

The Dunster Benefice
Carhampton, Dunster, Timberscombe,
Withycombe with Rodhuish, Wootton Courtenay
Newsletter 2nd October 2020



In this issue:

- The Joys of Harvest During Covid Times
- Readings & Collect for Sunday 4th October
- Services on Sunday 4th October
- Rector's Note

Sunday 4th October (Seventeenth after Trinity)

Readings & Collect

Gracious God,
you call us to fullness of life:
deliver us from unbelief and banish our
anxieties with the liberating love of Jesus
Christ our Lord. Amen.

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

The Joys of Harvest During Covid Times. Our Diocesan Rural Affairs Adviser, Rob Walrond, has shared a couple of videos for Harvest, one for general worship and one for schools. (Worth a watch whatever age you are!) To watch on the diocesan website click [here](#).



Philippians 3: 4b-14

If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on towards the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

Matthew 21: 33-end

'Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watch-tower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them, saying, "They will respect my son." But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, "This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance." So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?' They said to him, 'He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.'

Jesus said to them, 'Have you never read in the scriptures: "The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is amazing in our eyes"? Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.'

When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

Services on Sunday 4th October

St John the Baptist Carhampton – 9.30am Harvest Festival

St Nicholas Withycombe – 9.30am Holy Communion

St George's Dunster – 11am Holy Communion

St Petrock Timberscombe – 11am BCP Holy Communion & APCM

All Saints Wootton Courtenay – 11am Holy Communion

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

Looking out of my study window I can see into the greenhouse and the two enormous red hibiscus flowers that are blooming. This plant has not looked back since I put it in the greenhouse. It used to be a sad knobbly thing, now it has leaves and flowers and appears in the best of health. I am debating about what to do in the cold weather now approaching.

Being in the right place is both a gift and an art. Jesus lived, taught and died in a backwater of the Roman Empire, albeit one with a long history of worshipping one God, who made a special covenant with his people. The Apostles, growing the church after the resurrection, could not have done so without the work of Paul, who travelled all around the cities of the Mediterranean using the excellent communications system and city networks of the Romans. The right person in the right place.

The old saying "the grass is always greener on the other side of the fence" can be all too true. What we have, can seem not enough. Out there, surely it must be more exciting, more important, just bigger.

Sometimes it is. But the important thing is to have something to go to, not just leave behind. We take our troubles with us. Being in the right place is more than complacency, it's having a sense of belonging and the knowledge that we are important and loved, both in the sight of God and our neighbours. When much is difficult or restricted, that can be a lot.

Caroline
