

The Dunster Benefice
Carhampton, Dunster, Timberscombe,
Withycombe with Rodhuish, Wootton Courtenay
Newsletter 29th January 2021



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Prayer for the Nation In response to reaching the terrible milestone of 100,000 deaths from COVID-19, the Archbishops invite all to call on God in Prayer. Starting on 1st February we are invited to set aside time every evening to pray, particularly at 6pm, each day. Click [here](#) for prayers and other resources on the Church of England's website.

Mothers' Union Thank you to Key Workers Appeal MU is running a scheme to say thank you to Key Workers in the UK and Ireland, who have given so much to keep us safe and well. They have secured funding to provide activity hampers, experience days and short breaks to Key Workers and their families. Click [here](#) to go to the MU website for more information and follow the links if you would like to nominate someone you know or, if you are a Key Worker, to apply yourself.



Sunday 31st January (Fourth of Epiphany)

Readings & Collect

God of heaven, you send the gospel to the ends of the earth and your messengers to every nation: send your Holy Spirit to transform us by the good news of everlasting life 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

Revelation 12.1-5a

A great portent appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars. She was pregnant and was crying out in birth pangs, in the agony of giving birth. Then another portent appeared in heaven: a great red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads. His tail swept down a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. Then the dragon stood before the woman who was about to bear a child, so that he might devour her child as soon as it was born. And she gave birth to a son, a male child, who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron.

Mark 1.21-28

They went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, and he cried out, 'What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.' But Jesus rebuked him, saying, 'Be silent, and come out of him!' And the unclean spirit, throwing him into convulsions and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, 'What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.' At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

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

It has been a draining week. The terrible inevitability of 100,000 deaths was reached on Tuesday. People have given accounts of the news of the death of a loved one and these have been deeply moving and upsetting. There seems to be no end to the sadness and misery.

Nevertheless, imperceptibly things are changing. The days are a little longer, the vaccination programme is progressing. As a deanery we are thinking about the future and what shape we will be in and we are thinking about this within the benefice. What might we want to change? What should we keep? Although we have barely been through last year's APCMs, we have another to complete by May 31st of this year, which is likely, I am afraid, to be on zoom. There are elections to Diocesan Synod. This is an important responsibility. Have your say about the future and stand for election.

We are approaching Lent very rapidly. Again, it would be good to know if there are things that you would like to do with others. I am thinking about a 'stations of the cross' walk that people can follow partially outside, so everyone is at a safe distance.

In the meantime, the snowdrops are appearing *Galanthus Nivalis*, I knew my horticulture classes would be useful. The cock pheasant is still roosting, rain or shine in my rowan tree (*sorbus...*). The only unchanging thing is the changeability of God.

Caroline

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