ST LAURENCE CHURCH, WARBOROUGH
SUNDAY 15TH NOVEMBER
2nd before Advent

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

Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son was revealed to destroy the works of the devil and to make us the children of God and heirs of eternal life: grant that we, having this hope, may purify ourselves even as he is pure; that when he shall appear in power and great glory we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever**. Amen**

Heavenly Lord, you long for the world's salvation: stir us from apathy, restrain us from excess and revive in us new hope that all creation will one day be healed in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

BIBLE READINGS

Zephaniah 1.7, 12–end

7 Be silent before the Lord GOD! For the day of the LORD is at hand; the LORD has prepared a sacrifice, he has consecrated his guests.12 At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the people who rest complacently on their dregs, those who say in their hearts, 'The LORD will not do good, nor will he do harm.' 13 Their wealth shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them;
though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them.14 The great day of the LORD is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter,
the warrior cries aloud there.15 That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness,16 a day of trumpet blast and battle cry
against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements.17 I will bring such distress upon people
that they shall walk like the blind; because they have sinned against the LORD, their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like dung.18 Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the LORD's wrath; in the fire of his passion the whole earth shall be consumed; for a full, a terrible end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

1 Thessalonians 5.1–11

5 Concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. 2For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come

like a thief in the night. [3]When they say, ‘There is peace and security’, then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labour pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! [4]But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; [5]for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. [6]So then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; [7]for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. [8]But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. [9]For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, [10]who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. [11]Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

Matthew 25.14–30

14 Jesus told his disciples this parable: ‘For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; [15]to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. [16]The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. [17]In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. [18]But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money.[19]‘After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. [20]Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, “Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.” [21]His master said to him, “Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.”[22]‘And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, “Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.” [23]His master said to him, “Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.”[24]‘Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, “Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; [25]so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.” [26]‘But his master replied, “You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? [27]Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. [28]So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. [29]For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. [30]As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” ’

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Gracious Lord, in this holy sacrament you give substance to our hope: bring us at the last to that fullness of life for which we long; through Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen**

FOR YOUR PRAYERS:

May all who confess your name be faithful stewards of what has been entrusted to them. Raise up prophets to speak out your truth and draw attention to what ever needs changing in our world, our expectations and assumptions, our management of resources and finances, our systems of government and our attitudes. May all peoples come to recognise your truth. Draw into your service all in our community that may be used for the coming of the Kingdom. Fill our homes and places of work with so much love that tensions and barriers melt away, conflicts are resolved and troubles lightened by being lovingly shared. Open our hearts to hope again where we had given up.

May all in misery and despair turn to find you close beside them in their heartache, not condemning but loving them in their pain. May all who are locked in terror or guilt be set free and may those whom long-term illness wearies be strengthened to persevere, freed from resentment.

Lord of the living and the dead, we commend to your mercy all who have died especially Derek Walker and thank you for that eternal healing which frees us from all pain and suffering.

We pray for those being baptised. May they and their families be surrounded by your love and peace as they choose to follow Jesus. **Amen**

SERVICES NEXT WEEK

TUESDAY 17TH NOVEMBER

10:30 AM MORNING PRAYER – DORCHESTER ABBEY

WEDNESDAY 18TH NOVEMBER

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

SUNDAY 22ND NOVEMBER

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 (BCP)- STADHAMPTON
9:30 AM HOLY COMMUNION- DRAYTON ST LEONARD
10:30 AM SUNG EUCHARIST– DORCHESTER ABBEY
11:00 AM HOLY COMMUNION-MARSH BALDON
3:00 PM THE LIVING ROOM WITH INFORMAL WORSHIP- BERINSFIELD
4:30 PM CLUSTER EVENSONG- WARBOROUGH

WARBOROUGH NEWS:

We continue to pray for the recently bereaved, including Ruth, Chris and Suzanne as they mourn the loss of Ken Webb. We continue to pray for the family and friends of Denise Kirby and Roma Gillow.

We pray for a speedy recovery for Jean Davis. We pray for all who live in Wallingford Road, Court Drive and The Mews.

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