

## UPCOMING SERVICES

### SUNDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER

#### HOLY CROSS DAY

STADHAMPTON — 9:30 AM HOLY COMMUNION, BCP

WARBOROUGH — 11.00 AM MORNING WORSHIP

WARBOROUGH — 6.00 PM HOLY COMMUNION, BCP

### SUNDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> SEPTEMBER

#### MATTHEW, APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST

STADHAMPTON — 9:30 AM FAMILY EUCHARIST

WARBOROUGH — 11.00 AM PARISH EUCHARIST

### SUNDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER

#### TRINITY 15

WARBOROUGH — 8.00 AM HOLY COMMUNION, BCP

DORCHESTER ABBEY — 10:30 AM TEAM CONFIRMATION  
SERVICE

CHISELHAMPTON — 4.30 PM CLUSTER EVENSONG

#### NEXT WEEK'S BIBLE READINGS

Proverbs 3.13–18

2 Corinthians 4.1–6

Matthew 9.9–13

#### WARBOROUGH NEWS:

Our Prayers for Toby Morgan, formerly of Warborough. We give thanks for the care that Toby is receiving at the John Radcliffe Hospital. We pray for Toby's family.

We continue to pray for Ollie and Fenni following the death of their mother, Marti Cook.



*Newington, Stadhampton with Chiselhampton,  
Warborough and Shillingford*

## PEWS NEWS

*St Laurence Church, Warborough*

### SUNDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER

#### HOLY CROSS DAY

#### THE COLLECTS

Almighty God, who in the passion of your blessed Son made an instrument of painful death to be for us the means of life and peace: grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ that we may gladly suffer for his sake; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**Amen**

Almighty God, you search us and know us: may we rely on you in strength and rest on you in weakness, now and in all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

#### BIBLE READINGS

##### Numbers 21.4–9

From Mount Hor, Moses and the people of Israel set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. <sup>5</sup>The people spoke against God and against Moses, 'Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.' <sup>6</sup>Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. <sup>7</sup>The people came to Moses and said, 'We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us.' So Moses prayed for the people. <sup>8</sup>And the Lord said to Moses, 'Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.' <sup>9</sup>So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

##### Philippians 2.6–11

Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did

### DORCHESTER TEAM



Service of Licensing for the  
Revd Vicky Burton  
as Team Vicar in the Dorchester Team  
20<sup>th</sup> October 2025 at 7.30pm  
Dorchester Abbey

not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, <sup>7</sup>but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, <sup>8</sup>he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross. <sup>9</sup>Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup>so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup>and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

### **John 3.13–17**

Jesus said to Nicodemus, ‘No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. <sup>14</sup>And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup>that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. <sup>16</sup>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. <sup>17</sup>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.’

### **THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

Faithful God, whose Son bore our sins in his body on the tree and gave us this sacrament to show forth his death until he comes: give us grace to glory in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, for he is our salvation, our life and our hope, who reigns as Lord, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION:**

Let us pray to the God who draws all people to himself through the Cross of Christ.

Lord Jesus, lifted high upon the cross, you draw the whole world to yourself. We pray for your Church throughout the world, that we may be united in your love and courageously bear witness to your saving power. Make our communities that reflect your cross-shaped love: generous, forgiving, welcoming to all.

Lord of the nations, the cross reminds us that your love reaches every people and place. We hold before you the places where there is conflict, injustice, or suffering. We pray for communities broken apart by war, disaster, or division. By the power of your cross, bring reconciliation, peace, and hope.

Lord of life, you call us to bear one another's burdens and so fulfil the law of Christ. Bless this community with compassion and kindness. We pray for our neighbours, our schools, our farmers, our shops, and all who serve the common good. Where there is loneliness, bring friendship; where there is hardship, bring relief; where there is joy, bring gratitude. May we be a people who carry the cross not for ourselves alone but for one another.

Lord of compassion, your cross shows us that you are with us in our pain. We bring before you all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit. May they find healing, comfort, and strength in your presence.

Lord of eternity, your cross is the gate of life. We remember before you those who have died and those whose anniversary of death falls at this time. May they rest in the peace won for us by your victory on the cross, and rise in glory with all your saints.

Lord Jesus Christ, who for love of us carried the cross to Calvary, help us to take up our cross daily and follow you, so that your love may be known in our communities and your kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven.

**Amen.**

## **DORCHESTER TEAM** *Confirmation service*



A service of

**Holy Communion**  
with **Confirmation**

conducted by Bishop Gavin

**28th September at 10.30am**  
**at Dorchester Abbey**

## Views from the Pews: Jen's Lens

One of the unexpected joys of writing these reflections and putting together the pew sheet each week is that it makes me pay closer attention to the church calendar. A year ago, Holy Cross Day would probably have only reached my consciousness when I heard the sermon on the Sunday itself. However, this year I've had all week to think about it!

It's a funny thing to reflect on. I think about all the crosses I see on a daily basis and how looking at the image feels to me. We see the cross everywhere: on church buildings, in artwork, on jewellery, even in popular culture. It has become so familiar, such a universal symbol of Christianity, that I suspect most of us don't stop to remember what it really is: a pretty brutal, thankfully ancient, tool of execution. If that's how we saw it, I'm not sure I would wear one around my neck. And yet, that is the paradox: the cross is not simply a reminder of suffering and death, but of the hope and new life that comes through the resurrection.

The lectionary gives some background. After the end of Christian persecution in the early fourth century, pilgrims began to travel to Jerusalem to visit the places associated with Jesus' life. Helena, the mother of the emperor Constantine, oversaw excavations there and is said to have discovered the true cross of Christ. On this site the Church of the Holy Sepulchre was built and dedicated on 14th September, 335—the date we still keep as Holy Cross Day. Over time, the cross replaced the fish symbol of the early church, becoming the universal sign of the faith.

Along with the history, what's important is what the cross means. As Christians, we see beyond the horror of the cross to the hope it proclaims. It shows us how God meets us in the darkest places and transforms despair into new life.

In fact, the Old Testament reading for Holy Cross Day gives a striking parallel. In Numbers, God instructs Moses to lift up a bronze serpent on a pole; when the people looked to it, they found healing from the very plague that had wounded them. The symbol of their suffering became the sign of their restoration. Even today, the serpent on a pole remains a symbol of medicine and healing across the world. It is as though God is saying: your pain is not the end of the story—hope, healing, and restoration are possible.

That's a message we all need, because each of us knows what it feels like to carry wounds whether from broken relationships, illness, failure, grief, or the simple exhaustion of daily life. The cross reassures us that God can transform even these

painful places, and that no suffering is wasted in his hands.

Paul's hymn in Philippians and John's Gospel explain it plainly: the Son of Man is to be lifted up, so that whoever looks to him may have eternal life. This is where the heart of Holy Cross Day meets us: God's love is not abstract or distant, it is shown most clearly on the cross.

So when life feels overwhelming, we can look to the cross and remember we are loved. When we feel weighed down by mistakes or regrets, we can look to the cross and know we are forgiven. When we fear the future, we can look to the cross and trust that our suffering will not have the final word. Holy Cross Day is about proclaiming a truth that transforms our lives: that God's love is stronger than sin, stronger than our pain. Let's allow it to remind us of that hope, that knowledge that we are held in love, wherever we go.

I wish you all a wonderful weekend and week ahead.

Jen

**BARN  
DANCE**  
fundraiser

Friday 3rd October  
Stadhampton Village Hall  
£15  
Includes Dinner & Live Music  
Featuring band 'KINDERHOOK'  
1830 - 2230hrs

To book contact Village Hall Committee [stadhamptonbardance@gmail.com](mailto:stadhamptonbardance@gmail.com)  
Tickets limited due to venue size.

