

The Dunster Benefice
Carhampton, Dunster, Timberscombe,
Withycombe with Rodhuish, Wootton Courtenay
Newsletter 23rd October 2020



In this issue:

- Benefice All Souls' Service
- Organ Meditations
- Readings & Collect for Sunday 25th October
- Services on Sunday 25th October
- Rector's Note

Sunday 25th October (Last after Trinity)
Readings & Collect

Merciful God,
teach us to be faithful in change and uncertainty, that trusting in your word and obeying your will we may enter the unfailing joy of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

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

Benefice All Souls' Service, 1st November, 6pm, Carhampton. Every year on the feast of All Souls, the Church remembers those who have died. If you would like the name of a loved one read out please contact Tracey dunsterbenefice@gmail.com. We will try to accommodate everyone that would like to attend but please understand that due to the pandemic numbers are restricted.

Organ Meditations from Wells
Click [here](#) to listen to audio recordings on the Wells Cathedral website. The final recital will be given this week by Colin Walsh, Organist Laureate, Lincoln Cathedral. His recording will be available on the same link from 30th October.

1 Thessalonians 2.1-8

You yourselves know, brothers and sisters, that our coming to you was not in vain, but though we had already suffered and been shamefully maltreated at Philippi, as you know, we had courage in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in spite of great opposition. For our appeal does not spring from deceit or impure motives or trickery, but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the message of the gospel, even so we speak, not to please mortals, but to please God who tests our hearts. As you know and as God is our witness, we never came with words of flattery or with a pretext for greed; nor did we seek praise from mortals, whether from you or from others, though we might have made demands as apostles of Christ. But we were gentle among you, like a nurse tenderly caring for her own children. So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us.

Matthew 22.34-end

When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. 'Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?' He said to him, ' "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: "You shall love your neighbour as yourself." On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.'

Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: 'What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?' They said to him, 'The son of David.' He said to them, 'How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying,

"The Lord said to my Lord,
'Sit at my right hand,

until I put your enemies under your feet' "?

If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?' No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

Services on Sunday 25th October

St John the Baptist Carhampton – 9.30am Holy Communion

All Saints Wootton Courtenay – 9.30am Holy Communion (BCP)

St George Dunster – 11am Morning Prayer

St Petrock Timberscombe – 11am 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

My chickens are dreadfully scruffy. Yes, Big Boy is without some of his feathers because of an unfortunate incident (see next month's magazine) but my poor girls are moulting and thoroughly out of sorts. There is not a lot I can do, otherwise they seem fit and well, so I shall have to hope for the best.

Why keep chickens? Egg laying is intermittent. They cost far more than they produce and I have to arrange for care every time I am away. In *The Hobbit* film, Gandalf the powerful wizard is asked why he brought a hobbit, small, frightened, apparently not very useful, on the trip. He said he did not know, but Bilbo the hobbit gave him courage. It was a bit startling that he felt he needed it.

When I see my chickens marching past the French windows, on one of their excursions, or resting in a sunny part of the garden, it gives me hope. And it gives me comfort. I can't always say why I need hope at that particular moment or that comfort is needed. But their short lives are a celebration and a joy. Their routine in the day is a solace. I am lucky to have the space to have them. They are lucky chickens (mostly), with a huge space to wander, lots of food and a safe lodging. All human life is there, really. If God can care for sparrows, he cares for my chickens, therefore he cares for me too.

Caroline
