

The Dunster Benefice
Carhampton, Dunster, Timberscombe,
Withycombe with Rodhuish, Wootton Courtenay
Newsletter 11th June 2021



In this issue:

- Richard of Chichester
- Readings & Collect for Sunday 13th June
- Services this Week
- Rector's Note

On 16th June, the Church remembers St Richard, a bishop of Chichester in the thirteenth century. Chichester Cathedral's website has a virtual pilgrimage which may be accessed by clicking [here](#). To listen, on YouTube, to Michael Waite's setting of A Prayer of St Richard sung by The University of Chichester Chamber Choir click [here](#).

Sunday 13th June (Second After Trinity)
Readings & Collect

Faithful Creator, whose mercy never fails: deepen our faithfulness to you and to your living Word, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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

**'...may I know thee more clearly,
love thee more dearly,
and follow thee more nearly,
day by day.'**

2 Corinthians 5. 6-17

So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord— for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. For all of us must appear before the judgement seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil.

Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we try to persuade others; but we ourselves are well known to God, and I hope that we are also well known to your consciences. We are not commending ourselves to you again, but giving you an opportunity to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast in outward appearance and not in the heart. For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them.

From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

Mark 4.26-34

He also said, 'The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come.'

He also said, 'With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.'

With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

SERVICES THIS WEEK

***This Sunday there will be Common Worship Holy Communion services at Carhampton and Rodhuish at 9.30am and at Dunster and Timberscombe at 11am.
There will be a Songs of Praise service at Wootton Courtenay at 11am.***

Rector's Note

Today is the feast day of Barnabas, not one of the twelve Apostles, but a very significant figure in the life of the early church. He began by selling his property and giving the proceeds to the nascent community, since they were holding all things in common. He seems to have come from the Greek world, probably Cyprus. He introduced Paul to the leaders in Jerusalem and was later sent to Antioch to help Christians there. Acts 15 tells us that Paul wanted to go back to the communities the two of them had already visited and Barnabas wanted to take Mark with them. Paul disagreed because Mark had already left them once. We are told the disagreement was so sharp that Barnabas took Mark and sailed for Cyprus while Paul chose Silas and went back to Syria.

I find it perversely encouraging that even the greats of the church disagreed and had rows on occasion. It puts our difficulties into perspective and since both continued in ministry and upheld the churches, God can work for good even when things do not seem to be going right. It is very easy to imagine that we could not aspire to the holiness of the early Christians. This incident shows us that they were people just like us.

Barnabas, it appears, was martyred on Cyprus in about AD 61, the same sort of time as Paul in Rome. As frequently happened to Paul, the message they brought was not always received by locals, who reacted with violence.

Caroline

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