

SERVICES NEXT WEEK

SUNDAY 14TH DECEMBER
ADVENT 3

ABBAY – 8.00 AM HOLY COMMUNION (BCP)
DRAYTON ST LEONARD – 9:30 AM HOLY COMMUNION
LONG WITTENHAM – 9:30 AM HOLY COMMUNION
ABBAY – 10:30 AM POSADA PARTY
CLIFTON HAMPDEN – 10.30 AM MORNING SERVICE
WARBOROUGH – 11.00 AM MORNING SERVICE
BERINSFIELD – 11.00 AM HOLY COMMUNION WITH HEALING
TOOT BALDON – 4.00 PM EVENSONG
STADHAMPTON – 5:00 PM CAROL SERVICE
WARBOROUGH – 6.00 PM HOLY COMMUNION (BCP)

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

HYMNS

Hark a thrilling voice is sounding 38
On Jordan's bank 46
Here is love, vast as the ocean 143
The kingdom of God is justice and joy 569

NEXT WEEK'S BIBLE READINGS

Isaiah 35.1–10
James 5.7–10
Matthew 11.2–11

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. Dementia friendly.

Abbey Tots – Wednesdays in the Abbey 9.30am – 10.30am

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SUNDAY 7TH DECEMBER
ADVENT 2

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

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power and come among us, and with great might succour us; that whereas, through our sins and wickedness we are grievously hindered in running the race that is set before us, your bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be honour and glory, now and for ever.

Amen

Almighty God, purify our hearts and minds, that when your Son Jesus Christ comes again as judge and saviour we may be ready to receive him, who is our Lord and our God.

Amen

BIBLE READINGS

Isaiah 11.1–10

A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. ²The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. ³His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; ⁴but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. ⁵Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. ⁶The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. ⁷The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. ⁸The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. ⁹They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. ¹⁰On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Romans 15.4–13

For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. ⁵May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, ⁶so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁷Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. ⁸For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, ⁹and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, 'Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name'; ¹⁰and again he says, 'Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people'; ¹¹and again, 'Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him'; ¹²and again Isaiah says, 'The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope.' ¹³May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 3.1–12

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ²'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.'³This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, 'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight."' ⁴Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, ⁶and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁷But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruit worthy of repentance. ⁹Do not presume to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ¹¹'I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹²His winnowing-fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing-floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Father in heaven, who sent your Son to redeem the world and will send him again to be our judge: give us grace so to imitate him in the humility and purity of his first coming that, when he comes again, we may be ready to greet him with joyful love and firm faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS:

Faithful God, in the wilderness John the Baptist proclaimed a message of repentance and renewal. As your Church, keep us open to your transforming work among us. Help us to recognise the places where we need to change, to grow, and to turn again towards you. Make us a community marked by honesty, hospitality, and hope: a place where all are welcomed, all are valued, and all are encouraged in faith.

God of our community, we thank you for the people and places that sustain us. Strengthen the bonds between neighbours, colleagues, friends, and families. Where there is division, bring reconciliation; where there is loneliness, bring companionship; where there is struggle, bring support. Teach us to listen well, to care deeply, and to work together for the flourishing of all.

God of justice, John spoke boldly of a world reordered according to your righteousness. We hold before you our nation and the nations of the world, praying for leaders and decision-makers. Give them wisdom rooted in compassion and courage shaped by integrity. We pray especially for communities living with hardship, conflict, or uncertainty. May your peace take root where fear has settled, and your hope rise where despair has taken hold.

God of new beginnings, we thank you for the gift of baptism and for the joy it brings to our community. Today we pray especially for Harriet Katherine Johnson. Bless her with your love, guide her with your wisdom, and surround her with family, godparents, and a church community that will nurture her as she grows in faith. May her life shine with the light of Christ, and may she always know that she is cherished, held, and called by name. Loving Lord, we pray for those who grieve, especially the family and friends of Malcolm Matzen, Revd Peter Dewey, Revd Jan Hiles and John Kerr who recently passed. We also lift before you Revd David Cockerell as he enters 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