

The Dunster Benefice
Carhampton, Dunster, Timberscombe,
Withycombe with Rodhuish, Wootton Courtenay
Newsletter 9th October 2020



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Sunday 11th October (Eighteenth after Trinity)
Readings & Collect

God, our judge and saviour, teach us to be open to your truth and to trust in your love, that we may live each day with confidence in the salvation which is given 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

Philippians 4: 1-9

Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved. I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

Matthew 22: 1-14

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, "Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet." But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, maltreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, "The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet." Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

'But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, "Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?" And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, "Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." For many are called, but few are chosen.'

Services on Sunday 11th October

St John the Baptist Carhampton – 9.30am Holy Communion

St George's Dunster – 11am Harvest Festival & APCM (at 12 noon)

St Petrock Timberscombe – 11am Holy Communion

All Saints Wootton Courtenay – 11am Alternative Songs of Praise

St Bartholomew Rodhuish – 6pm Harvest Festival

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

When we pray the Lord's Prayer, we say: "Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil".

It used to be said that every home in England possessed two books: *Foxe's Book of Martyrs* and *the Pilgrim's Progress* by John Bunyan. Add the *Book of Common Prayer* and the Bible was hardly necessary. I remember reading an abbreviated version of Foxe at school. These days it is unlikely to be considered suitable – alongside accounts of the death of protestant martyrs were woodcuts in extravagant detail showing the scene.

In pictures, William Tyndale, commemorated this week, appears an elderly man, although he was only in his forties when he died. He was perhaps the most influential translator of the bible into English. Many of his translated sentences have come into common usage and are used to this day, as the example above shows. He was forced to flee from England in the reign of Henry VIII, betrayed, imprisoned and burned at the stake. He could speak seven languages and taught himself Hebrew and well as Latin and Greek. Much of his translation was incorporated into the King James Bible. It could not be bettered.

Although we are presently living under considerable restrictions, they count for very little considering what has happened before. It is difficult now for us to understand why it was forbidden to read the Bible in English. Everyone is more inclined to obey rules if they can be shown to be sensible or for the common good. Tyndale wrestled long and hard with the problem of how it can be permissible to disobey the law and concluded that if a law was not for the common good, it need not be obeyed. Other Christians have struggled with the same problem -such as Dietrich Bonhoeffer, who had to decide if murdering Adolf Hitler could be justifiable. He too was put to death. Moral justification will not always protect someone from the state. That does not mean that it should not be pursued.

Caroline