

**The Dunster Benefice**  
**Carhampton, Dunster, Timberscombe,**  
**Withycombe with Rodhuish, Wootton Courtenay**  
**Newsletter    30th October 2020**



**In this issue:**

- Rural Life Support
- Videos by the Dean of Canterbury
- Readings & Collect for Sunday 1st November
- Services on Sunday 1st November
- Rector's Note

**Sunday 1st November (All Saints' Day)**  
**Readings & Collect**

God of holiness, your glory is proclaimed in every age: as we rejoice in the faith of your saints, inspire us to follow their example with boldness and joy; 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

**Revelation 7.9-end**

After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice, saying,

'Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!' And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshipped God, singing,

'Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honour and power and might be to our God for ever and ever! Amen.'

Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, 'Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?' I said to him, 'Sir, you are the one that knows.' Then he said to me, 'These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them. They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; for the Lamb at the centre of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.'

**Matthew 22.34-end**

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

'Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

'Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

'Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

'Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

'Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

'Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.'

**Services on Sunday 1st November**

**St John the Baptist Carhampton – 9.30am Holy Communion**

**St Nicholas Withycombe – 9.30am Holy Communion**

**St George Dunster – 11am Holy Communion**

**St Petrock Timberscombe – 11am Holy Communion (BCP)**

**All Saints Wootton Courtenay – 11am Holy Communion**

**St John the Baptist Carhampton – 6pm All Souls' Service**

*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 was sucked in by an offer from a plant company and, having obtained the freebie, naturally and as they anticipated, bought other bulbs. Then plants. I now have an orange tree and a lemon tree. Or rather, small plants. They are about six inches high. Both represent a triumph of hope over experience. I have tried with citrus trees before. They are not easy to grow and tend to go yellow and quietly die. There is something in the human condition that inclines us to hopefulness, in the teeth of all the things that tell us it did not work last time and it probably will not work this time. I saw a very interesting programme about a man who hoped, was convinced, he had bought an original painting by a great artist. He paid £100,000 because he was hopeful. Or perhaps because he could not believe that anything that expensive could be other than genuine. He was wrong. His painting was worthless.

One of the gospel readings last week was the story of the rich man who had a marvellous harvest and full of hope and self-satisfaction had a conversation with his soul about building bigger barns and sitting back in comfort. Little did he know that he was to die before any of this happened.

In this light, two small plants are not very much to be hopeful about. But I can buy feed and I can water them carefully. My hopefulness will be re-paid by tiny little oranges and lemons. It's like my faith. Hope is good, but a bit of effort and application, looking for God in the world and listening for his word, is even better.

*Caroline*