus says in the gospels and it's true.

Caroline
