

The Dunster Benefice
Carhampton, Dunster, Timberscombe,
Withycombe with Rodhuish, Wootton Courtenay
Newsletter 15th January 2021



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From the Cathedrals As we can't visit anywhere at the moment I thought I'd put a couple of links to items, that may be of interest, from cathedrals around the country. Click on the blue text to follow the link. From [Hereford Cathedral's](#) website you can watch a 15 min film on the Mappa Mundi and visit its interactive website. From [Exeter Cathedral's](#) website a 10 min film on its history.

Message from Revd Kenneth Cross

Lockdown brings all kinds of challenges, and one of them is that daily routines and rhythms can become difficult. Some of us might find that while we spend more time at home it becomes harder to carve out time to pray. Yet deep down we sense a real longing to pray for the coming of God's kingdom and of hope. I have recently started a new Facebook page which exists to help people who struggle to pray. The purpose is simply to offer mutual encouragement, perhaps the opportunity to pray at the same time as others, and to share helpful thoughts and prayers.

<https://www.facebook.com/frailprayer/>

Sunday 17th January (Second of Epiphany)

Readings & Collect

Eternal Lord, our beginning and our end: bring us with the whole creation to you glory, hidden through past ages and made known 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

Revelation 5.1-10

Then I saw in the right hand of the one seated on the throne a scroll written on the inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals; and I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, 'Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?' And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it. And I began to weep bitterly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. Then one of the elders said to me, 'Do not weep. See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals.'

Then I saw between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders a Lamb standing as if it had been slaughtered, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. He went and took the scroll from the right hand of the one who was seated on the throne. When he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell before the Lamb, each holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. They sing a new song:

'You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slaughtered and by your blood you ransomed for God saints from every tribe and language and people and nation; you have made them to be a kingdom and priests serving our God, and they will reign on earth.'

John 1.43-end

The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, 'Follow me.' Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, 'We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth.' Nathanael said to him, 'Can anything good come out of Nazareth?' Philip said to him, 'Come and see.' When Jesus saw Nathanael coming towards him, he said of him, 'Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!' Nathanael asked him, 'Where did you come to know me?' Jesus answered, 'I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you.' Nathanael replied, 'Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!' Jesus answered, 'Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these.' And he said to him, 'Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.'

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 a lazy wind, they say, goes through you, rather than around. I feel for my chickens, still in their run, but they look reasonably happy still. The dogs are perpetually covered with mud. On a walk down to the shoreline, Merlin jumped in the stream then tried to jump out. Alas, he had sunk. Mud up to his middle. After a moment of watching him trying to haul out, I took pity and grabbed the scruff of his neck. Unlike humans, dogs have little strength in their shoulders, they cannot lift unless they have impetus from their back legs.

Most of us try, most of the time, to make things better, for our friends and especially for our family. It takes time and energy and it can be frustrating and saddening when things do not seem to actually be better, or fail to resolve in the way we tried so hard to bring about.

It's important to work out whether we are able to give that quick grab by the scruff, or whether it is us, who are stuck in the mud of trying to make it all better. There's an old joke about an elderly nun speaking to a keen young vicar: *don't try to save the world, dear. It's been done already.*

Maybe this is a time to look around quietly, to find God in the everyday rather than spend all our energies looking. This week there has been a diocesan prayer initiative. Might be worth catching up with, if you did not see it.

Caroline
