

UPCOMING SERVICES

SUNDAY 23RD NOVEMBER

CHRIST THE KING

WARBOROUGH – 8.00 AM HOLY COMMUNION BCP

CHISELHAMPTON – 4:30PM CLUSTER EVENSONG

SUNDAY 30TH NOVEMBER

ADVENT SUNDAY

DORCHESTER ABBEY – 10:30AM TEAM SERVICE

DORCHESTER ABBEY – 5:00PM SPECIAL SERVICE OF

WATCHING AND WAITING

WARBOROUGH – 6.00 PM HOLY COMMUNION BCP

SUNDAY 7TH DECEMBER

ADVENT 2

STADHAMPTON – 9:30 AM FAMILY SERVICE CHRISTINGLE

WARBOROUGH – 11.00 AM PARISH EUCHARIST

SUNDAY 14TH DECEMBER

ADVENT 3

WARBOROUGH – 11.00 AM MORNING SERVICE

STADHAMPTON – 5.00 PM CAROL SERVICE

WARBOROUGH – 6.00 PM HOLY COMMUNION BCP

SUNDAY 19TH DECEMBER

CHISELHAMPTON – 7:00 PM CAROL SERVICE

NEXT WEEK'S BIBLE READINGS

Isaiah 2.1–5

Romans 13.11–14

Matthew 24.36–44

NOTICES

Advent Course

Berinsfield Church
Thursdays, 10am–11:30am
27 November
4, 11, 18 December
Email Revd Jane to begin in Berinsfield - or just come along! (janeclaremanser@gmail.com)

Stadhampton Church
Mondays, 7:30pm–9pm
1, 8, 15, 22 December
Email Revd Emma to begin in Stadhampton - or just come along! (revemmafirth@gmail.com)

We warmly invite you to join our Advent discussion groups, based on Bishop Guli Francis-Dehqan's new book, in which she links music, scripture and life experiences - and invites us to make connections with the themes of Advent.

You can join the daytime stream, the evening stream or a mix of both.
The book is available on Amazon or Eden.co.uk but it is not necessary to buy your own copy.

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

SUNDAY 16TH NOVEMBER

2ND BEFORE ADVENT

THE COLLECTS

Eternal Father, whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven that he might rule over all things as Lord and King: keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit and in the bond of peace, and bring the whole created order to worship at his feet; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen

God the Father, help us to hear the call of Christ the King and to follow in his service, whose kingdom has no end; for he reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, one glory.

Amen

BIBLE READINGS

Jeremiah 23.1–6

Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the Lord. ²Therefore, thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock, and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the Lord. ³Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. ⁴I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall not fear any longer, or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the Lord. ⁵The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ⁶In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: 'The Lord is our righteousness.'

Colossians 1.11–20

May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully ¹²giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. ¹³He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. ¹⁵He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; ¹⁶for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. ¹⁹For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

Luke 23.33–43

When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. ³⁴Then Jesus said, ‘Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.’ And they cast lots to divide his clothing. ³⁵And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, ‘He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!’ ³⁶The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, ³⁷and saying, ‘If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!’ ³⁸There was also an inscription over him, ‘This is the King of the Jews.’ ³⁹One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, ‘Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!’ ⁴⁰But the other rebuked him, saying, ‘Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation?’ ⁴¹And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.’ ⁴²Then he said, ‘Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.’ ⁴³He replied, ‘Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.’

THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Stir up, O Lord,
the wills of your faithful people;
that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of
good works,
may by you be plenteously rewarded;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS:

Let us pray to the God who holds all things in His hands and whose mercy never fails.
Faithful God, in a world that is wounded and broken, strengthen your Church to bear witness to your love and forgiveness. Give us grace to proclaim, as Jesus did from the cross, that even in suffering your mercy shines, and that no one is beyond the reach of your compassion.
When our faith falters, steady us.
When our hearts grow heavy, lift us.
When we struggle to forgive, teach us your way of love.
God of all peoples, we remember the places where violence, injustice, and oppression continue to wound your creation. Bring comfort to those who live in fear, protection to those in danger, and wisdom to all who hold authority, that they may work for justice and peace.
God of steadfast love, we pray for all who are burdened by guilt, regret, or sorrow. May they know the promise of your forgiveness, the hope of new beginnings, and the freedom to turn toward you in trust, as the repentant thief found mercy at your cross.
God of every moment, help us to see your presence in the ordinary and the extraordinary days of our lives. Teach us patience, gentleness, and trust. May our homes, workplaces, and friendships be places where your peace is lived and shared.
Healing God, we bring before you those who are sick, lonely, or struggling in body, mind, or spirit. Surround them with your care, hold them through their trials, and renew their hope.
God of eternity, we remember before you all who have died, and those who grieve their loss. May we trust that nothing, not even death, can separate us from your love. Comfort the bereaved, strengthen the mourning, and bring us all, in your good time, into the joy of your eternal kingdom.
Amen.

Views from the Pews: Jen's Lens

I have to admit; I do enjoy a good Amazon package. The majority of the things I order are practical bits for the children or the dogs, but every now and then something arrives just for me. This week, my delivery notification heralded the arrival of the book for our Advent course, and I felt an entirely disproportionate amount of joy. It was a welcome little lift at the end of a long day.

I ordered it early in the hope that I might actually start reading it before 1st December, rather than recreating my school days of doing homework ten minutes before the lesson started. Some habits die hard... But I am looking forward to the course. Advent is just around the corner and, while that's mildly terrifying from an organisational perspective, it also feels as though the world is quietly holding its breath until it arrives.

Advent is the start of the Church's year, a season of beginnings. The lights, the carols, the sense of anticipation are all wonderful, but Advent's real heart is that moment of pausing and turning again towards God. Stephen Cottrell puts it nicely in the foreword to our course book: *"Advent is a time to step back and reflect, to allow ourselves to be caught up again in the anticipation of the coming of Christ."*

And right before we step into that season of beginnings, the Church gives us one final feast day: Christ the King. It sits at the very end of the liturgical year, almost like a deep breath before we start again.

It reminds me of a lovely tradition from Barbados. While most of the world celebrates New Year's Eve by looking ahead, Bajans call it Old Year's Night: a time to look back, to notice what the year has held, to give thanks, and to prepare yourself for the turning of the calendar. Christ the King functions a little like that: a day that gathers up everything the liturgical year has shown us about Jesus, before we return once more to the stable in Bethlehem and begin the story anew.

Historically, that was exactly the intention. Pope Pius XI introduced the feast 100 years ago, in the unsettled years after the First World War, when all sorts of political powers were demanding total allegiance. The feast was meant to re-centre Christian attention: to remind the Church that our ultimate loyalty is not to the passing powers of the world but to the kingdom Christ proclaims.

Placed where it is, Christ the King quietly asks us to notice what anchors our lives. It invites us to consider which "kingdom" shapes our decisions, our hopes, our imaginations. It's a moment of

reorientation, not dramatic or heavy-handed, just a gentle reminder of the bigger story we belong to.

C.S. Lewis once wrote: *"Aim at heaven and you will get earth thrown in. Aim at earth and you will get neither."* Christ the King invites us to aim our lives, again, toward Christ's kingdom: that place where mercy, justice, and hope are the true measures of greatness.

Our Gospel reading this Sunday brings that kingdom into focus beautifully. From the cross, Jesus prays: "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do." In this moment, kingship is revealed not through domination, but through mercy. Even in His final earthly moments, Jesus intercedes on our behalf, opening the way for reconciliation and offering each of us a fresh start: the chance to return to Him, even when we go astray, and to begin anew.

St Augustine famously wrote: *"You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you."* Perhaps this feast day is, at heart, a reminder of that rest: that the deep renewal we long for begins when we turn again toward the One who holds us, offering forgiveness and a fresh beginning.

So, as we celebrate Christ the King and stand on the threshold of Advent, maybe we can hear the invitation of both seasons together: to pause, to take stock, to let go of what weighs us down, and to begin again. To prepare not just our homes for Christmas, but our hearts for Christ. May these coming weeks be a time of restoration, renewal, and a gentle fresh start, looking toward the One who is our hope, our peace, and our true King.

I wish you all a wonderful weekend and week ahead.

Jen