

The Dunster Benefice
Carhampton, Dunster, Timberscombe,
Withycombe with Rodhuish, Wootton Courtenay
Newsletter 2nd April 2021



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Sunday 4th April (Easter Day)

Readings & Collect

God of glory, by the raising of your Son you have broken the chains of death and hell: fill your Church with faith and hope; for a new day has dawned and the way to life stands open in our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

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

Easter Reflection from Bishop Peter

This is Bishop Peter's last Easter Day as Bishop of Bath and Wells, as he is taking early retirement at the end of May. Click [here](#) for more details and video link on the diocesan website.

Easter Day from York Minster

11am Festal Eucharist on Easter Day (livestream) President and Preacher: the Archbishop of York.

4pm Solemn Evensong on Easter Day and Dedication of the Grand Organ (livestream) Preacher: Canon Victoria Johnson, Precentor. For more details on the Minster's website click [here](#) or to go direct to the Minster's YouTube channel click [here](#).

Acts 10.34-43

Then Peter began to speak to them: 'I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.'

Mark 16.1-8

When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, 'Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?' When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, 'Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you.' So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

SERVICES THIS WEEK

This Sunday there will be Holy Communion services at Carhampton and Withycombe (Rodhuish joining with Withycombe) at 9.30am and Dunster, Timberscombe and Wootton Courtenay 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

Good Friday

This is the first time for three years that I have marked easter. I was on sabbatical in 2019 and last year we began lockdown just before – Easter somehow passed us by and we have been in Holy Saturday ever since.

In the midst of a great trauma, time can seem to pass very slowly indeed, until it appears the clocks have stopped. In hindsight however, it feels as though everything passed in a flash. The last year has been a little like that. It has seemed absolutely endless, but nothing has happened. All the markers of our usual years, the celebrations, meetings, holidays, lost.

After Jesus left the upper room to go to the garden of Gethsemane and all that awaited him, the night was endless, yet passed in a flash. So busy: Jesus taken from one place to another, before Pilate, Herod, Pilate again, led out and crucified by nine o'clock. The disciples scattered, Judas dead, Peter in the throes of despair. Not even twenty-four hours from that Passover supper and Jesus' commandment to love one another as he washed the feet of the disciples, Joseph and Nicodemus are laying his body in the rock tomb.

Then Holy Saturday, when nothing happened at all. Shock, terror and weeping from the disciples. Perhaps the beginning of plans to quietly leave Jerusalem and go home. Many people have commented that it must have been something truly spectacular that changed this group of demoralised people into confident purveyors of the Good news to the world. Surely something more than a plot to pretend that Jesus had never been crucified, or he was not really dead when he was taken down.

Today is an opportunity for reflection. We may not be in a church for the Last Hour, but this is a time given to us to respond to God's call and walk into a new future.

Caroline

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