

## SERVICES NEXT WEEK

### TUESDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> MARCH

ABBEY – 10.30 AM MORNING PRAYER

### WEDNESDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> MARCH

BERINSFIELD - 9.00 AM MORNING PRAYER FOLLOWED  
BY HOLY COMMUNION AT 9.30 AM

### SUNDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> MARCH

#### PALM SUNDAY

ABBEY – 8.00 AM HOLY COMMUNION (BCP)

LONG WITTENHAM – 9:30 AM PALM SUNDAY HOLY  
COMMUNION

STADHAMPTON – 9:30 AM PALM SUNDAY HOLY  
COMMUNION

ABBEY – 10:15 AM PALM SUNDAY MEET AT THE WAR  
MEMORIAL

CLIFTON HAMPDEN – 10:30 AM HOLY COMMUNION

MARSH BALDON – 10.30 AM MARSH TO TOOT BALDON  
PALM SUNDAY WALK WITH REFLECTIONS

WARBOROUGH – 11:00 PALM SUNDAY FAMILY EUCHARIST

CULHAM – 11:00 PALM SUNDAY HOLY COMMUNION

BERINSFIELD – 11.00 PALM SUNDAY HOLY COMMUNION

## NOTICES

### Village Coffee Morning in the Abbey

Tuesdays 11.00 am – 12 pm

Community Coffee Morning meets every Tuesday at  
Berinsfield Church Hall 10.30am-12pm. Dementia  
friendly.

Abbey Tots – Wednesdays in the Abbey 9.30am –  
10.30am

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### SUNDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> MARCH

#### 5<sup>TH</sup> OF LENT

*Welcome to our services today, especially any who are  
visiting us or are new parishioners. Please make  
yourself known to the clergy or those on duty.*

## THE COLLECTS

Most merciful God, who by the death and  
resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ  
delivered and saved the world: grant that by faith in  
him who suffered on the cross we may triumph in  
the power of his victory; 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**

## BIBLE READINGS

### Ezekiel 37.1–14

37 The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he  
brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me  
down in the middle of a valley; it was full of  
bones. <sup>2</sup>He led me all round them; there were very  
many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. <sup>3</sup>He  
said to me, 'Mortal, can these bones live?' I  
answered, 'O Lord God, you know.' <sup>4</sup>Then he said to  
me, 'Prophesy to these bones, and say to them:  
O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. <sup>5</sup>Thus says  
the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to  
enter you, and you shall live. <sup>6</sup>I will lay sinews on  
you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and  
cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you  
shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord.'  
7 So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I  
prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling,  
and the bones came together, bone to its bone. <sup>8</sup>I  
looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh  
had come upon them, and skin had covered them;  
but there was no breath in them. <sup>9</sup>Then he said to  
me, 'Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and  
say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come  
from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon  
these slain, that they may live.' <sup>10</sup>I prophesied as he  
commanded me, and the breath came into them,  
and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast  
multitude. 11 Then he said to me, 'Mortal, these  
bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, "Our  
bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut  
off completely." <sup>12</sup>Therefore prophesy, and say to  
them, Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open  
your graves, and bring you up from your graves,

O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. <sup>13</sup>And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. <sup>14</sup>I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act, says the Lord.'

### **Romans 8.6–11**

<sup>6</sup>To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. <sup>7</sup>For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, <sup>8</sup>and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. <sup>9</sup>But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. <sup>10</sup>But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. <sup>11</sup>If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

### **John 11.1–45**

<sup>11</sup>Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. <sup>2</sup>Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. <sup>3</sup>So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, 'Lord, he whom you love is ill.' <sup>4</sup>But when Jesus heard it, he said, 'This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.' <sup>5</sup>Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, <sup>6</sup>after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. <sup>7</sup>Then after this he said to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judea again.' <sup>8</sup>The disciples said to him, 'Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?' <sup>9</sup>Jesus answered, 'Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. <sup>10</sup>But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them.' <sup>11</sup>After saying this, he told them, 'Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.' <sup>12</sup>The disciples said to him, 'Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.' <sup>13</sup>Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. <sup>14</sup>Then Jesus told them plainly, 'Lazarus is dead. <sup>15</sup>For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.' <sup>16</sup>Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow-disciples, 'Let us also go, that we may die with him.'

<sup>17</sup>When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. <sup>18</sup>Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, <sup>19</sup>and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. <sup>20</sup>When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. <sup>21</sup>Martha said to Jesus, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. <sup>22</sup>But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.' <sup>23</sup>Jesus said to her, 'Your brother will rise again.' <sup>24</sup>Martha said to him, 'I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.' <sup>25</sup>Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, <sup>26</sup>and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?' <sup>27</sup>She said to him, 'Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.' <sup>28</sup>When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, 'The Teacher is here and is calling for you.' <sup>29</sup>And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. <sup>30</sup>Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. <sup>31</sup>The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. <sup>32</sup>When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.' <sup>33</sup>When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. <sup>34</sup>He said, 'Where have you laid him?' They said to him, 'Lord, come and see.' <sup>35</sup>Jesus began to weep. <sup>36</sup>So the Jews said, 'See how he loved him!' <sup>37</sup>But some of them said, 'Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?' <sup>38</sup>Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. <sup>39</sup>Jesus said, 'Take away the stone.' Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, 'Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead for four days.' <sup>40</sup>Jesus said to her, 'Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?' <sup>41</sup>So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upwards and said, 'Father, I thank you for having heard me. <sup>42</sup>I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.' <sup>43</sup>When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out!' <sup>44</sup>The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, and let him go.' <sup>45</sup>Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

## **THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

Lord Jesus Christ, you have taught us that what we do for the least of our brothers and sisters we do also for you: give us the will to be the servant of others as you were the servant of all, and gave up your life and died for us, but are alive and reign, now and for ever.

### **FOR YOUR PRAYERS:**

As we read today in John's Gospel how Jesus wept at the tomb of his friend, Lazarus, so we pray and sorrow with those who grieve, remembering those who have died recently, including Mavis Wheatley. We hold before God those we have loved who are with us no longer, looking to the time when we will be together in the light of the Resurrection.

We pray for those who are suffering at this time, with sickness, pain, anxiety or depression. We pray that God will surround them with healing love. We pray also for those who care for others, at home and in the community, and ask that God give them encouragement.

We pray for those countries around the world caught up in conflict, praying for peace and reconciliation, including in the Middle East, in Ukraine, Sudan, and Afghanistan.

We pray for our own country and around the world, for people's anxiety caused by rising costs in fuel. We pray for wisdom in our leaders during this crisis.

We give thanks for the beauty of these gentle spring days. We give thanks for the comfort of family, friends and community.

We pray for our Dorchester Team Ministry, for its churches, clergy and lay leaders as we begin the journey through Passiontide to the joy of Easter.