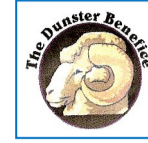


**The Dunster Benefice**  
**Carhampton, Dunster, Timberscombe,**  
**Withycombe with Rodhuish, Wootton Courtenay**  
**Newsletter 18th September 2020**



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**Sunday 20th September (Fifteenth after Trinity)**  
**Readings & Collect**

Lord God, defend your Church from all false teaching and give to your people knowledge of your truth, that we may enjoy eternal life in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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

**Philippians 1: 21- end**

For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labour for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well — since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

**Matthew 20: 1-16**

'For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the labourers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the market-place; and he said to them, "You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right." So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, "Why are you standing here idle all day?" They said to him, "Because no one has hired us." He said to them, "You also go into the vineyard." When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, "Call the labourers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first." When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, "These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat." But he replied to one of them, "Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?" So the last will be first, and the first will be last.'

**Services on Sunday 20th September**

**St John the Baptist Carhampton – 9.30am Holy Communion**

**St Nicholas Withycombe – 9.30am Holy Communion**

**St George's Dunster – 11am Morning Prayer**

**St Petrock Timberscombe – 11am Holy Communion**

**All Saints Wootton Courtenay – 11am Holy Communion (BCP)**

**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**

I don't expect many reading this will have watched *Game of Thrones*. The tag was "Winter is coming". The imaginary world of Westeros was falling apart in civil war and about to be invaded by the White Walkers, with an army of the living dead. The characters faced horrible trials and unpredictable death. It's become a bit of a trope.

Inevitably, while we are enjoying beautiful weather over these few days, it is apparent that it is Autumn not High Summer and winter is indeed coming. No-one of us will ever have experienced a time like the next few months. Meeting outside even in small groups will not be possible, harvest festivals and suppers, carol services, will not be like other years. Families will remain divided. It is understandable to feel sad. Indeed, it is quite right.

However, we are told that unless the seed falls into the ground and dies, it cannot grow and bear fruit. We now need to trust in faith and hope to let the seed fall, die and grow again. We can take comfort from the fact that even in a time of climate change, global warming and the pandemic, nature is doing what nature does, producing seed and fruit, letting the leaves fall and already preparing for the Spring that will surely come. This is our hope of the resurrection, Jesus rising from the dead, the world changed, but in fact renewed.

Caroline

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**Rural Forum 2020 'Loss, grief and love in the countryside'**. Sadly, due to the current situation, we are not able to meet in person for the Rural Forum this year. Join us on Zoom instead on Thurs. 1st Oct from 10am - 12.30pm. Part 1 will focus on our understanding of grief and how we can support those who are grieving. Part 2 explores how do we love each other, our friends and our community meaningfully? [Register for this free Zoom forum here.](#)

**A Message from Bishop Peter** who is out of hospital for a short period after completing his first round of chemotherapy may be read on the diocesan website. Click [here](#) to view.