

UPCOMING SERVICES

SUNDAY 24TH AUGUST

BARTHOLOMEW THE APOSTLE

WARBOROUGH – 8.00 AM HOLY COMMUNION, BCP

STADHAMPTON – 9:30 AM HOLY COMMUNION, BCP

NEWINGTON – 4.30 PM EVENSONG

SUNDAY 31ST AUGUST

TRINITY 11

STADHAMPTON – 10:30AM TEAM SERVICE

SUNDAY 7TH SEPTEMBER

TRINITY 12

STADHAMPTON – 9:30 AM FAMILY SERVICE

WARBOROUGH – 11.00 AM PARISH EUCHARIST

NEXT WEEK'S BIBLE READINGS


Jeremiah 2.4–13

Hebrews 13.1–8, 15, 16

Luke 14.1, 7–14

NOTICES

TEAM SERVICE



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST
STADHAMPTON

31st August at 10:30am

All Welcome!

Please stay for refreshments after the service

Team Rector- Revd Jane Willis

Tel: 01865 294276

Email: rector@dorchester-abbey.org.uk

Curate

Revd Emma Firth 07498 762485

revemmafirth@gmail.com



*Newington, Stadhampton with Chiselhampton,
Warborough and Shillingford*

PEWS NEWS

St Laurence Church, Warborough

SUNDAY 24TH AUGUST

BARTHOLOMEW THE APOSTLE

THE COLLECTS

Almighty and everlasting God, who gave to your apostle Bartholomew grace truly to believe and to preach your word: grant that your Church may love that word which he believed and may faithfully preach and receive the same; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever

Amen

Lord of heaven and earth, as Jesus taught his disciples to be persistent in prayer, give us patience and courage never to lose hope, but always to bring our prayers before you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

BIBLE READINGS

Isaiah 43.8–13

Bring forth the people who are blind, yet have eyes, who are deaf, yet have ears! ⁹Let all the nations gather together, and let the peoples assemble. Who among them declared this, and foretold to us the former things? Let them bring their witnesses to justify them, and let them hear and say, 'It is true.' ¹⁰You are my witnesses, says the Lord, and my servant whom I have chosen, so that you may know and believe me and understand that I am he. Before me no god was formed, nor shall there be any after me. ¹¹I, I am the Lord, and besides me there is no saviour. ¹²I declared and saved and proclaimed, when there was no strange god among you; and you are my witnesses, says the Lord. ¹³I am God, and also henceforth I am He; there is no one who can deliver from my hand; I work and who can hinder it?

Acts 5.12–16

Now many signs and wonders were done among the people through the apostles. And they were all together in Solomon's Portico. ¹³None of the rest dared to join them, but the people held them in high

esteem. ¹⁴Yet more than ever believers were added to the Lord, great numbers of both men and women, ¹⁵so that they even carried out the sick into the streets, and laid them on cots and mats, in order that Peter's shadow might fall on some of them as he came by. ¹⁶A great number of people would also gather from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those tormented by unclean spirits, and they were all cured.

Luke 22.24–30

A dispute also arose among them as to which one of them was to be regarded as the greatest. ²⁵But he said to them, 'The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those in authority over them are called benefactors. ²⁶But not so with you; rather the greatest among you must become like the youngest, and the leader like one who serves. ²⁷For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one at the table? But I am among you as one who serves. ²⁸You are those who have stood by me in my trials; ²⁹and I confer on you, just as my Father has conferred on me, a kingdom, ³⁰so that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and you will sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Almighty God, who on the day of Pentecost sent your Holy Spirit to the apostles with the wind from heaven and in tongues of flame, filling them with joy and boldness to preach the gospel: by the power of the same Spirit strengthen us to witness to your truth and to draw everyone to the fire of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION:

Let us pray to the God who calls us not to seek power or privilege, but to walk the way of Christ, who came as one who serves.

Servant King, you remind your disciples that true greatness is found not in ruling but in serving. We pray for your Church, that we may follow your example of humility and love. Strengthen bishops, priests, deacons, and all your people in their call to serve, that together we may reveal your Kingdom. Lord of the nations, you see the struggles for power in our world. We pray for those in positions of leadership – in government, business, and community life. Give them the wisdom to serve rather than to dominate, to seek justice for the poor, and to work for peace and reconciliation. Compassionate Lord, you came among us as one who serves. We pray for those who serve others quietly and faithfully: carers, nurses, teachers, volunteers, and all who give of themselves for the good of others. Bless their work, sustain their strength, and encourage them when they feel weary or unnoticed.

God of mercy, you know the needs of your children. We pray for all who are in difficulty today – for the sick, the lonely, the anxious, and the grieving. We pray especially for the families and friends of Edward Lennon, Evie Crawford and all who have recently passed. Surround them with your healing presence and give them hope.

Faithful God, you promised your disciples a place at your table in your Kingdom. We give thanks for those who have gone before us in faith and now share in your eternal banquet. Bring us, with them, to the joy of your heavenly feast, where Christ is host and all are fed.

Amen.



All are welcome to
the Collation by the Bishop of Brixworth and
the Induction by the Rural Dean of
the Rev'd Mel Stanley
as Rector of
The Walgrave Benefice
Wednesday 27th August at 7pm
at St Peter's, Walgrave (NN6 9QF)



Views from the Pews: Jen's Lens

This week, I turned 40. Pretty old, huh! Between work, children, ponies, the puppies born on Sunday, and planning a birthday party, I've had fun thinking about which mid-life crisis to attempt next. The flashy car normally associated? Probably not my style. A pygmy goat or a clutch of chickens on the other hand... Much more my thing!

But joking aside, milestone birthdays do make you pause and reflect. At forty, you can't help but look back at what's gone before and wonder what's still to come. If I'm honest, my life looks different from how I once imagined it. I always knew I'd be married with children (tick, tick), but I expected to be living in Scotland, somewhere with rolling hills and space to breathe, not in the middle of a village on a busy road. I thought I'd have a single, steady job rather than the juggling act of several different ones. I thought, by now, I'd have it more "together".

Yet as I reflect, I'm struck by the things I never expected to value. Having grown up moving every couple of years, I was conditioned for change, never knowing my neighbours or investing deeply in the communities around me. Stability was something I craved but never thought possible. And yet, to my surprise, one of the greatest sources of joy and meaning in my life has become this community, and especially the church. What I once thought incidental has become central.

This week's Gospel reading from Luke speaks into that reflection. The disciples, in the midst of sharing the Last Supper, are busy arguing about who is the greatest. Jesus gently but firmly redefines what true greatness looks like. It isn't about status, recognition, or worldly success. "I am among you as one who serves," he says. To follow Christ is to put aside the scramble for status and instead live lives of service, humility, and witness.

It's not hard to see ourselves in the disciples' squabble. Many of us measure our lives by the usual milestones: career, achievements, possessions, even whether we "have it together". But Jesus offers another standard: not what we've built up for ourselves, but how we have poured ourselves out for others. Greatness is not found in doing better than others, but in quietly, faithfully serving.

The book of Acts shows us the fruit of this way of living. We read how the apostles, living out Jesus' teaching, are performing signs and wonders among the people. Crowds gathered, the sick were healed, and even Peter's shadow brought hope. What makes this remarkable is that the apostles weren't superheroes or people of high status. They were

ordinary men transformed by Christ's Spirit, choosing service over self, humility over pride. Their greatness lay not in their own power, but in allowing God's power to flow through them for the sake of others.

The reading from Isaiah ties it all together. There, God calls Israel to be his witnesses: "You are my witnesses, says the Lord, and my servant whom I have chosen." Their purpose is not self-advancement, but to testify to who God is - that he alone saves and redeems. This calling has always been at the heart of God's people: to live not for themselves but as witnesses to the God who heals, restores, and loves.

So, as I turn forty, I find myself rethinking what really matters. It's not whether I've reached the picture I once painted for myself, with the perfect house, the secure career, or even the elusive pygmy goat. It's whether my life reflects the call to serve. It's whether I am living not for recognition, but for faithfulness. Perhaps that's the gift of milestones: not to make us despair at what we haven't achieved, but to remind us of the kind of greatness that truly matters. Jesus' greatness is found in service. The apostles' greatness is found in witness. And our greatness, however small it may feel, is found in daily acts of love, energy to serve, humility, and faithfulness to God.

Still thinking about that goat though...

I wish you all a wonderful weekend and week ahead.

Jen

K&K Summit 2025: Being Human Dorchester Hub 2-5 September 2025

Join us for an inspiring in person gathering rooted in prayer, action, and shared learning between the dioceses of Kimberley & Kuruman and Oxford.

This year's K&K Summit explores what it means to be human – in the world, in the church, and in the communities we are called to serve. With morning Bible studies, livestreamed addresses, collaborative reflections, and opportunities to take meaningful action wherever you are, the summit invites us to journey together across cultures and contexts.

More information regarding the Dorchester Hub will be released shortly, register your interest with the office to keep up to date.

admin@dorchester-abbey.org.uk