



PEWS NEWS

St Laurence Church, Warborough

SUNDAY 17TH MAY

7TH OF EASTER

THE COLLECTS

O God the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: we beseech you, leave us not comfortless, but send your Holy Spirit to strengthen us and exalt us to the place where our Saviour Christ is gone before, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen

Risen, ascended Lord, as we rejoice at your triumph, fill your Church on earth with power and compassion, that all who are estranged by sin may find forgiveness and know your peace, to the glory of God the Father.

Amen

BIBLE READINGS

Acts 1.6–14

So when they had come together, they asked him, 'Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?' ⁷He replied, 'It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.' ⁹When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹They said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.' ¹²Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. ¹³When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. ¹⁴All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

1 Peter 4.12–14; 5.6–11

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³But rejoice in so far as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you.

⁶Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. ⁷Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. ⁸Discipline yourselves; keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. ⁹Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters throughout the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. ¹⁰And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. ¹¹To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.

John 17.1–11

After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, ‘Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, ²since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. ³And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. ⁴I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. ⁵So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed. ⁶I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; ⁸for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. ⁹I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. ¹⁰All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. ¹¹And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.

Post Communion

Eternal God, giver of love and power, your Son Jesus Christ has sent us into all the world to preach the gospel of his kingdom: confirm us in this mission, and help us to live the good news we proclaim; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS:

Heavenly Father, as we reflect on the words of Jesus, who prayed for his disciples and entrusted them with his work, help us to be faithful in the ordinary moments of life. When we are tired, distracted, or discouraged, give us perseverance to continue the work of love you place before us.

We pray for your Church throughout the world. As we celebrate the Ascension of Christ, strengthen all who seek to follow him in daily life. Help the Church not simply to look heavenward, but to live out the Gospel with courage, compassion and hope. Guide bishops, priests, chaplains and all who minister in your name.

We pray for those who feel overwhelmed by the pressures and demands of life. For those struggling to balance work, family, caring responsibilities or exhaustion; for those who feel they are failing or falling behind; and for those who quietly persevere each day without recognition. Remind them that faithfulness matters, and that you are present in every small act of love and endurance.

We pray for our friends, families and communities. Give us grace to make time for one another, to encourage one another, and to support one another when the road feels difficult. We give thanks for those people whose friendship and love challenge us to grow and to keep going.

We pray for those who are sick, anxious or struggling at this time, especially those who feel isolated or weary in body, mind or spirit. Surround them with your comfort, strength and peace.

And we remember before you those who have died, giving thanks for their lives and entrusting them to your eternal care. May all who mourn know the hope and promise of the risen and ascended Christ.

Amen

Views from the Pews: Jen's Lens

On Sunday, I am running the Blenheim Palace 7k fun run. I really don't know how I get myself involved in these things. The title itself feels slightly misleading – I don't think anything about the 7k is going to be particularly "fun", and I am most certainly not a runner. It was a friend who caught me in an unguarded moment back in January, when May seemed a very long way away, and now that I'm signed up – and paid for it – I can't really back out.

Running does not come naturally to me. I have limited energy for training, I tend to get shin splints (probably because I stubbornly refuse to buy proper running shoes), and, most importantly, I just don't love it. I'm very happy walking and hiking, but running is definitely not my thing. My training so far has been sporadic at best. I did very well for the first couple of weeks of Couch to 5k, and then suddenly another few weeks had gone by and I realised I hadn't run at all. So I started again, but life has a habit of throwing itself across the path and running slips further and further down the list of priorities until panic pushes it back up again.

I was lamenting the whole thing to my husband recently, asking, "Why am I even doing this?" and he replied very simply, "Because you love Lexi." And of course, he was right. That is why I'm doing it.

It struck me afterwards how often love changes our priorities. We make time for things we might not naturally choose because they matter to someone we care about. We persevere

through discomfort, inconvenience, tiredness or lack of enthusiasm because love asks something of us.

And, actually, the running has been good for me too. I was ridiculously proud of myself the other day when I managed to run 5k. Not the full 7k, but a good start. Then I did another run a couple of days later. Afterwards I felt better physically and mentally, and the dogs certainly benefited from the extra exercise – which is essential when you have three spaniels.

I suppose the whole experience has become a lesson for me about consistency, perseverance and making time for things before panic forces them onto the agenda.

In this week's Gospel, from John chapter 17, Jesus prays to the Father and says, "I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do." What resonates with me is that Jesus speaks not about success or achievement, but about faithfulness. About completing what had been entrusted to him.

Perhaps God is glorified not only in dramatic acts or grand spiritual moments, but also in ordinary acts of perseverance and discipline: continuing when something is difficult, showing up when life is busy, trying again after we have let something slide.

Ascension Day (which was Thursday this week) carries something of that same message. The disciples cannot simply stand still looking heavenward; they are entrusted with carrying Christ's work into ordinary daily life. Faith is not meant to remain distant or abstract. It has to be lived out in small, repeated acts of faithfulness.

And I wonder whether church, prayer, rest, and time with God often become like my running training: things we fully intend to prioritise, until life crowds them out. We mean to make time, but the days fill up quickly and suddenly weeks have gone by.

A friend once told me that the best advice her mother ever gave her was: "Never walk past an unfinished job." That may not always be realistic, but there is wisdom in it. The important things in life rarely happen accidentally. Relationships need attention. Faith needs nurturing. Prayer needs time. Community needs commitment.

Training for this 7k has reminded me that the things which matter most are often not the things that come most naturally or easily. They require intention, perseverance and sometimes a conscious decision simply to keep going.

And perhaps that is part of what Jesus is teaching in this Gospel: that a faithful life is not about perfection or dramatic success, but about continuing the work of love we have been given to do.

I wish you all a wonderful week ahead.

Jen

UPCOMING SERVICES

SUNDAY 17TH MAY

7TH OF EASTER

STADHAMPTON – 9:30AM FAMILY EUCHARIST

WARBOROUGH – 11:00AM PARISH EUCHARIST

SUNDAY 24TH MAY

WHIT SUNDAY

WARBOROUGH – 8:00AM HOLY COMMUNION BCP

STADHAMPTON – 9:30AM HOLY COMMUNION BCP

CHISELHAMPTON – 4:30PM CLUSTER EVENSONG

SUNDAY 31ST MAY

TRINITY SUNDAY

WARBOROUGH – 8:00AM HOLY COMMUNION BCP

STADHAMPTON – 9:30AM APCCM

MARSH BALDON – 10:30AM TEAM SERVICE

SUNDAY 7TH JUNE

1ST AFTER TRINITY

STADHAMPTON – 9:30AM FAMILY SERVICE

WARBOROUGH – 11:00AM PARISH EUCHARIST

THURSDAY 11TH JUNE

DORCHESTER ABBEY – 7:30PM LICENCING SERVICE FOR REV'D LISA MORGAN

WARBOROUGH NEWS:

We hope you can join us for refreshments in service.

St Laurence Hall after today's Parish Eucharist

