

**The Dunster Benefice**  
**Carhampton, Dunster, Timberscombe,**  
**Withycombe with Rodhuish, Wootton Courtenay**  
**Newsletter    6th November 2020**



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**Prayer for the Nation**

The Church of England has been called to prayer for the nation throughout the month of November. The booklet is attached and more information is available on the C of E website by clicking [here](#).

**Sunday 8th November (Remembrance Sunday)    Readings & Collect**

God, our refuge and strength, bring near the day when wars shall cease and poverty and pain shall end, that earth may know the peace of heaven 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

**Wisdom 6.12-16**

Wisdom is radiant and unfading, and she is easily discerned by those who love her, and is found by those who seek her. She hastens to make herself known to those who desire her. One who rises early to seek her will have no difficulty, for she will be found sitting at the gate. To fix one's thought on her is perfect understanding, and one who is vigilant on her account will soon be free from care, because she goes about seeking those worthy of her, and she graciously appears to them in their paths, and meets them in every thought.

**Matthew 25.1-13**

'Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, "Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him." Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, "Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out." But the wise replied, "No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves." And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, "Lord, lord, open to us." But he replied, "Truly I tell you, I do not know you." Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

**Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Appeal** Under the Rainbow bookshop in Minehead is now registered to take your filled shoeboxes. It is shut during lockdown (though can still make deliveries) but shoeboxes can be dropped off on Thursday 12th November (10-4) or in the new collection week of 5th-14th December. Alternatively you can pack a shoebox online. More details can be found on the Samaritan's Purse website by clicking [here](#).

**Remembrance Concert TONIGHT** Bath Abbey Remembrance pre-recorded concert online 7.30-8.30pm. For more details click [here](#) to go to the Bath Abbey website.

***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**

Loveliest of trees, the cherry now  
Is hung with bloom along the bough,  
And stands about the woodland ride  
Wearing white for Eastertide.

Now, of my threescore years and ten,  
Twenty will not come again,  
And take from seventy springs a score,  
It only leaves me fifty more.

And since to look at things in bloom  
Fifty springs are little room,  
About the woodlands I will go  
To see the cherry hung with snow.

This poem by AE Houseman is of course quite wrong for the time of year, but it does speak into Remembrance Day and all the young men and women whose hopes and dreams were lost in France and elsewhere.

This year we cannot remember in the way we would choose. It is a grief, but besides what others have lost, not such a great thing. We do not forget. Our young people are suffering in their education, their lack of employment and their dashed hopes and dreams, but they have a future and better times will come to pass.

On **Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November**, I am proposing that in Carhampton, Dunster, Timberscombe and Wootton Courtenay, a bell is tolled at 1055, a two minutes silence held at 11am and the wreath carried into church to be laid at the memorial with the words we all know well and a prayer. The churches will remain open for private prayer during the day. I do invite you to join in the silence.

There will be no services in church this Sunday and not before 6<sup>th</sup> December, when we hope to be allowed to re-open. By then we will be in Advent, the time of waiting. Something which we have all experienced this year, like no other. The end of that waiting was birth and renewal, which we again hope and pray for.

In addition to weekly prayers on Friday, there will be an Advent reflection on Wednesdays and my thanks to Sue, Brian and Jean, who will be taking part.

In the meantime, please find one cheerful thing. A plant for the garden or the house? A new book? Start that knitting!

Caroline