



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 19 July 7th Sunday after Trinity

### Collect

Generous God,  
you give us gifts and make them  
grow:  
though our faith is small as mustard  
seed,  
make it grow to your glory and the  
flourishing of your kingdom;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

let them declare and set it forth before  
me.

Who has announced from of old the  
things to come? Let them tell us what  
is yet to be.

Do not fear, or be afraid; have I not  
told you from of old and declared it?

You are my witnesses! Is there any  
god besides me? There is no other  
rock; I know not one.

### First Reading: Isaiah 44: 6-8

Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel,  
and his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts:

I am the first and I am the last;  
besides me there is no god.

Who is like me? Let them proclaim it,

### Second Reading: Romans 8: 12-35

So then, brothers and sisters, we  
are debtors, not to the flesh, to live  
according to the flesh— for if you live  
according to the flesh, you will die; but  
if by the Spirit you put to death the  
deeds of the body, you will live. For all  
who are led by the Spirit of God are  
children of God.

For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.

We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.

For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

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?

**Gospel Reading: Matthew 13: 24-30, 36-43**

He put before them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; but while everybody

was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well.

And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, “Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?’ He answered, “An enemy has done this.’ The slaves said to him, “Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ But he replied, “No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them.

Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’ “

Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world, and the good seed are the children

of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!

### **Post-communion Prayer**

Lord God,  
whose Son is the true vine and the source of life,  
ever giving himself that the world may live:  
may we so receive within ourselves the power of his death and passion that, in his saving cup, we may share his glory and be made perfect in his love;  
for he is alive and reigns,  
now and for ever.  
Amen.

## Notices

**This evening** we will be gathering for a **service of thanksgiving** for all who contribute to and shape the life of our church community.

All are welcome as we celebrate the bonds of love and fellowship, the generosity of time and talents, and wonderful ways in which our church

family seeks to serve God and the community.

After the service at 6pm there will be drinks and nibbles served in church. We hope you are able to join us.

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

### **Diary for this week**

*All in church unless otherwise stated*

#### **Sunday 19 July**

8am            Holy Communion (BCP)  
9.45am       Parish Communion  
6pm           Service of Thanksgiving for  
all our wonderful volunteers

#### **Monday 20 July**

8am           Morning Prayer on Zoom\*

#### **Thursday 23 July**

Vicar's day off

#### **Sunday 26 July**

8am           Holy Communion (BCP)  
9.45am       Parish Communion

#### **Readings for 26 July**

1 Kings 3: 5-12, Romans 8: 26-end  
Matthew 13: 31-33, 44-52

\*ask wardens for link

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## **Contact us**

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