

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



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Sunday 14th March (Mothering Sunday)
Readings & Collect

God of love, passionate and strong,
tender and careful: watch over us and
hold us all the days of our life; through
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Common Worship Collect taken from Common Worship: Services and
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Exodus 2.1-10

Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him for three months. When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him.

The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him. 'This must be one of the Hebrews' children,' she said. Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, 'Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?' Pharaoh's daughter said to her, 'Yes.' So the girl went and called the child's mother. Pharaoh's daughter said to her, 'Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages.' So the woman took the child and nursed it. When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, 'because', she said, 'I drew him out of the water.'

Luke 2.33-35

And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

This Sunday there will be a service of Morning Prayer at Rodhuish at 9.30am.
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

Half way through Lent already, Mothering Sunday this weekend. It will be an odd one because no-one can travel and none of the florists are open. We must have managed last year – it now seems so long ago.

One of the readings used is the placing of Moses in the bulrushes, to preserve his life when Pharaoh ordered all the Hebrew boys to be killed at birth. Moses spoke with God "as a friend" but it did not prevent God preventing Moses entering into the promised land. You can read about it in Exodus.

If we think of Mary, the mother of Jesus, perhaps most often it's at his birth. Or perhaps the flight into Egypt, from where Moses came, when Herod also wished to murder Hebrew children. It's apparent from the gospels that she remained in touch with Jesus throughout his ministry and indeed, on one occasion tried to persuade him to come home. She was rejected. As Simeon warned her, "a sword shall pierce your own heart also". This prophecy came to its fullest realisation when she waited at the foot of the cross for her son to die. There are no accounts of what was said between them after his resurrection. The women to whom Jesus appeared and who acted as the first apostles in spreading the good news, do not seem to include her. We might have thought that someone who was so high in the favour of God, that she was especially chosen to be the "god-bearer" might have had a life that was also blessed. Perhaps it was – we have no account of what Mary thought after her song of praise: "my soul magnifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my saviour".

Mary remains a very special figure in the church, especially perhaps to the Roman Catholics. It is apparent that she was not as meek and mild as the hymns sometimes have it. Her life was difficult and might have been dangerous, parent to someone who had the ill-will of both Jews and Romans. A different sort of Mary, the one who strides out, can be found in the grounds of Salisbury cathedral, by Elizabeth Frink.

Jesus never said the Christian life was easy, rather the contrary.

Caroline

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