

## SERVICES NEXT WEEK

### TUESDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> MARCH

ABBEY – 10.30 AM MORNING PRAYER

### WEDNESDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> MARCH

BERINSFIELD - 9.00 AM MORNING PRAYER FOLLOWED  
BY HOLY COMMUNION AT 9.30 AM

### SUNDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> MARCH

ABBEY – 8.00 AM HOLY COMMUNION (BCP)

WARBOROUGH – 8:00 AM HOLY COMMUNION

LITTLE WITTENHAM – 9:00 AM HOLY COMMUNION

DRAYTON ST LEONARD – 9:30 AM HOLY COMMUNION

ABBEY – 10:30 AM MORNING SERVICE

MARCH BALDON – 11:00 AM HOLY COMMUNION

BERINSFIELD – 3:00 PM BERINSFIELD LIVING ROOM WITH  
INFORMAL WORSHIP

STADHAMPTON – 4:30 PM EVENSONG

### NEXT WEEK'S BIBLE READINGS

Ezekiel 37.1-14

Romans 8.6-11

John 11.1-45

### 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

#### Dorchester Abbey & Team Office

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### SUNDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> MARCH

#### 4<sup>TH</sup> OF LENT

#### MOTHERING SUNDAY

*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

Merciful Lord, absolve your people from their  
offences, that through your bountiful goodness  
we may all be delivered from the chains of those sins  
which by our frailty we have committed; grant this,  
heavenly Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our blessed  
Lord and Saviour, who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for  
ever. **Amen**

Merciful Lord,  
you know our struggle to serve you: when sin spoils  
our lives and overshadows our hearts, come to our  
aid and turn us back to you again; through Jesus  
Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

### BIBLE READINGS

#### Samuel 16.1-13

16The Lord said to Samuel, 'How long will you grieve  
over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over  
Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send  
you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided  
for myself a king among his sons.' <sup>2</sup>Samuel said,  
'How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me.' And  
the Lord said, 'Take a heifer with you, and say, "I  
have come to sacrifice to the Lord." <sup>3</sup>Invite Jesse to  
the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do;  
and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to  
you.' <sup>4</sup>Samuel did what the Lord commanded, and  
came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to  
meet him trembling, and said, 'Do you come  
peaceably?' <sup>5</sup>He said, 'Peaceably; I have come to  
sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come  
with me to the sacrifice.' And he sanctified Jesse and  
his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.  
6 When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought,  
'Surely the Lord's anointed is now before  
the Lord.'<sup>7</sup>But the Lord said to Samuel, 'Do not look  
on his appearance or on the height of his stature,  
because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not  
see as mortals see; they look on the outward  
appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.'<sup>8</sup>Then  
Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before

Samuel. He said, 'Neither has the Lord chosen this one.'<sup>9</sup> Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, 'Neither has the Lord chosen this one.'<sup>10</sup> Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen any of these.'<sup>11</sup> Samuel said to Jesse, 'Are all your sons here?' And he said, 'There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.' And Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here.'<sup>12</sup> He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The Lord said, 'Rise and anoint him; for this is the one.'<sup>13</sup> Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

### **Ephesians 5.8-14**

<sup>8</sup>For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—<sup>9</sup>for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true.<sup>10</sup> Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord.<sup>11</sup> Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them.<sup>12</sup> For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly;<sup>13</sup> but everything exposed by the light becomes visible,<sup>14</sup> for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, 'Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.'

### **John 9.1-41**

<sup>9</sup>As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth.<sup>2</sup> His disciples asked him, 'Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?'<sup>3</sup> Jesus answered, 'Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him.'<sup>4</sup> We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work.<sup>5</sup> As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.'<sup>6</sup> When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes,<sup>7</sup> saying to him, 'Go, wash in the pool of Siloam' (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see.<sup>8</sup> The neighbours and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, 'Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?'<sup>9</sup> Some were saying, 'It is he.' Others were saying, 'No, but it is someone like him.' He kept saying, 'I am the man.'<sup>10</sup> But they kept asking him, 'Then how were your eyes opened?'<sup>11</sup> He answered, 'The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, "Go to Siloam and wash." Then I went and washed and received my sight.'<sup>12</sup> They said to him, 'Where is he?' He said, 'I do not know.'<sup>13</sup> They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind.<sup>14</sup> Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes.<sup>15</sup> Then the

Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, 'He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.'<sup>16</sup> Some of the Pharisees said, 'This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.' But others said, 'How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?' And they were divided.<sup>17</sup> So they said again to the blind man, 'What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.' He said, 'He is a prophet.'<sup>18</sup> The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight<sup>19</sup> and asked them, 'Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?'<sup>20</sup> His parents answered, 'We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind;<sup>21</sup> but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.'<sup>22</sup> His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue.<sup>23</sup> Therefore his parents said, 'He is of age; ask him.'<sup>24</sup> So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, 'Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.'<sup>25</sup> He answered, 'I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.'<sup>26</sup> They said to him, 'What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?'<sup>27</sup> He answered them, 'I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?'<sup>28</sup> Then they reviled him, saying, 'You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses.<sup>29</sup> We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.'<sup>30</sup> The man answered, 'Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes.<sup>31</sup> We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will.<sup>32</sup> Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind.<sup>33</sup> If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.'<sup>34</sup> They answered him, 'You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?' And they drove him out.<sup>35</sup> Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?'<sup>36</sup> He answered, 'And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.'<sup>37</sup> Jesus said to him, 'You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.'<sup>38</sup> He said, 'Lord, I believe.' And he worshipped him.<sup>39</sup> Jesus said, 'I came into this world for judgement so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.'<sup>40</sup> Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, 'Surely we are not blind, are we?'<sup>41</sup> Jesus said to them, 'If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, "We see", your sin remains.'

## THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Lord God, whose blessed Son our Saviour gave his back to the smiters and did not hide his face from shame: give us grace to endure the sufferings of this present time with sure confidence in the glory that shall be revealed; through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## FOR YOUR PRAYERS:

Loving God, we thank you for the beauty of your creation, as we see the hope-filled signs of spring. We pray that you turn our hearts and minds to treasure and care for your precious world, all the flora and fauna, and to take decisions for its protection and restoration.

We pray also for our world in this time of conflict and anxiety. We pray for an end to the violence in the Middle East and pray for peace and reconciliation between nations.

In our own country we pray for all those anxious about the rising cost of living. We pray as communities that we come together to support those most in need: those who are sick, lonely, bereaved, anxious, and stressed by responsibilities. We remember and entrust to you, loving God, all those we have loved but see no longer. We give thanks for their lives, for the memories we treasure. We pray especially for those who are grieving loved ones who have died recently.

We pray for the Church across the world, giving thanks for our fellowship as the Dorchester Team Ministry.

As we continue to journey together through the Season of Lent, we pray for ourselves, that we find time for reflection and renewal, as we look ahead to the light of Easter in the Resurrection of Christ

## Iona Pilgrimage August 2027

In our River of Life Vision discussions, there was great enthusiasm for the idea of pilgrimages. We are exploring this in a number of ways, including planning a pilgrimage to the holy island of Iona, in the Scottish Western Isles, from 21-28 August 2027. Iona is a place of deep Christian spirituality, since the time that St Columba arrived from Ireland in the sixth century. We will stay in the Bishops' House which has accommodation for 23 people and will worship in Iona Abbey and, as in the Celtic Christian tradition, outdoors on the beautiful white sandy beaches and gentle paths of the island. If you are interested and would like to know more, please contact Revd Rachel Carnegie through the Abbey office or by email: [Rachel.Carnegie@dorchester-abbey.org.uk](mailto:Rachel.Carnegie@dorchester-abbey.org.uk)

## DORCHESTER ABBEY:

### Annual Revision of our Church Electoral Roll

The Electoral Roll of a parish church is the list of all those who are entitled to vote at our Annual Parochial Church Meeting. Each year the roll is revised, and we would encourage anyone who is a regular member of our congregations who is not on the Roll to sign up. Those who wish to be added can find applications can be found on the Bishop's Table in the Abbey or emailed by request [sam@dorchester-abbey.org.uk](mailto:sam@dorchester-abbey.org.uk). The closing date for this year's revision is Tuesday 31st March 2026.

### APCM – Save the date!

Advanced warning that our Annual Meeting of Parishioners (at which we elect churchwardens) and Annual Parochial Church Meeting (at which we elect Deanery Synod representatives and member of the Parochial Church Council and hear and receive reports and accounts) will be on Sunday 26th April 2026 during the Morning Service which starts at 10.30 am