

**The Dunster Benefice**  
**Carhampton, Dunster, Timberscombe,**  
**Withycombe with Rodhuish, Wootton Courtenay**  
**Newsletter    12th February 2021**



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**Sunday 14th February (Next before Lent)**  
**Readings & Collect**

Holy God, you know the disorder of our sinful lives: set straight our crooked hearts, and bend our wills to love your goodness and your glory 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

**Exmoor Youth Project Fundraising**  
**Winter Wonders Competition** - A

chance to while away the winter with crafts, photography, writing - anything you feel moved to create! Run by St Mary's, Winsford, the proceeds will be split between the Youth Project and St Mary's church funds. For more details click [here](#) to go to the Exmoor Benefice website.

**Live prayer service for those who mourn.** Although this is not until 3rd March, you can contact the diocesan communications team now if you would like to submit a name in advance to be remembered during the service. For more details click [here](#) to go to the relevant page on the diocesan website.

**2 Corinthians 4.3-6**

And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness', who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

**Mark 9.2-9**

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, 'Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.' He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!' Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

***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.***

**Ash Wednesday 17th February**

**Collect**

Holy God, our lives are laid open before you: rescue us from the chaos of sin and through the death of your Son bring us healing and make us whole in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



Some cathedrals have published details of online services for Ash Wednesday. The following are both live at 5.30pm and will also be available to watch afterwards. Click [here](#) for Canterbury Cathedral and [here](#) for Salisbury Cathedral.

**Rector's Note**

It's freezing. I had to fall out of bed to check the cock pheasant roosting in my rowan tree did not die in the night, but he was still there, just about awake, rather like me. But there is no snow, Although I like snow, I do not like the ice that follows. COVID has come a little closer this week, with increasing stories from people who have relatives with the disease, some dangerously ill. There are others who are finding the seemingly endless lack of physical comfort and enforced solitude hard to take. Others cannot get away from a household of children home schooling, working from home, endless zoom meetings and life lived at second hand.

Lent is traditionally a time of reflection and penitence, in church the hangings are changed to purple and sometimes the crucifixes are shrouded in purple too. Perhaps we have done enough penitence for one year? Don't let me stop you if it is your custom to "give something up" for Lent but...Some years I have done so, meat, chocolate, alcohol and one ghastly year, newspapers, on others I have taken something up, a Lent book, an increased prayer time, I leave it to you.

In the benefice this year we have "*#Live Lent*" a little booklet with something for each day. If you would like a copy and have not let us know, please do so. You could read *Candles in the dark* by Rowan Williams. There will be a zoom session chat about it in March.

Also, may we invite you to send to the Dunster benefice e mail, a photograph you have taken, a poem or reflection or a memory that means something to you and we will put as many as possible in the Friday prayers and newsletter each week during Lent. This need not necessarily be spiritual but perhaps we all need something to cheer us up or make us think. Ideally, it will be quite short, so as many as possible can be included.

*Caroline*

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