

The Dunster Benefice
Carhampton, Dunster, Timberscombe,
Withycombe with Rodhuish, Wootton Courtenay
Newsletter 22nd January 2021



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Immersive Meditations - Lee Abbey Take a virtual walk listening to the sounds of nature. There are seven walks around the estate to choose from. Short readings and reflections are given for each walk along with a question to think about. Click [here](#) to go to Lee Abbey's website.

Contemplating Exmoor with the Rt Revd Dr Brian Castle A collection of pictures and reflections from Bishop Brian. To view the introduction on his website click [here](#) then follow the links from that page to the reflections. To watch, on YouTube, Bishop Brian's Reflection for last Sunday featured by the Diocese of Bath and Wells click [here](#).

Songs of Praise (on BBC2 this week), 1.15pm, Sunday 24th January Marking the programme's 60th year from St George's Chapel, Windsor, with a look back at some favourite moments.

Sunday 24th January (Third of Epiphany)

Readings & Collect

God of all mercy, your Son proclaimed good news to the poor, release to the captives, and freedom to the oppressed: anoint us with your Holy Spirit and set all your people free to praise you in Christ our Lord. Amen.

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

Revelation 19.6-10

Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the sound of many waters and like the sound of mighty thunder-peals, crying out,

'Hallelujah!
For the Lord our God
the Almighty reigns.
Let us rejoice and exult
and give him the glory,
for the marriage of the Lamb has come,
and his bride has made herself ready;
to her it has been granted to be clothed
with fine linen, bright and pure'—
for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.

And the angel said to me, 'Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.' And he said to me, 'These are true words of God.' Then I fell down at his feet to worship him, but he said to me, 'You must not do that! I am a fellow-servant with you and your comrades who hold the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.'

John 2.1-11

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.' And Jesus said to her, 'Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come.' His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.' Now standing there were six stone water-jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, 'Fill the jars with water.' And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, 'Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward.' So they took it. When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, 'Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.' Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

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

It's just a little lighter in the evenings. It does depend somewhat on how grey the day has been. I am trying to catch the Carhampton murmuration when the mixed flock of jackdaws and crows fly over to roost in the wood down towards the sea. One has to be out with the dogs at just the right moment when the big flock flies over and wheels and dives in and out until plummeting in to rest. The male pheasant lurking in the garden is roosting in the clematis over my rowan tree. I am not sure he knows it will rain all night.

Lent is approaching. I wonder whether people might like to do something special to mark the passing weeks? We are beginning to think about doing something in the deanery from Passion Sunday. As a benefice, we could try answering questions in the Friday prayers, either to everyone or just something to think about. This was quite popular last year in the autumn. For those that would like, my suggested Lent book is *Candles in the dark* by Rowan Williams, a series of short, easy meditations not specifically around Lent, dated from March to September in 2020 during lockdown 1, but which would work quite well. We could have a sort of book club and chat about it, if there is any call for it.

There is a booklet from the Church of England called *#Live Lent*, offering a bible reading, a prayer and a few words for each day of lent. I can arrange copies if anyone contacts me. Otherwise, what would you like?

Caroline
