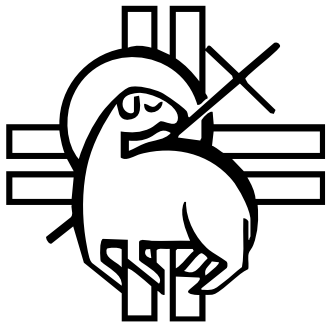




The Parish Church of

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 13 September

15th Sunday after Trinity

Collect

God, who in generous mercy
sent the Holy Spirit
upon your Church
in the burning fire of your love:
grant that your people
may be fervent
in the fellowship of the gospel
that, always abiding in you,
they may be found steadfast in faith
and active in service;
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: Genesis 50: 15-21

Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, "Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a

numerous people, as he is doing today. So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones.” In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

Second Reading: Romans 14: 1-12

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honour of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honour of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honour of the Lord and give thanks to God.

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written, “As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God.” So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 18: 21-35

Then Peter came and said to him, “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, “Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the

throat, he said, "Pay what you owe.' Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, "You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

Post-communion Prayer

Keep, O Lord, your Church, with your perpetual mercy;
and, because without you our human frailty cannot but fall,
keep us ever by your help from all things hurtful,
and lead us to all things profitable to our salvation,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Notices

Flowers in church this week have been donated by Gill Whitrow memory of her husband, Allen, who passed away 27 years ago today. Please remember them in your prayers today.

The **Silent Auction** for the George Walker paintings continues until Sunday 20 September. They will be on display in Church House again after the 9.45am service for viewing.

St Francis of Assisi Pet Service: During creationtide and approaching the feast day of St Francis of Assisi, it seems an appropriate time to celebrate and bless the creatures with whom we share this earth and, indeed, our homes. We will be celebrating in church with a Pet Service on **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. Do pass on the invitation to any others who may be interested.

Upcoming dates for your diary:

Saturday 3 October 2pm

Family Autumn crafts

Sunday 4 October

Harvest services and lunch

Saturday 17 October 7.30pm

Quiz night

full details can be found in our magazine.

This week we pray for all who live or work in Kedleston Rise, Woodhall Drive, and Hillside Close.

Diary for this week

All in church unless otherwise stated

Sunday 13 September

8am Holy Communion (BCP)

9.45am Parish Communion

11.30am Baptism of Harry Barns and James Newbold

Monday 14 September

8am Morning Prayer on Zoom*

Wednesday 16 September

2.30pm Afternoon teas in Church House

Thursday 17 September

Vicar's day off

Sunday 20 September

8am Holy Communion (BCP)

9.45am Parish Communion

Readings for 20 September

Isaiah 3: 10 - end of 4,
Philippians 1: 21-end, Matthew 20: 1-16

*ask wardens for link

Contact us

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