

SERVICES NEXT WEEK

TUESDAY 29TH SEPTEMBER AUGUST

10:30 AM MORNING PRAYER – DORCHESTER ABBEY

WEDNESDAY 30TH SEPTEMBER

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

9:30 AM HOLY COMMUNION – BERINSFIELD

SUNDAY 4TH OCTOBER

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

8:00 AM HOLY COMMUNION (BCP) – CLIFTON HAMPDEN

9:30 AM HOLY COMMUNION – LONG WITTENHAM

9:30 AM PARISH EUCHARIST – STADHAMPTON

10:30 AM SUNG EUCHARIST – DORCHESTER ABBEY

10:30 AM HOLY COMMUNION HARVEST – MARSH BALDON

11.00 AM HARVEST THANKSGIVING HOLY COMMUNION –
WARBOROUGH

2.30 PM HARVEST MESSY CHURCH – BERINSFIELD

3.00 PM FOREST CHURCH – DORCHESTER ABBEY

6.00 PM HOLY COMMUNION HARVEST – DRAYTON ST
LEONARD

Warborough News:

Village Coffee Mornings are held on the third Thursday of the month, at St Laurence Hall, 10am-12noon.

We pray for the recently bereaved, including the family and friends of April Critchell, whose funeral will be held here on 28th September and also Leone Grant, whose funeral takes place on 30th September.

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ST LAURENCE CHURCH,

SUNDAY 27TH SEPTEMBER: 17TH 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

Almighty God, you have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless till they find their rest in you: pour your love into our hearts and draw us to yourself, and so bring us at last to your heavenly city where we shall see you face to face; 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**

Gracious God, you call us to fullness of life: deliver us from unbelief and banish our anxieties with the liberating love of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

BIBLE READINGS

Exodus 17.1–7

17 From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ²The people quarrelled with Moses, and said, 'Give us water to drink.' Moses said to them, 'Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?' ³But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?' ⁴So Moses cried out to the LORD, 'What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.' ⁵The LORD said to Moses, 'Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. ⁶I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.' Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarrelled and tested the LORD, saying, 'Is the LORD among us or not?'

Philippians 2.1–13

2 If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, ²make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others.

⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited,⁷ but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, ⁸he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.⁹ Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.¹² Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Matthew 21.23–32

23 When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, ‘By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?’

²⁴Jesus said to them, ‘I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?’ And they argued with one another, ‘If we say, “From heaven”, he will say to us, “Why then did you not believe him?” ²⁶But if we say, “Of human origin”, we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.’ ²⁷So they answered Jesus, ‘We do not know.’ And he said to them, ‘Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

28 ‘What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, “Son, go and work in the vineyard today.” ²⁹He answered, “I will not”; but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, “I go, sir”; but he did not go. ³¹Which of the two did the will of his father?’ They said, ‘The first.’ Jesus said to them, ‘Truly I tell you, the tax-collectors and the prostitutes are going into the

kingdom of God ahead of you. ³²For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax-collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Lord, we pray that your grace may always precede and follow us and make us continually to be given to all good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

FOR YOUR PRAYERS:

Gracious God, help us to be honest in our faith, not simply saying the right things, but allowing our lives to reflect what we believe. When our words and actions do not agree, give us the courage to recognise it and the humility to change. Help us to listen when you speak, even when your words challenge our assumptions or ask us to change direction. Lord, may our faith be seen not only in what we say, but in the way we live. **Amen.**

Loving God, open our hearts to hear your voice. Save us from becoming so certain of ourselves that we no longer listen to others or recognise your presence among us. Give us humility when we are wrong, wisdom when we are uncertain, and courage when we need to change. Help us to welcome your guidance and to trust that changing direction is not a sign of weakness, but sometimes a sign of growing faith. Keep our hearts open to you, and our minds ready to learn. **Amen.**

Lord Jesus, we pray for our parish and community. Help us to be people whose actions speak of your love. Where there is need, help us to respond. Where there is loneliness, help us to reach out. Where there is disagreement, help us to listen. Where someone has lost their way, help us to offer welcome rather than judgement. May our churches be places where faith is not simply spoken about, but lived out in kindness, service and love. **Amen**

Merciful God, sometimes we say one thing and do another. Sometimes we promise more than we give and speak more boldly than we live. Forgive us when our actions fall short of our words. Help us to begin again with honesty and humility. Give us the courage to change our minds when we discover that we are wrong, and the grace to change our lives when you call us in a new direction **Amen.**

We pray for those who have died, especially April Critchell and Leone Grant and all who mourn their going; calm the fears of the dying and have mercy on us all. **Amen**