

The Dunster Benefice
Carhampton, Dunster, Timberscombe,
Withycombe with Rodhuish, Wootton Courtenay
Newsletter 7th August 2020



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Readings

Romans 10:5-15

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

<https://www.biblegateway.com/>

Matthew 14:22-33

Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. And early in the morning he came walking towards them on the lake. But when the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified, saying, 'It is a ghost!' And they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, 'Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.'

Peter answered him, 'Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.'

He said, 'Come.' So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came towards Jesus. But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, 'Lord, save me!' Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, 'You of little faith, why did you doubt?' When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshipped him, saying, 'Truly you are the Son of God.'

Bishop Peter is to undergo treatment for acute myeloid leukaemia. He will step back from work immediately to start treatment. Bishop Ruth, who began a period of annual leave and sabbatical recently will return at the beginning of September and will be in regular touch with staff until then. To read the statement from the Diocese of Bath and Wells click [here](#). Please pray for Bishop Peter, his wife Jane and their family.

The Diocesan Healing Advisory Group offer the prayer below, starting with the words from Psalm 28 that Bishop Peter quoted as he shared the news of his illness. There is both peace and power in praying together – praying with and for each other and offering our hopes and fears to the God who we believe is present in all things.

O Lord, you are our strength and our shield.

Your love sustains us through all the challenges we face.

We place into your hands all who are facing challenges,

In this time of such uncertainty.

We hold before you all who are dear to us.

Particularly we pray for our Bishop, Peter,

His family and friends and all who love him,

As they face these coming months.

May they know your strength and protection,

Your healing and your love,

In the name of Jesus,

And in the power of the Holy Spirit,

Amen.

Services on Sunday 9th August

St John the Baptist Carhampton – 9.30am Holy Communion

St Bartholomew Rodhuish – 9.30am Matins

All Saints Wootton Courtenay – 11am Alternative Songs of Praise

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

Jesus comes to the disciples and says, in the midst of the storm and into their fear, "Take heart, it is I". Peter of course takes it to the next level – in its way he wants proof, even though he really knows. He wants to walk on water too. He is invited to come to Jesus and it's all working until he realises what he is doing and becomes afraid. Then he starts to sink. We've all been there. Being brave is hard. Continuing to be brave in the teeth of difficulty is very hard and sometimes we sink. Jesus reaches out a hand and hauls Peter up. It is hard for non-Christians to accept that faith can make a difference, sometimes it's all that's left. It's not measurable. It's not a funny feeling or a warm fuzzy feeling. Faith in the end, is the rock on which we stand.

Caroline