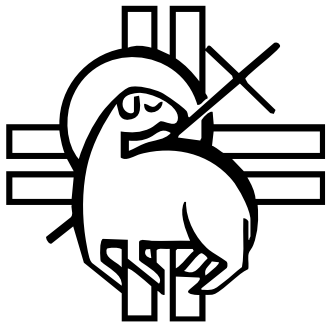




The Parish Church of

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 20 September 16th Sunday after Trinity

Collect

O Lord,
we beseech you mercifully
to hear the prayers of your people
who call upon you;
and grant that they
may both perceive and know
what things they ought to do,
and also may have grace and power
faithfully to fulfil them;
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:

Jonah 3: 10 - end of 4

When God saw what they did, how
they turned from their evil ways, God

changed his mind about the calamity
that he had said he would bring upon
them; and he did not do it.

But this was very displeasing to
Jonah, and he became angry. He
prayed to the Lord and said, "O Lord!
Is not this what I said while I was
still in my own country? That is why
I fled to Tarshish at the beginning;
for I knew that you are a gracious
God and merciful, slow to anger, and
abounding in steadfast love, and
ready to relent from punishing. And
now, O Lord, please take my life from
me, for it is better for me to die than
to live." And the Lord said, "Is it right
for you to be angry?" Then Jonah
went out of the city and sat down
east of the city, and made a booth
for himself there. He sat under it in
the shade, waiting to see what would
become of the city.

The Lord God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live."

But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." Then the Lord said, "You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labour and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?"

Second Reading: Philippians 1: 21-end

For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labour for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more

necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing.

For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well—since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 20: 1-16

Jesus said "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the labourers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, "You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. When he went out

again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, "Why are you standing here idle all day?' They said to him, "Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, "You also go into the vineyard.' When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, "Call the labourers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, "These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of

the day and the scorching heat.' But he replied to one of them, "Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

Post-communion Prayer

Almighty God,
you have taught us through your Son
that love is the fulfilling of the law:
grant that we may love you with our
whole heart and our neighbours as
ourselves;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Notices

The **Silent Auction** for the George Walker paintings finishes today, Sunday 20 September. They will be on display in Church House again after the 9.45am service for viewing and your last chance to make your bid.

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 our lives. We will be celebrating in church with a Pet Service **next 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.

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.

This week we pray for all who live or work in Harewood Road and Arbury Close.

****The Church Experience** for the children of Bishop Loveday School will be in church during the mornings of **Monday 21st to Wednesday 23rd inclusive.** Please pray for all those taking part.

Diary for this week

All in church unless otherwise stated

Sunday 20 September

8am Holy Communion (BCP)
9.45am Parish Communion

**Monday 21 September

8am Morning Prayer on Zoom*

Thursday 24 September

Vicar's day off

Sunday 27 September

8am Holy Communion (BCP)
9.45am Parish Communion with
Sunday Club
4pm Pet Service

Readings for 27 September

Ezekiel 18: 1-4, 25-end
Philippians 2: 1-13, Matthew 21: 23-32

*ask wardens for link

Contact us

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