

UPCOMING SERVICES

SUNDAY 19TH OCTOBER

TRINITY 18

STADHAMPTON — 9:30 AM FAMILY EUCHARIST

WARBOROUGH — 11.00 AM PARISH EUCHARIST

CLIFTON HAMPDEN VILLAGE HALL — 6:30PM THE WELL

SUNDAY 26TH OCTOBER

LAST AFTER TRINITY / BIBLE SUNDAY

STADHAMPTON — 9:30 AM HOLY COMMUNION BCP

WARBOROUGH — 8.00 AM HOLY COMMUNION BCP

WARBOROUGH — 4.30 PM CLUSTER EVENSONG

SUNDAY 2ND NOVEMBER

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

STADHAMPTON — 9:30 AM FAMILY SERVICE

WARBOROUGH — 11.00 AM PARISH EUCHARIST

WARBOROUGH — 6:00PM ALL SOULS' SERVICE:

COMMEMORATION OF THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED, FOLLOWED
BY REFRESHMENTS IN ST LAURENCE HALL

NEXT WEEK'S BIBLE READINGS

Joel 2.23–32

2 Timothy 4.6–8, 16–18

Luke 18.9–14

WARBOROUGH & SHILLINGFORD NEWS:

Welcome to Rev'd Kevin Mentzel, presiding and preaching today.

We pray for those who live in Gravel Lane, Green Lane and Six Acres, together with the pupils and staff of St Laurence Church of England Primary School.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Rodney, Crispin and family following the death of Romey Jameson. The funeral will take place here on 14th November.

Our thoughts and prayers remain with Annabel, Luke and family of Jo Case. The funeral details are to be confirmed.

All are welcome to join us in St Laurence Hall after today's 11am service, for coffee, cake and conversation.

Our All Souls Service for the Departed is on Sunday 2nd November at 6pm. Please let us know the names of the loved ones you would like included in the service. There are sheets found at the back of the church for you to provide this information.

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*Newington, Stadhampton with Chiselhampton,
Warborough and Shillingford*

PEWS NEWS

St Laurence Church, Warborough

SUNDAY 19TH OCTOBER (TRINITY 18)

THE COLLECTS

Almighty and everlasting God, increase in us your gift of faith that, forsaking what lies behind and reaching out to that which is before, we may run the way of your commandments and win the crown of everlasting joy; 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

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

BIBLE READINGS

Jeremiah 31.27–34

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will sow the house of Israel and the house of Judah with the seed of humans and the seed of animals. ²⁸And just as I have watched over them to pluck up and break down, to overthrow, destroy, and bring evil, so I will watch over them to build and to plant, says the Lord. ²⁹In those days they shall no longer say: 'The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge.' ³⁰But all shall die for their own sins; the teeth of everyone who eats sour grapes shall be set on edge. ³¹The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴No longer shall they teach

one another, or say to each other, 'Know the Lord', for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

2 Timothy 3.14 – 4.5

As for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it, ¹⁵and how from childhood you have known the sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work. ⁴In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I solemnly urge you: ²proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favourable or unfavourable; convince, rebuke, and encourage, with the utmost patience in teaching. ³For the time is coming when people will not put up with sound doctrine, but having itching ears, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires, ⁴and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander away to myths. ⁵As for you, always be sober, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully.

Luke 18.1–8

Jesus told the disciples a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. ²He said, 'In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. ³In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, "Grant me justice against my opponent." ⁴For a while he refused; but later he said to himself, "Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, ⁵yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming." ⁶And the Lord said, 'Listen to what the unjust judge says. ⁷And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? ⁸I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?'

THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER

We praise and thank you, O Christ, for this sacred feast: for here we receive you, here the memory of your passion is renewed, here our minds are filled with grace, and here a pledge of future glory is given, when we shall feast at that table where you reign with all your saints for ever.

Amen.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS:

Let us pray for the Church and for the world, and let us thank God for His faithfulness and love.

You teach us through Jesus' parable of the persistent widow to pray always and not lose heart. Strengthen your Church to be a people of constant prayer and steady hope. May we not grow weary in seeking justice, peace, and mercy for your world.

We pray for our bishops, clergy, and all who lead, that they may serve faithfully and encourage others in prayer and perseverance. You hear the cries of those who suffer and long for fairness.

We pray for all who are denied justice, whose voices go unheard, and whose needs are ignored. May your Spirit stir us, your people, to speak out and stand alongside them. Give courage to those working in law, politics, and community life to act with integrity and compassion.

We thank you for the people among whom we live and work: for friends, neighbours, and all who share our daily lives. Help us to see your image in one another, and to be patient, kind, and persistent in love. Where there are divisions, bring reconciliation; where there is weariness, bring renewal; and where there is loneliness, help us to notice and respond with care.

We pray for those who struggle today: the sick, the anxious, the grieving, and those who feel abandoned.

As the widow in the parable would not give up, teach us to hold one another in prayer, trusting that you are always at work, bringing healing and hope. You promise that your Son will return and that faith will be found among your people. Keep us steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love.

May our community be known not for its strength or success, but for its compassion, prayerfulness, and perseverance.

Amen.

A DORCHESTER TEAM CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP EVENING

Join us at

THE WELL

a journey

We will be gathering once a month across the team to sing and pray

Join us on the journey

6:30PM

19TH OCTOBER

CLIFTON HAMPDEN VILLAGE HALL
OX14 3EG

PARKING NEXT TO THE VILLAGE HALL

Views from the Pews: Jen's Lens

Sunday's Gospel reading is one of those passages that really benefits from a little further reading and reflection. On its own, the parable of the persistent widow is a powerful one: a lesson in perseverance, in standing firm for what is right, and in continuing to seek justice even when the odds seem stacked against us. But there's more to it than simply persistence for its own sake. When we look at why Jesus tells this story, we see that he is speaking directly to his disciples' hearts, encouraging them not to lose hope.

By this point, the disciples have begun to realise that the glorious kingdom they longed for will not appear as quickly or triumphantly as they once imagined. They are beginning to understand that there will first come far more hardships than what they are experiencing now. Most of the Twelve will die as martyrs. The word "obstacle" feels far too small to describe what lay ahead. The disappointment among them must have been profound, like telling a child that a wonderful gift is coming, but that it will take a long, long time to arrive.

Into this discouragement, Jesus offers reassurance: keep praying, keep believing, keep trusting that God will answer in his time. The parable of the persistent widow becomes a parable of faith under pressure – a reminder that prayer is not about persuading a reluctant God, but about forming our hearts to stay steadfast when the wait feels long and the struggle feels endless.

We find similar encouragement in our other readings. In Jeremiah, God speaks words of restoration to a people in exile. They have known heartbreak and failure, but now God promises a new beginning: a covenant written not on tablets of stone, but on human hearts. "I will be their God, and they shall be my people". This is not a distant or conditional promise, but an intimate one, a vision of transformation that grows slowly, quietly, within. It is the kind of renewal that comes through persistence in faith, the steady work of God shaping and healing us over time.

And then in 2 Timothy, Paul writes to his young companion with similar urgency. "Continue in what you have learned and firmly believed", he says. There will be times when people turn away from truth, when the message feels unwelcome or inconvenient, but Timothy is urged to "proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favourable or unfavourable". Paul, like Jesus, is calling for a long faith, one that endures through delay and discouragement, one that keeps

proclaiming hope even when the world grows weary of hearing it.

Perhaps the thread that unites all these reading is this: faith is not a sprint, but a pilgrimage. It asks for perseverance, trust, and the courage to keep going even when the path grows dark. There's a moment in *The Lord of the Rings* when Sam, looking out at the seemingly endless darkness, says to Frodo:

"It's like in the great stories, Mr. Frodo, the ones that really mattered. Full of darkness and danger they were... but in the end it's only a passing thing, this shadow. Even darkness must pass. A new day will come".

That's the kind of hope Jesus is teaching here. Not naïve optimism, but deep endurance. The widow in the parable, Jeremiah's people in exile, Paul's Timothy facing opposition – all are urges to keep going, keep trusting, to keep seeking the light beyond the shadow.

And so Jesus' words reach us too: do not lose heart. When the prayers seem unanswered, when justice feels delayed, when faith feels heavy – keep asking, keep believing. God is at work still, writing his covenant on our hearts, and the dawn he has promised will surely come.

I wish you all a wonderful weekend and week ahead.

Jen

