

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



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Sunday 7th March (Third of Lent)
Readings & Collect

Eternal God, give us insight to discern your will for us, to give up what harms us, and to seek the perfection we are promised 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

Exodus 20.1-17

Then God spoke all these words:

I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me.

You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. For six days you shall labour and do all your work. But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

Honour your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.

You shall not covet your neighbour's house; you shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbour.

John 2.13-22

The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money-changers seated at their tables. Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. He told those who were selling the doves, 'Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a market-place!' His disciples remembered that it was written, 'Zeal for your house will consume me.' The Jews then said to him, 'What sign can you show us for doing this?' Jesus answered them, 'Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.' The Jews then said, 'This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?' But he was speaking of the temple of his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

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

We are experiencing fog, both of brain and environment. It makes life cold and dreary. Last week there were a few days of beautiful blue sky and everything was so much better. This week, back into the gloom of not quite winter and certainly not Spring.

I need to plant my seeds. I was too early, now I am on the verge of being late. Albert says his tomato plants are growing already. I have never grown tomatoes from seed, it's too easy to wait and buy someone else's extras. I have, at the time of writing, no seed trays and no compost. All I need is a quick visit to the garden centre. And the will to co-ordinate time and funds.

Somewhat to my surprise, the chickens appear quite snug in their run, still confined by law because of Avian flu. I give them treats and little squeaks of pleasure (theirs) accompany my offerings of mealworms and grass and veg peelings and rice, cooked and uncooked.

Jesus talked about the seed being buried, dying and growing – an allusion to his own life, death and resurrection. We have been so fortunate and blessed, living in the countryside over the last year. Hopefully we will find a way to give something back to nature for what it has given us. Many people, including me, love "*Now the green blade riseth*" an Easter hymn. There is "*Jesus Christ the Apple tree*", which always feels like a Christmas hymn. Eventually we shall be singing hymns again.

The birds are singing, the days are lengthening. Can Spring be far behind?

Caroline

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