

**The Dunster Benefice**  
**Carhampton, Dunster, Timberscombe,**  
**Withycombe with Rodhuish, Wootton Courtenay**  
**Newsletter    16th April 2021**



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Our bishops have both paid tribute to HRH the Duke of Edinburgh. To watch Bishop Peter's message click [here](#) and to watch Bishop Ruth's message click [here](#) (both on YouTube). Wells Cathedral's website will have an online service to give thanks for the Duke's life at **5.15pm today**. Click [here](#) for more details and a link.

**Remembering HRH The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh** The Church of England has an online book of condolence which you may sign by clicking [here](#).



**Sunday 18th April (Third of Easter )**  
**Readings & Collect**

Risen Christ, you filled your disciples with boldness and fresh hope: strengthen us to proclaim your risen life and fill us with your peace, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

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

**Acts 3.12-19**

When Peter saw it, he addressed the people, 'You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk? The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you.

'And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out.

**1 John 3.1-7**

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

**SERVICES THIS WEEK**

***This Sunday there will be services at Carhampton and Withycombe at 9.30am and Timberscombe and Wootton Courtenay at 11am.***

***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**

Sunday and daily readings are settling into the Acts of the Apostles. Some of the earlier stories revolve around people living together in community, holding everything in common. People sold what they had and laid it at the feet of the apostles. One couple came to a nasty end when they tried to deceive everyone about the amount they received.

A new apostle was chosen to replace Judas "gone to his own place". Soon, there is so much work to do that seven deacons were elected to help in the administration. People who are ordained spend their first year as deacons – you can always tell because they wear a stole over their shoulder rather than around their neck. Some people remain deacons, having a strong call to serve, the heart of being a deacon.

The 16<sup>th</sup> April is the date we remember Isabella Gilmore, the sister of William Morris, the arts and crafts pioneer. She was a nurse who was asked to pioneer the work of deaconesses. Over the next nineteen years the order of deaconesses evolved along the lines of ordained ministry and she trained head deaconesses for at least eight dioceses. We can look to the foundation of women's ministry to her work between 1887 and 1906.

There are many who have a call to help and to serve. They don't need to wear stoles or be ordained or belong to an order. Every church has these people, who work in the background and get things done. Today we give thanks for them.

**Caroline**

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