



The Parish Church of

# St John the Baptist

Serving the communities of Bodicote,  
Cherwell Heights and Longford Park

**Our Parish Prayer** Ever living God, give us the courage to be your church in the community and for the community, and teach us new ways to share your love with all those around us. Amen.

## Sunday 17 May 7th Sunday of Easter

### Collect

O God the King of glory,  
you have exalted your only Son  
Jesus Christ with great triumph  
to your kingdom in heaven:  
we beseech you,  
leave us not comfortless,  
but send your Holy Spirit to  
strengthen us and exalt us  
to the place where our Saviour  
Christ is gone before,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one  
God, now and for ever.  
Amen.

### First Reading: Acts 1: 15-end

In those days Peter stood up among  
the believers (together the crowd  
numbered about one hundred  
twenty persons) and said,

“Friends, the scripture had to be  
fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit  
through David foretold concerning  
Judas, who became a guide for  
those who arrested Jesus— for he  
was numbered among us and was  
allotted his share in this ministry.”

Now this man acquired a field with  
the reward of his wickedness; and  
falling headlong, he burst open  
in the middle and all his bowels  
gushed out. This became known  
to all the residents of Jerusalem,  
so that the field was called in their  
language Hakeldama, that is, Field  
of Blood.)

“For it is written in the book of  
Psalms, “Let his homestead become  
desolate, and let there be no one to  
live in it”; and “Let another take his  
position of overseer.’

So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these must become a witness with us to his resurrection.”

So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. Then they prayed and said, “Lord, you know everyone’s heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.”

And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

**Second Reading:  
1 Peter 4:1 2-14, 5: 6-11**

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ’s sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed.

If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you.

Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. Cast all

your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. Discipline yourselves, keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering.

And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you.

To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.

**Gospel Reading: John 17: 1-11**

After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you,

since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him.

And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

“I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the

world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me.

I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them.

And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.

### **Post-communion Prayer**

Eternal God,  
giver of love and power,  
your Son Jesus Christ  
has sent us into all the world  
to preach the gospel of his kingdom:  
confirm us in this mission,  
and help us to live  
the good news we proclaim;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

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## Notices

**Thy Kingdom Come** - once again we shall mark the period between Ascension Day and Pentecost when we unite with over one million Christians across the world in prayer. At its heart is the Prayer for Five when we pray on behalf of five of our friends, family, neighbours or colleagues who do not yet follow Christ, that they may come to know Him. The theme this year is God With Us and Novenas and Prayer Journals are available in church for you to take away and use.

**The Day of Pentecost** is one of the great feasts in the church's year, when we remember and celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit poured out on the disciples and poured into our hearts. This is the birthday of the church, and we will be celebrating with a number of special services. Following our usual 8am service on Sunday 24 May, we will hold an All-Age Communion service at 9.45am. As part of that service we will be remembering the miracle of languages being restored to the

disciples, and will hear that story read in as many different languages as we can manage. If you speak another language and would be willing to take part in the joyful chaos of this project, please contact the vicar.

That evening at 7pm we will hold our annual Pentecost Praise service, to which all are very welcome.

**Bishop Loveday School** needs your help. The school is seeking a new committed and enthusiastic Foundation Governor to join the governing body and help guide the strategic direction of our school, whilst up holding the Christian values and ethos. You don't need to be an education expert just keen to share some of your time and skills to serve your community and help shape the future of the school. To find out more speak to a current governor: Libby, Marian or Helen.

**This week we pray** for all who live or work in Goose Lane, and Chapel Lane.

## **Diary for this week**

*All in church unless otherwise stated*

### **Sunday 17 May**

8am Holy Communion (BCP)  
9.45am Parish Communion

### **Monday 18 May**

8.30am Morning Prayer (Zoom\*)

### **Wednesday 20 May**

7.30pm Afternoon teas in Church House

### **Thursday 21 May**

Vicar's day off

### **Sunday 24 May Pentecost**

8am Holy Communion (BCP)  
9.45am All-age Parish Communion  
7pm Pentecost Praise

\*Please ask wardens for the link.

### **Readings for 24 May**

Acts 2: 1-21, 1 Corinthians 12: 3b-13  
John 20: 19-23

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## Contact us

Vicar: Revd Emily Hockliffe Essex [revd.emily@gmail.com](mailto:revd.emily@gmail.com) 07979 931889

Associate Minister: Revd Alice Jolley [mthr.alicejolley@outlook.com](mailto:mthr.alicejolley@outlook.com)

Churchwardens: [churchwardens.bodicotechurch@gmail.com](mailto:churchwardens.bodicotechurch@gmail.com)

Treasurer: [treasurer.bodicotechurch@gmail.com](mailto:treasurer.bodicotechurch@gmail.com)

Administrator: [office.bodicotechurch@gmail.com](mailto:office.bodicotechurch@gmail.com)

Website: [www.achurchnearyou.com/church/5406/](http://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/5406/)

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/BodicoteParishChurch>