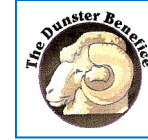


The Dunster Benefice
Carhampton, Dunster, Timberscombe,
Withycombe with Rodhuish, Wootton Courtenay
Newsletter 19th March 2021



In this issue:

- Sunday Worship on BBC Radio 4
- National Day of Reflection 23rd March
- Readings & Collect for Sunday 21st March
- Services this Week
- Rector's Note

Sunday 21st March (Fifth of Lent)

Readings & Collect

Gracious Father, you gave up your Son out of love for the world: lead us to ponder the mysteries of his passion, that we may know eternal peace through the shedding of our Saviour's blood, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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

Jeremiah 31.31-34

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, 'Know the Lord', for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

John 12.20-33

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, 'Sir, we wish to see Jesus.' Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, 'The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honour. 'Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—"Father, save me from this hour"? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name.' Then a voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.' The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, 'An angel has spoken to him.' Jesus answered, 'This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgement of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.' He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

This Sunday there will be services of Morning Prayer at Carhampton at 9.30am and Timberscombe at 11am.

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

The story of Patrick, who's festival fell on 17th March, is something of a Joseph tale. He was captured by raiders at the age of 16 years and sold as a slave. Eventually he escaped and found his way home, before training as a priest in Gaul and returning to Ireland as a much loved bishop. He walked over all the Ireland, gently evangelising and leading people to God. Many stories and traditions surround him, not least that he drove the snakes out of Ireland, which may be true, at any rate there are no snakes there.

Holy Week is now a fortnight away. This year we will not have a Maundy Thursday service, when we remember Jesus washing the feet of his disciples and end by stripping the church of all decoration and ornament before slipping away into the night. For Good Friday, there is the opportunity to walk through **stations of the cross**, pausing to meditate and pray at each of the stations. In Carhampton churchyard and possibly in some of the other churches, you will find A4 sheets with a picture, a bible verse and a prayer, four on the path into church and four inside. The idea is that you walk in the footsteps of Jesus as he travels towards the cross and his death, in this way entering into his passion. There is nothing organised, people can come at any time to follow the stations or be in church. If there are others present, please keep an appropriate distance!

Carhampton church at least will be open all of Good Friday and Holy Saturday and we will have lilies placed in remembrance as we always do and an easter garden.

Quite a few people took advantage of the **#Live Lent** booklets. Do please comment on whether you have been able to use the booklet and whether you found it helpful.

Lastly, I suggested that a good Lent book to read would be ***Candles in the Dark*** by Rowan Williams, a very readable collection of the pieces he wrote for the parish in Cambridge where he was attached last year. The book is not very long – there is still time to read it. If you would like to discuss it, there will be a zoom meeting to do so and if you let me know you would like to come, I will send you the link.

Caroline

Sunday Worship on BBC Radio 4 - 8.10am. A moment of remembrance led by the Archbishop of York as the nation prepares to mark the anniversary of lockdown

National Day of Reflection 23rd March

The Church of England is supporting this day which is organized by Marie Curie. Click [here](#) for the postcard which includes a prayer. Various other ideas and resources are available on the C of E's website including a short Act of Prayer for individuals and households. Click [here](#) to go to the web page.

