

The Dunster Benefice
Carhampton, Dunster, Timberscombe,
Withycombe with Rodhuish, Wootton Courtenay
Newsletter 16th October 2020



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Sunday 18th October (Luke the Evangelist)
Readings & Collect

Almighty God, who built your Church upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Jesus Christ himself as the chief cornerstone: so join us together in unity of spirit by their doctrine, that we may be made a holy temple acceptable to you; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.
Common Worship Collect taken from Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England © The Archbishops' Council 2000

Isaiah 35.3-6

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.

Luke 10.1-9

After this the Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. He said to them, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest. Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road. Whatever house you enter, first say, "Peace to this house!" And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person; but if not, it will return to you. Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the labourer deserves to be paid. Do not move about from house to house. Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; cure the sick who are there, and say to them, "The kingdom of God has come near to you."

Services on Sunday 18th October

St John the Baptist Carhampton – 9.30am Holy Communion

St Nicholas Withycombe – 9.30am Holy Communion

St George's Dunster – 11am Holy Communion

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

An old philosophical saying asks whether a tree makes a sound if it falls in a forest and no-one hears. This is about human experience and human perception, but also about the way the world works. It's a bit like the saying that a flap of a butterfly's wings somewhere can bring a whirlwind somewhere else. Jesus' warning in the 12th chapter vv1-7 of Luke's gospel, the reading for this morning, comes in two parts. The first is a warning: do not do in the dark what you would not do in the light. The second could be seen as part of the same thing but perhaps as a comfort. Even sparrows do not fall without being seen by God.

What we do, matters. It may not seem to, it may only be a tiny, insignificant thing, but it matters. A tree cannot fall unnoticed, there are always consequences to actions.

At present we are reaping the whirlwind of being connected as human beings. Normally a good thing, now we live with the threat of a potentially fatal disease simply by being together. What we do, matters. After all, COVID19 spreads because people do not always do what they should. The disease has spread because of the way we live now, with international travel, in close proximity to each other.

However, our responsibility as individuals does not change because of what others might do. We can ponder long and hard over the blameless people in Liverpool who have done all that they should and still face the highest transmission levels in the country this week. At its heart we still need to act as people who love, who are discipled into love by God, who not only sees all that we do but as Jesus says, rewards what is done in secret as well as what might be done in public. We must continue in our loving care for each other.

Caroline

BBC One Songs of Praise Sunday, 1.15pm. This week features Cheddar Gorge in Somerset and the Beer Quarry Caves in Devon. Click [here](#) for more information on the BBC's website.

Daily Hope Update This free service has been updated to include chair exercises to help people to keep physically fit. There are seven sessions, one for each day of the week. The menu options have changed and are listed when you call the following number:

