



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 3 May 5th Sunday of Easter

Collect

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.

First Reading: Acts 7: 55-end

But filled with the Holy Spirit, he
gazed into heaven and saw the glory
of God and Jesus standing at the
right hand of God.

“Look,” he said, “I see the heavens
opened and the Son of Man
standing at the right hand of God!”
But they covered their ears, and with
a loud shout all rushed together
against him.

Then they dragged him out of the
city and began to stone him; and
the witnesses laid their coats at the
feet of a young man named Saul.

While they were stoning Stephen,
he prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive
my spirit.” Then he knelt down and
cried out in a loud voice, “Lord, do
not hold this sin against them.”
When he had said this, he died.

Second Reading: 1 Peter 2: 2-10

Like newborn infants, long for the
pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you
may grow into salvation — if indeed
you have tasted that the Lord is
good.

Come to him, a living stone, though
rejected by mortals yet chosen
and precious in God’s sight, and

like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

For it stands in scripture: "See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.

To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner," and "A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall." They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Gospel Reading: John 14: 1-14

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you

to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going."

Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, "Show us the Father"? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves.

Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

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.

Final Hymn

Word that formed creation, earth
and sea and sky;
Word that brings salvation, Word
that will not die;
speak now in us that we might hear
your call;
Living word of Jesus, sound within
us all.

Love that formed and named us,
filled this clay with breath;
Love that seeks and claims us, Love
beyond all death;
come now and fire the life that flows
from you;
Love that raised up Jesus, raise us
up anew.

Song of joy and wonder, sound so
wild and free;
voice of wind and thunder,
boundless as the sea;
Music of God, the love that casts
out fear;
Song that sang in Jesus, sing within
us here.

God of all creation, form our hearts
anew;
God of all salvation, lead us home to
you;
Spirit, inspire our hearts to hear
your call;
living God of Jesus, come renew us
all!

Marty Haughen (b. 1950)

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.

We now have some more offers of
help for our **community fete** on
16th May. so will be in a position to

run a bottle stall. We are asking for donations of any bottles - they do not need to be alcohol! Soft drinks, toiletries and so on will be perfectly acceptable too. Please bring along to church as soon as possible so that we can get them labelled up prior to the event. Thank you.

We will be celebrating **Ascension Day** with a service at 7pm on Thursday 14 May. All are very welcome to join us.

Diary for this week

All in church unless otherwise stated

Sunday 3 May

8am Holy Communion (BCP)
9.45am Parish Communion

Monday 4 May

8.30am **NO** Morning Prayer (Zoom*)
due to Bank Holiday

Wednesday 6 May

2.30pm Afternoon teas in Church House

Thursday 7 May

Vicar's day off

Sunday 10 May

8am Holy Communion (BCP)
9.45am Parish Communion
11.30am Baptism of Charlotte Emms
and Sharon Boland

*Please ask wardens for the link.

Readings for 10 May

Acts 17: 22-31, 1 Peter 3: 13-end,
John 14: 15-21

This week we pray for all who live or work in White Post Road, Wykham Lane and High Street.

Contact us

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