

The Dunster Benefice
Carhampton, Dunster, Timberscombe,
Withycombe with Rodhuish, Wootton Courtenay
Newsletter 11th September 2020



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Sunday 13th September (Fourteenth after Trinity)
Readings & Collect

Merciful God, your Son came to save us and bore our sins on the cross: may we trust in your mercy and know your love, rejoicing in the righteousness that is ours through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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

Romans 14: 1-12

If you do not have a Bible to hand you can find the readings on this website:

<https://www.biblegateway.com/>

Matthew 18: 21-35

Then Peter came and said to him, 'Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?' Jesus said to him, 'Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

'For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything." And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow-slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, "Pay what you owe." Then his fellow-slave fell down and pleaded with him, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you." But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he should pay the debt. When his fellow-slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, "You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow-slave, as I had mercy on you?" And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he should pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.'

Services on Sunday 13th September

St John the Baptist Carhampton – 9.30am Holy Communion

St Bartholomew Rodhuish – 9.30am Holy Communion

St George's Dunster – 11am Morning Prayer

St Petrock Timberscombe – 11am Morning Prayer

All Saints Wootton Courtenay – 11am 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

Forgiveness is like a bowl of cold porridge. It really does not taste very good and one has to take eating it slowly, spoon by spoon, to finish it down to the bottom. It takes time. Nevertheless, it is very nourishing.

To keep on forgiving someone who continually offends is really difficult. Peter must have felt quite cast down to discover he needed to forgive constantly, as often as needed or asked. As a man known for being hot-headed, he must have caused offence himself on some occasions and we are warned about this too by Jesus – we cannot ignore our own faults when pointing out the faults of others.

Forgiveness does not mean that reparation cannot be sought or made, indeed it should. The Truth and reconciliation hearings in South Africa after the end of apartheid are often held up as an example of the healing that can be brought by truth and forgiveness being brought into the open, admission of wrong, apologies offered, even after terrible events can often heal. Litigation in courts would be reduced by a considerable amount if those who come saying "I just want an apology, a recognition of what happened" are satisfied. In some ways that has begun again this week with the beginning of the inquiry into the bombing in the Manchester Arena.

Forgiveness requires bravery and generosity. It is a God-given gift and we need to pay close attention to it and practice it as earnestly as we practice any other task, until it becomes second nature and we become more like Jesus Christ.

Caroline

Lamentation to Hope An online service by Wells Cathedral and the Diocese of Bath and Wells to remember all those who have died during the Covid pandemic. Those who wish the names of their loved ones to be included should email them to the Communications Team by Monday 21st September. To email the team or for more information click [here](#) to go to the diocesan website. The service will be available to watch online from 30th September.

