



ST LAURENCE CHURCH, WARBOROUGH

SUNDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER: 16TH 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

O Lord, we beseech you mercifully to hear the prayers of your people who call upon you; and grant that they may both perceive and know what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to fulfil them; 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 forever. **Amen**

Lord of creation, whose glory is around and within us: open our eyes to your wonders, that we may serve you with reverence and know your peace at our lives' end, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

BIBLE READINGS

Exodus 16.2–15

²The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. ³The Israelites said to them, 'If only we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.' ⁴Then the LORD said to Moses, 'I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not. ⁵On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days.' ⁶So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, 'In the evening you shall know that it was the LORD who brought you out of the land of Egypt, ⁷and in the morning you shall see the glory of the LORD, because he has heard your complaining against the LORD. For what are we, that you complain against us?' ⁸And Moses said, 'When the LORD gives you meat to eat in the evening and your fill of bread in the morning, because the LORD has heard the complaining that you utter against him—what are we? Your complaining is not against us but against the LORD.' ⁹Then Moses said to Aaron, 'Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, "Draw near to the LORD, for he has heard your complaining." ¹⁰And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked towards the wilderness, and the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud. ¹¹The LORD spoke to Moses and said, ¹²'I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, "At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the LORD your God." ¹³In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. ¹⁴When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. ¹⁵When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, 'What is it?' For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, 'It is the bread that the LORD has given you to eat.

Philippians 1.21–end

²¹For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²²If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labour for me; and I do not know which I prefer. ²³I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; ²⁴but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. ²⁵Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, ²⁶so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again. ²⁷Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. ²⁹For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well— ³⁰since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Matthew 20.1–16

²⁰Jesus said to his disciples, 'For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the labourers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. ³When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the market-place; ⁴and he said to them, "You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right." So they went. ⁵When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. ⁶And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, "Why are you standing here idle all day?" ⁷They said to him, "Because no one has hired us." He said to them, "You also go into the vineyard." ⁸When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, "Call the labourers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first." ⁹When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. ¹⁰Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. ¹¹And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹²saying, "These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat." ¹³But he replied to one of them, "Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? ¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?" ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first will be last.'

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Almighty God, you have taught us through your Son
that love is the fulfilling of the law: grant that we may love you with our whole heart and our
neighbours as ourselves; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

FOR YOUR PRAYERS:

Generous God, you remind us that your love is not measured out according to what we deserve but poured freely upon all your children. Help us not to compare our lives with others, or to count what we have against what they have received. Teach us to rejoice when others are blessed, to celebrate their successes without envy. Loving God, we pray for our parish and our wider community. Help us to recognise the gifts and contributions of every person, whether they have been with us for many years or have only just arrived. May we never judge someone's worth by how much they do, how much they earn, or how long they have been part of our community. Gracious God, forgive us when we spend too much time looking at what others have and too little time noticing what we have received. Help us to treasure the ordinary gifts of each day: the people we love, the beauty of creation, the kindness of others, and the opportunities we have to serve. **Amen**

May all those who are recently married or preparing for marriage in our churches among them Emily Eltham and Mason Tyler grow together in wisdom, grace and love. And we pray too, for the Thomson family bringing their children Finn, Guy and Scott Thomson for baptism. Would the Holy Spirit walk alongside them as they seek to raise the next generation of your disciples. **Amen**

SERVICES NEXT WEEK

TUESDAY 22ND SEPTEMBER

10:30 AM MORNING PRAYER – DORCHESTER ABBEY

WEDNESDAY 23RD SEPTEMBER

9:00 AM MORNING PRAYER – BERINSFIELD –*followed by* 9:30 AM HOLY COMMUNION – BERINSFIELD

SUNDAY 27TH SEPTEMBER

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

8.00 AM HOLY COMMUNION (BCP)- WARBOROUGH

9.00 AM HOLY COMMUNION- LITTLE WITTENHAM

9.30 AM HOLY COMMUNION- DRAYTON ST LEONARD

9.30 AM PET BLESSING SERVICE- STADHAMPTON

10.30 AM MORNING WORSHIP– DORCHESTER ABBEY

11.00 AM HOLY COMMUNION- MARSH BALDON

3.00 PM HOUSE OF PRAYER LIVING ROOM- BERINSFIELD

4.30 PM CLUSTER EVENSONG- WARBOROUGH

Warborough News

Village Coffee Morning: Held on the third Thursday of the month, St Laurence Hall, 10am-12noon.

Ride and Stride: This was a great success last weekend. Thanks to all involved. Of interest, James Pratt from the Dorchester congregation completed his 40th Ride and Stride event visiting many local (and not-so-local) churches on his bicycle. He raised £600 which is to be shared equally with the Historic Churches Trust and Dorchester Abbey.

We pray for the recently bereaved, including the family and friends of Alice Critchell, whose funeral will be held here on 28th September.