

The Dunster Benefice
Carhampton, Dunster, Timberscombe,
Withycombe with Rodhuish, Wootton Courtenay
Newsletter 7th May 2021



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Sunday 9th May (Sixth of Easter)
Readings & Collect

Risen Christ, by the lakeside you renewed your call to your disciples: help your Church to obey your command and draw the nations to the fire of your love, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

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

Acts 10.44-end

While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, 'Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?' So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

John 15.9-17

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

'This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

SERVICES THIS WEEK

This Sunday there will be services at Carhampton (HC) and Rodhuish (MP) at 9.30am and Dunster (HC), Timberscombe (HC) and Wootton Courtenay (SoP) at 11am.

Code: HC=Holy Communion, MP=Morning Prayer, SoP (Songs of Praise)

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

Our view of the world is heavily influenced by our mood. Any bright and sunny day can be spoiled by the frustrations of trying to deal with both people and things. It is exhausting and frustrating not being able to speak with people who are working from home or away on leave, when we have a problem that is urgent and needs solving. Dealing with computers and zoom when we are tired, backs and eyes aching, can just seem too much. It is also far too easy to criticise others, either for being weighed down with things they can do nothing about, or far too cheerful when things are going wrong.

Acknowledging that the real heart of the situation is not others but ourselves, is hard to do. In the first place, it is a hard to recognise that we make our own problems. In the second, no-one likes to be at fault and when life is difficult to bear, to grapple with it being "my fault" can seem too much.

We all know the disciples became tired, frustrated and often missed the point. Many who set out to follow Jesus found it so difficult, they became disillusioned and left, to the extent that Jesus asked his disciples, "do you also wish to go away?" It was one of Peter's better moments: he replied, "where would we go? We know that you are the one chosen of God..."

It is not impossible to look within ourselves to our own better natures. It is just difficult. But this is what Jesus asks us to do, not to go outward, to go about with Pollyanna smiles and expecting we can either make it all better, or that someone else will. Our best nature is that expressed in God's love for us and our love for each other. And God is always there: we only have to pay attention. If we can overcome the anger and frustration that appears to be so much part of daily life, we can be renewed by God and then be more like him.

Caroline

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Sleep Well with Daily Hope

The Daily Hope **free** phone line has new content written by Daily Hope's co-founder Pippa Cramer, a qualified Occupational Therapist. In this 4-part series, which can be listened to on a loop, Pippa shares helpful tips and Bible readings to reflect on and encourage sleep. **This new material can be found on 0800 804 8044 and selecting #.**

Julian of Norwich is remembered by the Church on **Saturday 8th May**. To read more about her on the Friends of Julian of Norwich website click [here](#). On the same website there is a link to join a live Festival Day Eucharist online at **10.30am** from the Church of St Julian - click [here](#) to go direct to that page.