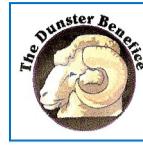


The Dunster Benefice
Carhampton, Dunster, Timberscombe,
Withycombe with Rodhuish, Wootton Courtenay

Newsletter 8th January 2021



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HAPPY NEW YEAR!

National Church Services Online

Every Sunday, at 9am, a service from the Church of England is streamed online. If you don't want to watch live, the videos may be accessed whenever you like after the live stream on the C of E's website. The video content is manually subtitled. To turn these on, go to the bottom left of the video and click the filled-in box with two broken lines inside. The service is BSL-interpreted throughout. There is also an audio only option and you may download an order of service if you wish. To go to the C of E's 'Worship at Home' page for links and more information click [here](#).

Reminder: Prayer-Everyone, Everywhere!
10th-16th January. Begins Sunday with a service from Wells Cathedral. Available on the Diocesan website from 9am. During the week there will be an opportunity to add to the online Diocesan Prayer Wall if you would like to. Click [here](#) for links and more information about the week.

Sunday 10th January (Baptism of Christ)

Readings & Collect

Heavenly Father, at the Jordan you revealed Jesus as your Son: may we recognize him as our Lord and know ourselves to be your beloved children; through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

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

Acts 19.1-7

While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the inland regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. He said to them, 'Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?' They replied, 'No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.' Then he said, 'Into what then were you baptized?' They answered, 'Into John's baptism.' Paul said, 'John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus.' On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied—altogether there were about twelve of them.

Mark 1.4-11

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, 'The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.'

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

Public Worship

We think it would be the wisest, safest and most sensible course to not have public worship for the rest of January. We will review towards the end of the month as to the position for February. We hope that by then things will be clearer. It is hoped that you will be able to make use of the many excellent services online through the diocesan and national websites.

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

*Why did Mary and Joseph go to the stable?
Because there was no zoom for them at the inn.*

I am thinking of starting a new folder in my e mails to keep all my zoom emails for meetings. I now have so many that they clutter up my inbox.

So here we are again, back in lockdown (although it does not really feel all that different to Tier 4) and no prospect of release until February at the earliest. The new variant, blamed for everything, is quite frightening in its speed and spread rate.

It's a cold, grey day. Arthur is sitting on my lap so he can look out of the window with his chin on the desk. This is fine, but it does not make typing easy. And he wriggles. The chickens are still in their run because of Avian flu. All as usual.

I am reading a book called *Wintering* which seems to be suggesting that there are times in our lives when everything is stripped back to essentials and growth is put on hold, when nothing seems to be happening. We need to wait and rest, like the trees and the animals who take the seasons as they come and deal with it. I am not sure I will like this book, but heavens, it feels like winter in the soul at the moment. When I meet (on zoom!) with clergy, I ask, has anyone got anything cheerful? Hence the joke at the top. It seems to be the best we can do.

At the moment, the best we can do, is pray at home, look for God in the ordinary matters of life. Wait, like Mary, for God to come to us. Happy New Year.

Caroline