

SERVICES NEXT WEEK

SUNDAY 25TH MAY
6TH OF EASTER

ABBEY – 8.00 AM HOLY COMMUNION (BCP)
WARBOROUGH – 8.00 AM HOLY COMMUNION (BCP)
LITTLE WITTENHAM – 8:30 AM HOLY COMMUNION
STADHAMPTON – 9:30 AM HOLY COMMUNION (BCP)
DRAYTON ST LEONARD – 9:30 AM HOLY COMMUNION
ABBEY – 10:30 AM MORNING SERVICE WITH BAPTISM
CLIFTON HAMPDEN – 10:30 AM MORNING SERVICE WITH BAPTISM
MARSH BALDON – 11:00 AM HOLY COMMUNION
BERINSFIELD – 3.00 PM INFORMAL WORSHIP
BERINSFIELD – 3.30 PM BERINSFIELD LIVING ROOM
CHISELHAMPTON – 4:30 PM EVENSONG

A Service of Holy Communion is at St Mary's and St Berin Berinsfield every Wednesday at 9.30am. Everyone welcome.

HYMNS

At the name of Jesus 593 (Camberwell)
A new commandment (on sheet)
Praise to the holiest 763 (Gerontius)
O Jesus I have promised 748 (Thonbury)

NEXT WEEK'S BIBLE READINGS

Acts 16.9–15
Revelation 21.10, 22 – 22.5
John 14.23–29

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. Open to everyone and will remain Dementia friendly.

Babies and Toddlers in the Abbey – every Wednesday 1:45pm – 3pm in the Shrine Chapel

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SUNDAY 18TH MAY
5TH OF EASTER

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 COLLECTS

Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ have overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: grant that, as by your grace going before us you put into our minds good desires, so by your continual help we may bring them to good effect; through Jesus Christ our risen Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen

Risen Christ, your wounds declare your love for the world and the wonder of your risen life: give us compassion and courage to risk ourselves for those we serve, to the glory of God the Father

Amen

BIBLE READINGS

Acts 11.1–18

Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. ²So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, ³saying, 'Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?' ⁴Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, ⁵'I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. ⁶As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. ⁷I also heard a voice saying to me, "Get up, Peter; kill and eat." ⁸But I replied, "By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth." ⁹But a second time the voice answered from heaven, "What God has made clean, you must not call profane." ¹⁰This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. ¹¹At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. ¹²The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. ¹³He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, "Send to

Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; ¹⁴he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.” ¹⁵And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. ¹⁶And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, “John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.” ¹⁷If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?’ ¹⁸When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, ‘Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life.’

Revelation 21.1–6

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ²And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, ‘See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; ⁴he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.’ ⁵And the one who was seated on the throne said, ‘See, I am making all things new.’ Also he said, ‘Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.’ ⁶Then he said to me, ‘It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.

John 13.31–35

When he had gone out, Jesus said, ‘Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. ³²If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. ³³Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, “Where I am going, you cannot come.” ³⁴I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.’

THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Eternal God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life: grant us to walk in his way, to rejoice in his truth, and to share his risen life; who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.
Amen.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS:

Holy God, we come before You with hearts full of gratitude for Your mercy and grace. We give thanks for the beauty and wonder of the world around us.

Almighty God, we ask for Your blessing upon our congregation and our church. May Your presence be clearly seen in all we do and say each day. Let Your joy and love flow freely through us, and may we never be a stumbling block to those around us.

Creator God, through St. John, You gave us a vision of a new heaven and a new earth. We lift up to You those places in our world that are in desperate need of renewal. Inspire and guide world leaders to work tirelessly toward a future where all people enjoy peace, security, and a life of dignity.

Faithful God, Your Son Jesus said, “I give you a new commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.” In our worship today, we bear witness to Your love shown perfectly in Christ, and we recommit ourselves to love one another as a community grounded in faith.

Gracious God, in Your mercy, comfort and strengthen all who are sick, injured, elderly, or distressed. May they find hope and courage through Your presence, knowing You are with them in every trial.

Loving God, we remember all who mourn the loss of loved ones. We think of family members and friends who have passed on, especially those whose anniversaries we recall at this time. May the Holy Spirit bring them comfort, and may the support of our church family uphold them in their grief.

As we go forth in the peace of Christ, may we bring Christ to the world with joy—Christ in our minds, Christ on our lips, Christ in our hearts, the world’s true King.

Merciful father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**