

The Dunster Benefice
Carhampton, Dunster, Timberscombe,
Withycombe with Rodhuish, Wootton Courtenay
Newsletter 26th March 2021



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Sunday 28th March (Palm Sunday)

Readings & Collect

True and humble king, hailed by the crowd as Messiah: grant us the faith to know you and love you, that we may be found beside you on the way of the cross, which is the path of glory. Amen.

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

Liturgy of the Palms Mark 11.1-11

When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples and said to them, 'Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. If anyone says to you, "Why are you doing this?" just say this, "The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately." ' They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, some of the bystanders said to them, 'What are you doing, untying the colt?' They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting,

'Hosanna!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!'

Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

*If you do not have a Bible to hand you can find the **Isaiah 50.4-9a** and **Mark 14.1-15** readings on these websites: <https://www.biblegateway.com/> or <https://bible.oremus.org/>*

This Sunday there will be services at Wootton Courtenay at 9.30am and Dunster and Withycombe 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

Jesus spent the week before he travelled up to Jerusalem in Bethany with Mary and Martha. He travelled there because their brother Lazarus had died and Jesus raised him from the dead to show the power of God. Martha recognised and named him as the Messiah. This the last and greatest of the signs in John's gospel that point us not only to Jesus but also to God. It is a scene full of drama. Jesus weeps at the death of his friend and the grief of Lazarus' family and friends. Lazarus is not given any words, then or later, concerning his experience. David Kossoff, in his book of stories about people on the New Testament suggests that Lazarus may never have recovered, believing that Jesus died instead of him and there was no resurrection. The deaths of those lost in the pandemic has been much on our minds this week. And there are the other deaths, people whose time came to an end through disease or age, all gathered up.

We hope this Easter is the last where death casts such a dark shadow over us and next year, as the Jews hope, Jerusalem, freedom from COVID19.

On **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!

#Live Lent booklets. Do please comment on whether you have been able to use the booklet and whether you found it helpful.

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. 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

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