

The Dunster Benefice
Carhampton, Dunster, Timberscombe,
Withycombe with Rodhuish, Wootton Courtenay
Newsletter 21st May 2021



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Sunday 23rd May (Pentecost)

Readings & Collect

Holy Spirit, sent by the Father, ignite in us your holy fire; strengthen your children with the gift of faith, revive your Church with the breath of love, and renew the face of the earth, 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

Bishop Peter's Farewell Service from Wells Cathedral will be streamed and available to view online this Saturday, 22nd May, via the diocesan website and [Facebook page](#). The service begins at 3pm, followed at 3.50pm by a celebratory Zoom tea, which will also be streamed via the same sites. For more details and to download a copy of the service sheet click [here](#). To watch an interview with Bishop Peter recorded earlier this month click [here](#) and to watch a tribute to him by the Archbishop of Canterbury click [here](#). (Both on YouTube.)

Acts 2.1-21

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, 'Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power.' All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, 'What does this mean?' But others sneered and said, 'They are filled with new wine.'

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them: 'Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

"In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy. And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day. Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

John 15.26-27, 16.4b-15

'When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father, he will testify on my behalf. You also are to testify because you have been with me from the beginning.

'I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. But now I am going to him who sent me; yet none of you asks me, "Where are you going?" But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your hearts. Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. And when he comes, he will prove the world wrong about sin and righteousness and judgement: about sin, because they do not believe in me; about righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will see me no longer; about judgement, because the ruler of this world has been condemned.

'I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

SERVICES THIS WEEK

This Sunday there will be services at Carhampton (HC CW) and Wootton Courtenay (HC BCP) at 9.30am and Dunster (MP CW) and Timberscombe (MP CW) at 11am.

***Code: CW = Common Worship BCP=Book of Common Prayer
HC=Holy Communion, MP=Morning Prayer***

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

Tomorrow, Saturday, is the day that Bishop Peter Hancock ends his ministry in the diocese. His arrival was one of the first big events that I recall after my own arrival. He looked a lonely figure just in his white cassock alb, entering the cathedral, before he was dressed as the new bishop. Candidates for baptism are also dressed traditionally in white, from the Latin *candidus*, white, used also in Roman elections.

His ministry among us has been most marked by the time and love he put into engaging with victims of abuse following his appointment as lead bishop for the Church of England. Just when he laid this down, he was taken seriously ill. It is hard not to feel deprived of the additional time he might have spent ministering to us. He has been a welcomed and popular figure on Exmoor.

Now the vacancy in see panel will sit to think about what the next bishop needs to do and the needs of the diocese. This process is the same in principle as when choosing a new vicar. What do we need? What sort of person do we want amongst us? The burden of being a bishop has always been heavy and it certainly is now, as we move forwards, still with the pandemic, still wondering about the future of our churches. Because I am at present on General Synod, I am part of the vacancy in see committee. Please hold the committee in your prayers, also Bishop Peter and Jane. Somewhere out there is his successor. Please pray for them too.

Caroline

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