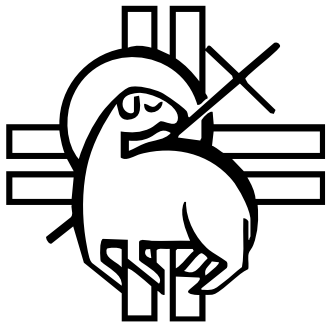




The Parish Church of

# 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 28 June

Patronal Festival: The Birth of John the Baptist

### Collect

Almighty God,  
by whose providence  
your servant John the Baptist  
was wonderfully born,  
and sent to prepare the way  
of your Son our Saviour  
by the preaching of repentance:  
lead us to repent  
according to his preaching  
and, after his example,  
constantly to speak the truth,  
boldly to rebuke vice,  
and patiently to suffer  
for the truth's sake;  
through Jesus Christ  
your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.  
Amen.

### First Reading: Isaiah 40.1-11

Comfort, O comfort my people,  
says your God. Speak tenderly  
to Jerusalem, and cry to her  
that she has served her term, that her  
penalty is paid, that she has received  
from the Lord's hand double for all  
her sins.

A voice cries out: 'In the wilderness  
prepare the way of the Lord, make  
straight in the desert a highway for  
our God. Every valley shall be lifted  
up, and every mountain and hill be  
made low; the uneven ground shall  
become level, and the rough places a  
plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall  
be revealed, and all people shall see  
it together, for the mouth of the Lord  
has spoken.'

A voice says, 'Cry out!' And I said,  
'What shall I cry?' All people are

grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever.

Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, 'Here is your God!' See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

### **Second Reading: Galatians 3.23-end**

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith.

As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ

Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

### **Gospel Reading: Luke 1.57-66, 80**

Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. Her neighbours and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her.

On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him Zechariah after his father. But his mother said, 'No; he is to be called John.' They said to her, 'None of your relatives has this name.' Then they began motioning to his father to find out what name he wanted to give him. He asked for a writing-tablet and wrote, 'His name is John.' And all of them were amazed.

Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue freed, and he began to speak, praising God. Fear came over all their neighbours, and all these things were talked about throughout the entire hill country of Judea. All who heard them pondered them and said, 'What then will this child become?' For, indeed, the hand of the Lord was with him.

The child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day he appeared publicly to Israel.

## Post-communion Prayer

Merciful Lord,  
whose prophet John the Baptist  
proclaimed your Son  
as the Lamb of God  
who takes away the sin of the world:  
grant that we who in this sacrament  
have known your forgiveness  
and your life-giving love  
may ever tell of your mercy  
and your peace;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

## Offertory Hymn (MP 442)

Lord of the Church, we pray for  
our renewing: Christ over all, our  
undivided aim.  
Fire of the Spirit, burn for our  
enduing, wind of the Spirit, fan the  
living flame!  
We turn to Christ amid our fear and  
failing, the will that lacks the courage  
to be free,  
the weary labours, all but unavailing,  
to bring us nearer what a church  
should be.

Lord of the Church, we seek a  
Father's blessing, a true repentance  
and a faith restored,  
a swift obedience and a new  
possessing, filled with the Holy Spirit  
of the Lord!

We turn to Christ from all our  
restless striving, unnumbered voices  
with a single prayer:  
the living water for our souls'  
reviving, in Christ to live, and love  
and serve and care.

Lord of the Church, we long for our  
uniting, true to one calling, by one  
vision stirred;  
one cross proclaiming and one creed  
reciting, one in the truth of Jesus  
and his word.

So lead us on; till toil and trouble  
ended, one Church triumphant one  
new song shall sing,  
to praise his glory, risen and  
ascended, Christ over all, the  
everlasting King!

Timothy Dudley-Smith (b.1926)

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## Notices

Thank you to all the members of  
our **Mothers' Union** who took  
part in the service to mark the  
organisation's **150th Anniversary**  
last Sunday morning. It was good to  
have so many of you at the service.

Our dear friends **Tricia and Bob  
Campbell** will be leaving soon for

their move to New Zealand. Whilst  
they will be deeply missed, we wish  
them every blessing in their new  
home and the joy of being close  
to family. We will be taking the  
opportunity to celebrate them and  
to wish them well with drinks and  
nibbles after the service today. All  
are welcome to stay for a while

after the 9.45am service as we give thanks for all they have been for us in this place and for all that is ahead of them.

An advance notice that there will be **no afternoon teas on Wednesday 5th August** due to the floor in Church House being renovated.

This years's **FOBLS Fest** is on Friday. (3rd) There will be a bar and BBQ, raffle and lots of games, with music and performances throughout the evening. Please do try to support our church school! We are hoping to have a presence there in some form (to be finalised), so do come and say "hello"

### **Readings for 5 July**

Zechariah 9: 9-12, Romans 7: 15-25a

Matthew 11: 16-19, 25-end

**This week we pray** for all who live or work in Deer's Farm and Dillon Court.

### **Diary for this week**

*All in church unless otherwise stated*

#### **Sunday 28 June**

8am Holy Communion (BCP)  
9.45am Parish Communion with Sunday Club  
11.30am Baptism of Noah Lambert

#### **Monday 29 June**

8am Morning Prayer on Zoom\*

#### **Wednesday 1 July**

2.30pm Afternoon teas in Church House  
7.30pm PCC meet in Church House

#### **Thursday 2 July**

Vicar's day off

#### **Friday 3 July**

5.30-8pm FOBLS Fest 2026 at Bishop Loveday School

#### **Sunday 5 July**

8am Holy Communion (BCP)  
9.45am Parish Communion

\*ask wardens for link

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## **Contact us**

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