

SERVICES NEXT WEEK

TUESDAY 14TH JULY

10:30 AM MORNING PRAYER – DORCHESTER ABBEY

WEDNESDAY 15TH JULY

9:00 AM MORNING PRAYER – BERINSFIELD – *followed by*

9:30 AM HOLY COMMUNION – BERINSFIELD

SUNDAY 19TH JULY

8:00 AM HOLY COMMUNION (BCP) – DORCHESTER ABBEY

9:30 AM MORNING SERVICE – DRAYTON ST LEONARD

9:30 AM FAMILY EUCHARIST – STADHAMPTON

9:30 AM HOLY COMMUNION – LONG WITTENHAM

9:30 AM HOLY COMMUNION – TOOT BALDON

10:30 AM SUNG EUCHARIST – DORCHESTER ABBEY

10:30 AM HOLY COMMUNION – CLIFTON HAMPDEN

11:00 AM HOLY COMMUNION - BERINSFIELD

11:00 AM PARISH EUCHARIST - Warborough

6:30 PM THE WELL – DORCHESTER ABBEY

WARBOROUGH NEWS:

We pray for the family and friends of Ian Ramsell, whose funeral will take place here on 14th July. We pray everyone experiencing bereavement and grief in our community.

Today, we pray for those who live in New Road, Caldicott Close and Plough Close.

Please join us after the 11am service for coffee and cake in St Laurence Hall.

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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ST LAURENCE CHURCH, Warborough

SUNDAY 12TH JULY: 6TH AFTER TRINITY

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 COLLECT PRAYERS

Merciful God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as pass our understanding: pour into our hearts such love toward you that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; 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**

Creator God, you made us all in your image: may we discern you in all that we see, and serve you in all that we do; through Jesus Christ our Lord...

Amen

BIBLE READINGS

GENESIS 25.19–END

19 These are the descendants of Isaac, Abraham's son: Abraham was the father of Isaac, 20 and Isaac was forty years old when he married Rebekah, daughter of Bethuel the Aramean of Paddan-aram, sister of Laban the Aramean. 21 Isaac prayed to the Lord for his wife, because she was barren; and the Lord granted his prayer, and his wife Rebekah conceived. 22 The children struggled together within her; and she said, 'If it is to be this way, why do I live?' So she went to inquire of the Lord. 23 And the Lord said to her, 'Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples born of you shall be divided; one shall be stronger than the other, the elder shall serve the younger.' 24 When her time to give birth was at hand, there were twins in her womb. 25 The first came out red, all his body like a hairy mantle; so they named him Esau. 26 Afterwards his brother came out, with his hand gripping Esau's heel; so he was named Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them. 27 When the boys grew up, Esau was a skilful hunter, a man of the field, while Jacob was a quiet man, living in tents. 28 Isaac loved Esau, because he was fond of game; but Rebekah loved Jacob.

29 Once when Jacob was cooking a stew, Esau came in from the field, and he was famished. 30 Esau said

to Jacob, 'Let me eat some of that red stuff, for I am famished!' (Therefore he was called Edom.) 31 Jacob said, 'First sell me your birthright.' 32 Esau said, 'I am about to die; of what use is a birthright to me?' 33 Jacob said, 'Swear to me first.' So he swore to him, and sold his birthright to Jacob. 34 Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew, and he ate and drank, and rose and went his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright.

Romans 8.1–11

8 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. 2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. 3 For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, 4 so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. 5 For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. 6 To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. 7 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, 8 and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. 9 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. 10 But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. 11 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.

Matthew 13.1–9, 18–23

13 That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the lake. 2 Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. 3 And he told them many things in parables, saying: 'Listen! A sower went out to sow. 4 And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. 5 Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. 6 But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. 7 Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. 8 Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. 9 Let anyone with ears listen!'

18 'Hear then the parable of the sower. 19 When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. 20 As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; 21 yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. 22 As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. 23 But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.'

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

God of our pilgrimage,
you have led us to the living water:
refresh and sustain us
as we go forward on our journey,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS:

Heavenly Father, your Word is like the rain and snow that come down from heaven, watering the earth and making it bring forth life. We pray for your Church throughout the world, that we may be good soil for your truth. Transform our hearts where they are hardened, forgive us and heal us as we forgive others. May your Word be faithfully preached, joyfully received, and deeply rooted in us, so that our lives may yield a rich harvest of love, justice, and peace. Gracious God, you have set us free from condemnation and called us to walk not according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. We pray for ourselves and for our communities, acknowledging the daily struggles between our worldly desires and your holy calling. Grant us strength through your Holy Spirit to put to death the things that lead to division, pride, and selfishness. Direct our minds toward life and peace, so that our thoughts, words, and actions may reflect the life of Christ in us.

Almighty God, your Kingdom grows among us in quiet and mysterious ways, often hidden from human eyes. We pray for our world, especially for places torn apart by conflict, poverty, and despair. Where human power fails, let the unseen seeds of your Kingdom take root. Give us eyes of faith to see your grace at work in the small, ordinary moments of life. Teach us to trust your patient timing, and inspire us to be generous, faithful sowers of hope, kindness, and reconciliation in our neighbourhoods and beyond. **Amen.**

Admitting Children to Communion

Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs.' And he laid his hands on them and went on his way. (Matthew 19:14-15)

The Gospels show us again and again that Jesus warmly welcomed children and valued them deeply. Over the coming months, I will be running preparation sessions for the Admission of Children to Communion. Rebecca Nye, a child psychologist, writes that children have 'the spiritual advantage of an acutely sensitive capacity for non-verbal communication and insight'—and, in my own experience, presiding at the altar with children gathered at my elbows, as often happens in Stadhampton, is always a joy and a privilege. If this is something you would like to consider for your child or children, please do have a chat with me, or get in touch by email or phone: revenmafirth@gmail.com, 07498 762485.

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Ordination gift for Claire

Claire was ordained priest in the Abbey last month – and it would be wonderful to give her a gift on the occasion of her ordination. For various reasons it will be a few weeks until she can first preside in the Abbey – but we are so looking forward to her presiding on 2nd August – when we can also present her with her gift. If you would like to contribute please send payment to Dorchester Abbey PCC, 20327603, 20-01-09 with a reference of Claire. Alternatively you can give cash to Nick Forman at 73 High Street.
Thank you so much, Jane

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