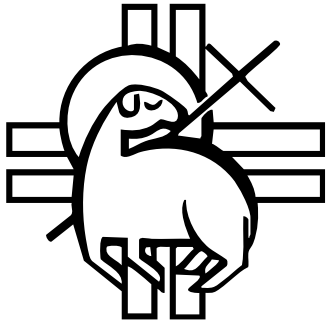




The Parish Church of

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 26 July 8th Sunday after Trinity

Collect

Almighty Lord and everlasting God,
we beseech you to direct, sanctify
and govern both our hearts and
bodies in the ways of your laws and
the works of your commandments;
that through your most mighty
protection, both here and ever, we
may be preserved in body and soul;
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus
Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you, in
the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

First Reading: 1 Kings 3: 5-12

At Gibeon the Lord appeared to
Solomon in a dream by night; and
God said, "Ask what I should give
you."

And Solomon said, "You have shown
great and steadfast love to your
servant my father David, because he
walked before you in faithfulness, in
righteousness, and in uprightness of
heart toward you; and you have kept
for him this great and steadfast love,
and have given him a son to sit on
his throne today. And now, O Lord my
God, you have made your servant king
in place of my father David, although
I am only a little child; I do not know
how to go out or come in. And your
servant is in the midst of the people
whom you have chosen, a great
people, so numerous they cannot
be numbered or counted. Give your
servant therefore an understanding
mind to govern your people, able
to discern between good and evil;
for who can govern this your great
people?"

It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. God said to him, “Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you.

Second Reading: **Romans 8: 26–end**

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold

his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us.

Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, “For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.”

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Gospel Reading: **Matthew 13: 31–33, 44–52**

Jesus told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches.”

He told them still another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into

about sixty pounds of flour until it worked all through the dough.”

“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.

“Once again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was let down into the lake and caught all kinds of fish. When it was full, the fishermen pulled it up on the shore. Then they sat down and collected the good fish in baskets, but threw the bad away. This is how it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come and separate the wicked from the righteous and throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

“Have you understood all these things?” Jesus asked.

“Yes,” they replied.

He said to them, “Therefore every teacher of the law who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the owner of a house who brings out of his storeroom new treasures as well as old.”

Post-communion Prayer

Strengthen for service, Lord, the hands that have taken holy things; may the ears which have heard your word be deaf to clamour and dispute; may the tongues which have sung your praise be free from deceit; may the eyes which have seen the tokens of your love shine with the light of hope; and may the bodies which have been fed with your body be refreshed with the fullness of your life; glory to you for ever.
Amen.

Notices

Intercessions training day: Anyone who is interested in learning more about how to lead prayers in our Sunday worship or would like to join the rota is welcome to join us at the vicarage on **Saturday 1 August at 11am**. All current members of the rota are also invited as we share

wisdom and tips with one another, ask and answer questions, and acknowledge the great gift that those who lead intercessions for us are offering. If you are interested in coming along, please email the vicar at revd.emily@gmail.com.

An advance notice that there will be **no afternoon teas on Wednesday 5th August** due to the floor in Church House being renovated. Church House will be closed from 4th to 7th August inclusive while this work is completed.

This week we pray for all who live or work in Austin Road, Sefton Place and Sideleigh Road

Diary for this week

All in church unless otherwise stated

Sunday 26 July

8am Holy Communion (BCP)
9.45am Parish Communion

Monday 27 July

8am Morning Prayer on Zoom*

Wednesday 29 July

2.30pm Afternoon teas in Church House

Thursday 30 July

Vicar's day off

Saturday 1 August

11am Intercessions training - see notices for full details

Sunday 2 August

8am Holy Communion (BCP)
9.45am Parish Communion

Readings for 2 August

Isaiah 55: 1-5, Romans 9: 1-5
Matthew 14: 13-21

*ask wardens for link

Contact us

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