

The Dunster Benefice
Carhampton, Dunster, Timberscombe,
Withycombe with Rodhuish, Wootton Courtenay
Newsletter 5th February 2021



In this issue:

- From the Cathedrals
- Readings & Collect for Sunday 7th February
- Rector's Note

Sunday 7th February (Second before Lent)
Readings & Collect

Almighty God, give us reverence for all creation and respect for every person, that we may mirror your likeness 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

Colossians 1. 15-20

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

John 1.1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

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

There is still time to ask for a copy of the booklet *#Live Lent God's story, our story*. This little booklet will give you something, a bible reading, a prayer, every day in Lent. If you would like one, please let me know. There is a (voluntary) donation of £1.50 per copy.

We are considering beginning services in March, in a limited way, probably Morning Prayer. However, it should be possible to undertake a service on zoom, again starting with Morning Prayer. This may not be on Sunday morning, once services start. If you would like to join in with this, please let me know as soon as possible. One possibility would be to extend the Friday prayers we already have – this need not be at 9am for those who like to start a little later in the morning. Frankly, over the last months, this includes me.

There is no escaping it, Spring is coming. My early daffodils are out and the magpies are showing interest in the pile of twigs that to them, is home. The pigeon that nested in my wisteria last year will have a shock; I've cut it back. If only I could let the chickens out!

This week Captain Sir Tom Moore died and a little more brightness went out of the world. When I was on sabbatical in 2019, I did not attend church over Easter, thinking I would see how it felt to abstain and anyway, there was always next year. In 2020, the churches were closed. No Easter celebration. It's looking a bit restricted this year too. It's the old saying: when you make plans, God laughs.

In Ladakh, mildly surprised the church gave me money to look for snow leopards, we went to a monastery to watch one of their big celebrations. It lasted all day and it was cold – I seem to remember it began to snow. It was absorbing and wonderful and has remained with me and my relationship with God in a way I did not expect. Reading *Candles in the dark*, our suggested book for Lent, Rowan Williams quotes a poem by Charles Causley, (whom I met once, long ago). *Eden Rock*. He was talking about the death of his parents, seeing them call to him from the other side of the stream: *"Crossing is not as hard as you might think...I had not thought that it would be like this"*.

Caroline

Scripture quotations are from New Revised Standard Version Bible: Anglicized Edition, copyright © 1989, 1995 National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.