

The Dunster Benefice
Carhampton, Dunster, Timberscombe,
Withycombe with Rodhuish, Wootton Courtenay
Newsletter 4th December 2020



In this issue:

- Advent Reflections
- Exmoor Deanery Advent Carol Service
- Craft Sale
- Exeter Cathedral Prayer Wall
- South West Carols
- Readings & Collect for Sunday 6th December
- Service 6th December
- Rector's Note

Exeter Cathedral Virtual Prayer Wall To view the Prayer Wall, light a virtual candle and add a prayer click [here](#) to go to the cathedral website.



Reminder - South West Carols this weekend

For more information and to watch live at 7pm on their website click [here](#).

Advent Reflections Attached to this newsletter is the second in a series of weekly **Advent Reflections** from the Dunster Benefice written this week by Brian Pike.

The Exmoor Deanery Advent Carol Service is now available to view on YouTube. The film includes music, choral and instrumental, and photos of the local area. Click [here](#) to view on YouTube. A Dial an Advent Service version can be found by ringing this telephone number 01643 807007. The charges for this are at a local rate. The whole service lasts just over forty minutes and will stay live for the whole of Advent.

Craft Sale in St John the Baptist Carhampton 5th December 10am - 12 noon. On sale will be craft items made during lockdown, homemade cakes & preserves, pottery, cards and newsletter stall. There will be a one way system, face masks will need to be worn and only a certain amount of people will be allowed in at any one time. Regrettably no refreshments.

Sunday 6th December (Second of Advent) Readings & Collect

Almighty God, purify our hearts and minds, that when your Son Jesus Christ comes again as judge and saviour we may be ready to receive him, who is our Lord and our God. Amen.

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

Apology: Last week in error I gave the readings for the first Sunday in December, not the first week in Advent. Listed below are the readings for last week and this week. Sorry! Tracey.

First Sunday in Advent (29th November)
Isaiah 64.1-9 and Mark 13.24-37

Second Sunday in Advent (6th December)
Isaiah 40.1-11 and Mark 1.1-8

If you do not have a Bible to hand you can find the readings on these websites:

<https://www.biblegateway.com/> or <https://bible.oremus.org/>

Services on Sunday 6th December

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

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

Chaeomeles japonica. Skimmia also japonica. Arbutus unedo. My, it's hard work learning all these names. I am doing a horticulture course. Whoever knew there was so much to learn about digging and double digging - with pictures? And I have exams. Hence the difficulty is remembering all the names.

And I have downloaded my lovely Advent calendar, but it doesn't work, so I am suffering internet rage. Lockdown has ended, for any discernible difference it seems to be making to life. It is so hard finding reasons to be cheerful. So many people are now struggling. Shops closed, all those names of other years, Debenhams, Topshop, disappearing and with it the employment of thousands of people. We still can't sing at church services. What is the point of meeting?

There is a point. We can still enjoy the presence and loving kindness of God. We can still say prayers, listen to music and to poetry. We can look at the lighted church and hear some of the bells being rung. What we have received is the unpleasant reminder of impermanence. Nothing stays the same. That's a good thing. Except God, of course, who is changeless. Wholly trustworthy, wholly present, whether we feel it or not. Better to light a candle than curse the darkness. I'm off to light one of mine. And I expect my Advent calendar will work eventually.

Caroline