

SERVICES NEXT WEEK

SUNDAY 4TH JANUARY

EPIPHANY

ABBEY – 8.00 AM HOLY COMMUNION (BCP)

CLIFTON HAMPDEN – 8.00 AM HOLY COMMUNION (BCP)

STADHAMPTON – 9:30 AM FAMILY SERVICE

LONG WITTENHAM – 9:30 AM HOLY COMMUNION

ABBEY – 10:30 AM SUNG EUCHARIST

MARSH BALDON – 10:30 AM HOLY COMMUNION

WARBOROUGH – 11.00 AM PARISH EUCHARIST

BERINSFIELD – 2.30 PM MESSY CHURCH

DRAYTON ST LEONARD – 5:00 PM HOLY COMMUNION

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

NEXT WEEK'S BIBLE READINGS

Isaiah 60:1-6

Ephesians 3:1-12

Matthew 2:1-12

NOTICES

Village Coffee Morning in the Abbey

Tuesdays 11.00 am – 12 pm Paused for Christmas.

Reopening 6th January

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 Paused for Christmas. Reopening 7th January

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SUNDAY 28TH DECEMBER

CHRISTMAS 1

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 wonderfully created us in your own image and yet more wonderfully restored us through your Son Jesus Christ: grant that, as he came to share in our humanity, so we may share the life of his divinity; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen

God in Trinity, eternal unity of perfect love: gather the nations to be one family, and draw us into your holy life through the birth of Emmanuel, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen

BIBLE READINGS

Isaiah 63.7–9

⁷I will recount the gracious deeds of the Lord, the praiseworthy acts of the Lord, because of all that the Lord has done for us, and the great favour to the house of Israel that he has shown them according to his mercy, according to the abundance of his steadfast love. ⁸For he said, 'Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely'; and he became their saviour ⁹in all their distress. It was no messenger or angel but his presence that saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

Hebrews 2.10–end

It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. ¹¹For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, ¹²saying, 'I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters, in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.' ¹³And again, 'I will put my trust in him.' And again, 'Here am I and the children whom God has given me.' ¹⁴Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵and free those

who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. ¹⁶For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. ¹⁷Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. ¹⁸Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

Matthew 2.13–end

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.' ¹⁴Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, ¹⁵and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, 'Out of Egypt I have called my son.' ¹⁶When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. ¹⁷Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah: ¹⁸'A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.' ¹⁹When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, ²⁰'Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead.' ²¹Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. ²²But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. ²³There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, 'He will be called a Nazorean.'

THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son shared at Nazareth the life of an earthly home: help your Church to live as one family, united in love and obedience, and bring us all at last to our home in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS:

Let us pray to God, who chose to dwell among us, sharing our humanity and drawing us together in love.

God of light and love, we pray for your Church throughout the world. In this season of Christmas, renew us in the joy of the Incarnation. Help us to be a welcoming community, where all are known, valued, and loved. May we bear witness to Christ not only in words, but in lives shaped by kindness, humility, and hope.

God of peace, we pray for our world and for all communities marked by division, conflict, or fear. At the close of this year, we ask for healing where there has been harm, and for courage to build understanding where there is mistrust. Guide those in positions of leadership, that they may seek justice, protect the vulnerable, and work for the common good.

God of compassion, we pray for our local community: for our families, neighbours, schools, and workplaces. Bless all who have welcomed others this Christmas, and those who have felt isolated or overlooked. Help us to notice one another, to offer friendship, and to share the warmth and generosity we have received.

God who knows our hearts, we pray for all who find this season difficult: those who are grieving, those who are unwell, those facing uncertainty, loneliness, or exhaustion. May they know your presence close beside them, and may we, as a community, be gentle signs of your care.

God of new beginnings, as this year draws towards its end, we offer to you all that has been, and all that lies ahead. Help us to carry the light of Christ into the ordinary days to come, that our homes and our lives may reflect your love.

Loving Lord, we pray for those who grieve, especially the family and friends of Revd Peter Dewey, Marilyn Draper and L/Cpl George Hooley who recently passed. We also lift before you Revd David Cockerell while he's in palliative care. May your peace give them strength for each new day and fill them with the hope of your promise of the joy of your eternal kingdom.

Amen

The Memorial Service for the late
Revd. Peter Dewey
will be held on
Tuesday 6th January at 11:30am
at St Michael and All Angels, Clifton
Hampden

The Funeral Service for the late
Mrs Marilyn Alice Draper
will be held on
Monday 12th January at 12:00pm
at Dorchester Abbey