

**The Dunster Benefice**  
**Carhampton, Dunster, Timberscombe,**  
**Withycombe with Rodhuish, Wootton Courtenay**  
**Newsletter 9th December 2022**



**In this issue:**

- **Benefice Prayers**
- **Festive Coffee Morning**
- **Watchful Waiting with Poetry**
- **Readings & Collect for Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December**
- **Services this Week**

This month **Benefice Prayers** with coffee is at St Nicholas, Withycombe, **10am on Wednesday 14th December**. All welcome.

There will be a **Festive Coffee Morning** at St George's, Dunster, **next Friday, 16th December, 10am to 12.30pm**. Teas, coffee, homemade cakes, sausage rolls, assorted mince pies, cake stall, raffle, handmade cards, bookstall, in aid of Church Fabric Fund. Friendly atmosphere - everyone welcome.

**Watchful Waiting with Poetry** Enjoy poetry and reflections recorded from the Wild Goose Resource Group Advent retreat with poet and theologian Pádraig Ó Tuama. **Saturday 10th December 7.30pm** via the Iona Community YouTube channel which may be accessed by clicking [here](#).

There is no need to sign up in advance to this event.

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**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December (Third of Advent)**  
**Readings & Collect**

God for whom we watch and wait, you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son: give us courage to speak the truth, to hunger for justice, and to suffer for the cause of right, with Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



**Isaiah 35.1-10**

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, 'Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.' Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

**Matthew 11.2-11**

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?' Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.'

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you." Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

**SERVICES THIS WEEK**

***This Sunday there will be services at***  
***Carhampton VILLAGE HALL (HC, CW) at 9.30am***

***&***

***Dunster (HC, CW), Timberscombe (HC, BCP, said)***  
***and Wootton Courtenay (SoP) at 11am***

***&***

***Rodhuish (Carol Service) at 6pm.***

***Code: HC = Holy Communion CW = Common Worship***  
***BCP = Book of Common Prayer SoP = Songs of Praise***

Rector: Revd Caroline Ralph

Associate Priest: Revd Margaret Jackson

*Common Worship Collect taken from Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England*

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