

**The Dunster Benefice**  
**Carhampton, Dunster, Timberscombe,**  
**Withycombe with Rodhuish, Wootton Courtenay**  
**Newsletter    30th April 2021**



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**Chaplain to Hinckley Point C.**

A year on from Ewen Huffman's appointment as chaplain to HPC he has given an interview on his experience so far. To read a short piece on the diocesan website, and for a link to the full article featured in the EDF magazine, click [here](#)

**Sunday 2nd May (Fifth of Easter )**

**Readings & Collect**

Risen Christ, your wounds declare your love for the world and the wonder of your risen life: give us compassion and courage to risk ourselves for those we serve, 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 8.26-40**

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Get up and go towards the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.' (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, 'Go over to this chariot and join it.' So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, 'Do you understand what you are reading?' He replied, 'How can I, unless someone guides me?' And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

'Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,  
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,  
so he does not open his mouth.

In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth.'

The eunuch asked Philip, 'About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?' Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, 'Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?' He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

**John 15.1-8**

'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

**SERVICES THIS WEEK**

***This Sunday there will be services of Holy Communion at Carhampton and Withycombe at 9.30am and Dunster, 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**

<https://thebigchurchread.co.uk/> The 3rd National Big Church Read will start on the 24th of May when the book people will be reading is **How to Pray with Pete Greig**.

There have now been 2 national Big Church Reads and 13 different books in total.

Including one with the Bishop of Oxford and his new book Comfortable Words.

The 4th National Big Church Read is in September with **Patrick Regan** and his book **Bouncing Forward**.

**If you would like to join in, please have a look at the website.**

Christina Rossetti is commemorated on 27<sup>th</sup> April. Although many people have heard of her brother Dante and her association with the Pre-Raphaelite brotherhood, theirs was a religious family and her sister became a nun. Christina's first recorded verses were for her mother's birthday on 27<sup>th</sup> April 1842. Christina wrote **In the bleak mid-winter** and this poem, is often read at funerals.

Remember me when I am gone away,

Gone far away into the silent land;

When you can no more hold me by the hand,

Nor I half turn to go yet turning stay.

Her poems were often religious but also concerned the sadness of unrequited or disappointed love. She died in 1894.

One of the very few advantages in not being able to sing in church is the opportunity to sit quietly and read the words. People like Charles Wesley and indeed Christina Rossetti were steeped in their Bibles. Their hymns are full of references and scripture, all familiar to our Victorian predecessors, perhaps not always to us. Always worth a second look. A well-wrought hymn is just as much a prayer as an intercession.

**Caroline**

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