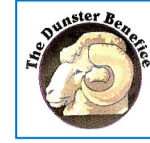


The Dunster Benefice
Carhampton, Dunster, Timberscombe,
Withycombe with Rodhuish, Wootton Courtenay
Newsletter 3rd March 2023



In this issue:

- St John's Reopens
- Readings & Collect for Sunday 5th March
- Services this Week



St John's Carhampton Reopens

After a long period of closure due to a damaged pinnacle, we are pleased to say that St John's will be open from this weekend.

Join us on our first coffee morning of the year on **Saturday 4th March**, 10am to 12 noon, in the church. There will be coffee and tea as well as bacon rolls (vegetarian and gluten free also available). There will be cakes and pastries for sale as well as books and cards including a good selection of Easter cards. Do tell your friends and family and come along and make this a successful event.

Readings & Collect Sunday 5th March (Second of Lent)

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.

Romans 4.1-5, 13-17

What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the scripture say? 'Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.' Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, 'I have made you the father of many nations')—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

John 3.1-17

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, 'Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.' Jesus answered him, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.' Nicodemus said to him, 'How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?' Jesus answered, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, "You must be born from above." The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.' Nicodemus said to him, 'How can these things be?' Jesus answered him, 'Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

'Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

'For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

'Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

SERVICES THIS WEEK

**This Sunday there will be services at
Carhampton (CFW), Withycombe (HC, CW) and
Wootton Courtenay (HC, CW, said) at 9.30am**

&

Dunster (HC, CW) and Timberscombe (HC, CW) at 11am.

Code: CW = Common Worship

CFW = Church Family Worship HC = Holy Communion

Rector: Revd Caroline Ralph

Associate Priest: Revd Margaret Jackson

Associate Priest: Revd Nicola Butt

Common Worship Collect taken from Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England

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