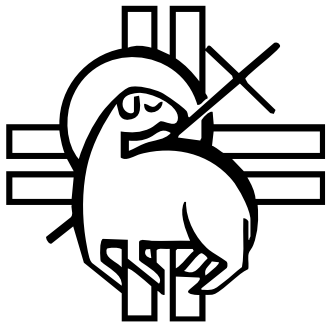




The Parish Church of

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 27 September

17th Sunday after Trinity

Collect

Almighty God,
you have made us for yourself,
and our hearts are restless
till they find their rest in you:
pour your love into our hearts
and draw us to yourself,
and so bring us at last
to your heavenly city
where we shall see you face to face;
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:

Ezekiel 18: 1-4, 25-end

The word of the Lord came to me:
What do you mean by repeating
this proverb concerning the land of
Israel, "The parents have eaten sour
grapes, and the children's teeth
are set on edge"? As I live, says
the Lord God, this proverb shall no
more be used by you in Israel. Know
that all lives are mine; the life of the
parent as well as the life of the child
is mine: it is only the person who
sins that shall die.

Yet you say, "The way of the Lord is
unfair." Hear now, O house of Israel:
Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways
that are unfair? When the righteous
turn away from their righteousness
and commit iniquity, they shall die
for it; for the iniquity that they have

committed they shall die. Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. Yet the house of Israel says, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel?

For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord God. Turn, then, and live.

Second Reading: **Philippians 2: 1-13**

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard

others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Gospel Reading: **Matthew 21: 23-32**

When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?”

Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.” So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

“What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ He answered, ‘I will not’; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, ‘I

go, sir’; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

Post-communion Prayer

Lord,
we pray that your grace may always precede and follow us,
and make us continually to be given to all good works;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Notices

St Francis of Assisi Pet Service: We will be celebrating in church with a Pet Service **today, Sunday 27 September at 4pm.** You are welcome to bring your pet – please ensure dogs are secured on leads and other pets in carriers or similar, you will remain responsible for the safety of your animal and its hygiene! Equally, if it is easier to bring a representative of your pet, such as a toy or a photograph, you are welcome to do so.

20s & 30s Group: Next Meeting: Following a lovely launch, we are excited to announce our next social meet-up on Tuesday 6th October at 7:30 pm. We will be gathering at The Plough Inn, Bodicote, once again—and your first drink is free! If you are in your 20s or 30s, we would love for you to join us for a relaxed evening of community and connection. To find out more or ask any questions, please contact Coral at stjohns20sand30s@

outlook.com.

Please continue to keep this exciting new ministry in your prayers.

We are now taking bookings for our **Quiz on Saturday 17th October at 7.30pm.** Teams of up to 6 @ £8 per person (£40 for a full team of 6 when booked) Bring your own drinks. Soft drinks and snacks available to buy. Please email the office to book your place. If unable to make a full team, please do still book and we can make up teams on the night.

We are always looking for new **volunteers** to help out at services whether welcoming, reading, praying, or serving refreshments after the service. If you might be willing to join the team, please get in touch with Joanna at jumbo1961@hotmail.co.uk

This week we pray for all who live or work in Badger Way and Melbourne Close.

Diary for this week

All in church unless otherwise stated

Sunday 27 September

8am Holy Communion (BCP)
9.45am Parish Communion
with Sunday Club
11.30am Baptism of Jacob Varnell
4pm Pet service

Monday 28 September

8am Morning Prayer on Zoom*

Wednesday 30th September

2.30pm Afternoon teas in Church House

Thursday 1 October

Vicar's day off

Saturday 3 October

2-3.30pm Family crafts in Church House

Sunday 4 October

8am Holy Communion (BCP)
9.45am All-age Harvest Communion
12noon Harvest Lunch

Readings for 4 October

Deuteronomy 8: 7-18
2 Corinthians 9: 6-end, *Luke 12: 22-30*

*ask wardens for link

Contact us

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