

The Dunster Benefice
Carhampton, Dunster, Timberscombe,
Withycombe with Rodhuish, Wootton Courtenay
Newsletter 21st August 2020



In this issue:

- Face Coverings
- Holiday at Home Phoneline
- Readings & Collect for Sunday 23rd August
- Services on Sunday 23rd August
- Rector's Note

Sunday 23rd August (Eleventh after Trinity)
Readings & Collect

God of glory, the end of our searching, help us to lay aside all that prevents us from seeking your kingdom, and to give all that we have to gain the pearl beyond all price, through our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

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

Romans 12: 1-8

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgement, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

Matthew 16: 13-20

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Simon Peter answered, 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.' And Jesus answered him, 'Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.' Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

Services on Sunday 23rd August

St John the Baptist Carhampton – 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

Matthew 22:34-40

When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. 'Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?' He said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

When I was thinking about what should be in our Sunday morning services, I included this because to me it is the reason we are here. But it is important to reflect that love can be tough, hard to do and sometimes hard to hear. Love after all, is what put Jesus on the cross, willingly. The gospels have quite a lot of stories about people begging Jesus to help them, not for their own sake, but the sake of their child, who is ill. Loving other people who are ill can be agonising and their suffering harder to bear than pain for oneself.

But sometimes, it is easier to love others than love oneself. Perhaps we are too aware of our secret self, that we would not want anyone to know. Perhaps we spent too long in our formative years being told that other people were more important and that we must not think of ourselves. Jesus said, love God and the rest follows. But God loves us, ourselves, and the rest follows from that too.

Caroline

Face Coverings A reminder that face coverings are currently mandatory in places of worship. While there are exemptions, ([click here to go to the Government's face coverings information page](#)), this is a **legal requirement**.

The Daily Hope phoneline is currently offering a **Holiday at Home** reflection which will be different each day (no. 3 in the menu options).

