

The Dunster Benefice
Carhampton, Dunster, Timberscombe,
Withycombe with Rodhuish, Wootton Courtenay
Newsletter 13th November 2020



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Sunday 15th November (Second before Advent)
Readings & Collect

Heavenly Lord, you long for the world's salvation: stir us from apathy, restrain us from excess and revive in us new hope that all creation will one day be healed in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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

Prayer - Everyone, Everywhere!

The 2021 Archdeaconry Days will take place over the week of 10 - 16 January. Themes include Prayer and Nature, Prayer and the Bible, Prayer and People and Prayer and the Digital World. A short video, sign up for resources form and more information are available on the diocesan website by clicking [here](#).



Zephaniah 7.1 and 12-end

Be silent before the Lord GOD! For the day of the LORD is at hand; the LORD has prepared a sacrifice, he has consecrated his guests. At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the people who rest complacently on their dregs, those who say in their hearts, 'The LORD will not do good, nor will he do harm.' Their wealth shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them.

The great day of the LORD is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter, the warrior cries aloud there. That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements.

I will bring such distress upon people that they shall walk like the blind; because they have sinned against the LORD, their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like dung. Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the LORD's wrath; in the fire of his passion the whole earth shall be consumed; for a full, a terrible end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

Matthew 25.14-30

'For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, "Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents." His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, "Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents." His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, "Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours." But his master replied, "You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

Although public worship has been suspended during lockdown 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

The 11th November is the feast of St Martin of Tours, the patron saint of soldiers, chaplains and conscientious objectors. He was a fourth century Roman soldier who converted to Christianity and spent the rest of life ministering to the poor. He should speak particularly to us since he founded a religious house in the countryside, the first that was not based in a city and cathedral in Gaul. When we look at the letters St Paul, it is apparent that his missional activity was based in cities, which made sense. That was the easiest trade route and offered the most people. In our century, as we try to work out what God is saying to us about the rural church and our presence as a living Christian witness, remembering Martin might be important.

Martin underwent a number of changes of life. Beginning in the army, he became a monk and then a bishop. He used what he learned in each of these roles to inform what he did next and the way in which he did it. He asked people to work with him. He stayed a simple and humble man. He was sensible – the most famous story about him is when he cut his cloak in half on a wintery day to give one half to a beggar in rags. He stood up for what he believed, sometimes at risk of personal danger.

Churches have been shut for part of this year. There are considerable arguments about this particular denial. What does it tell us about how we worship God? What about our own faith? What is church for?

We are beginning to think about Christmas services. There is no doubt these will be very different, even when they might happen. But there are always the words of Teresa of Avila to keep us going: patient endurance attaineth to all things, whom God possesseth is nothing in wanting, alone God sufficeth.

Caroline