

The Dunster Benefice
Carhampton, Dunster, Timberscombe,
Withycombe with Rodhuish, Wootton Courtenay
Newsletter 26th February 2021



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Dear England is the Archbishop of York's latest book in which he writes a letter to the country on why the Christian narrative still makes sense today. To launch the book the Archbishop will be in conversation with Adrian Chiles at 7pm on 3rd March. The launch is online and tickets are free but you do need to book (at the time of writing there were 531 left). For more details on the Archbishop's website click [here](#).

Poetry for Good The Church of England's website has an article about a poetry competition which is open to all. It is being run by a Christian cleaning company that wants to raise the profile and recognise the value of the millions of key workers in the UK. To read the article click [here](#) or to go directly to the Poetry for Good competition page click [here](#).

Songs of Praise BBC Two, Sunday 28th Feb, 1.15pm. Ahead of St David's Day this week's programme features Tintern Abbey in Monmouthshire looking at the daily life of the Cistercian monks, how the ruined abbey became an inspiration for poets and painters, including JMW Turner and William Wordsworth, and a walk along the new pilgrimage path. The music comes from across Wales.

Sunday 28th February (Second of Lent)
Readings & Collect

Almighty God, by the prayer and discipline of Lent may we enter into the mystery of Christ's sufferings, and by following in his Way come to share in his glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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

Genesis 17.1-7, 15-16

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said to him, 'I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous.' Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, 'As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.

God said to Abraham, 'As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.'

Mark 8.31-end

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, 'Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.'

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.'

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

Saturday 27th February is the feast day of George Herbert, who appeared destined for a life at Court under James I, when he gave everything up to become a country parson at Bemerton, now a suburb of Salisbury, with a church that had fallen into dereliction. He was a faithful priest but died after only three years in post. We often sing his hymns, especially "Let all the world in every corner sing". My favourite is "Come my way, my truth my heart" set by Vaughn Williams. It was not an easy decision for him – his struggle and turmoil as to how God was asking him to lead his life, informs much of his poetry and still speaks to us today. His poems were published in 1633, the year of his death and by 1709 passed through 13 editions. It is still possible to visit his church and see the rectory where he lived.

I suspect Herbert might be surprised that he is still so well known and his poetry inspires us in worship. If we are able to surrender our desires to God, then we can be sure that what happens has purpose and meaning, however difficult to acknowledge.

****If you wanted a copy of #Live Lent and you have not received it, please let me know. I am sorry the copies arrived late, the print run seems to have run into trouble. I might try and arrange something a little nearer Easter to see how people found it.**

Caroline

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