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 1 November
All Saints' Day

Collect

God of holiness,
your glory is proclaimed in every age:
as we rejoice in the faith of your saints,
inspire us to follow their example
with boldness and joy;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

First Reading: Revelation 7: 9-end

After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!" And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, singing, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honour and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?" I said to him, "Sir, you are the one that knows." Then he said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter

them. They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; for the Lamb at the centre of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

Second Reading: 1 John 3: 1-3

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 5: 1-12

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

"Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

"Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Post Communion Prayer

God, the source of all holiness
and giver of all good things:
may we who have shared at this table as strangers and pilgrims here on earth
be welcomed with all your saints to the heavenly feast on the day of your kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Thanksgiving for the Holy Ones of God

You may wish to use this litany of thanksgiving for your prayers today or during the week.

For Abraham and Sarah, our ancestors in faith, and all who journey into the unknown trusting God's promises:

For Jacob, deceitful younger brother, yet chosen by God, the father of all who are called by virtue not of their own:

For Moses the lawgiver and Aaron the priest, and all who lead God's people to freedom and newness of life:

For Esther and Deborah, saviours of their nation, and for all who dare to act courageously at God's call:

For Hannah and Ruth, and all who through love and devotion witness to the faithfulness of God:

For Isaiah, John the Baptist and all the prophets, and all who speak the truth without counting the cost:

For Mary the Virgin, the mother of our Lord and God, and all who obey God's call without question:

For Andrew and John and the first disciples, and for all who forsake everything to follow Jesus:

For Mary Magdalene, Salome and Mary, first witnesses of the resurrection, and for all who bear witness to Christ:

For Peter and Paul and the apostles, who preached the gospel to Jew and Gentile, and for all who take the good news to the ends of the earth:

For Barnabas, Silas and Timothy, and for all who bring encouragement and steadfastness:

For all those in our own lives who have revealed to us the love of God and shown to us the way of holiness:

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Notices

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.

The **Annual Service of Remembrance** will take place in church at 3pm on Sunday 8th November. There will also be a short commemoration service at the site of the Wellington Bomber crash at 10.45am that same day. On Armistace Day, Wednesday, 11th November, at 10.45 there will be a brief service of remembrance round the War Memorial in the churchyard.

Our **Christmas bazaar** takes place in Church House on Saturday 14th November at 2pm. There will be all the usual stalls and we are now asking for donations towards these stalls - bottles of any description, unwanted gifts and raffle prizes. Cakes will also be much appreciated and can be brought along on the day.

Children's Society Boxes As incredibly it is nearly November I would be grateful if boxes could be brought into church. If you are unable to do so please ring me on 07831 810278 and I can collect from you. Again, many thanks to all boxholders. I understand from The Children's Society that your donations are greatly appreciated. Sue Hollies

This week we pray for all who live or work in Hazeldene Gardens and Marten Gate.

Diary for this week
All in church unless otherwise stated

Sunday 1 November
8am Holy Communion (BCP)
9.45am Parish Communion
6pm Service for the Commemoration of the Departed (All Souls)

Monday 2 November
8am Morning Prayer on Zoom*

Wednesday 4 November
2.30pm Afernoon teas in Church House

Thursday 5 November
Vicar's day off

Sunday 8 November
8am Holy Communion (BCP)
9.45am Parish Communion
3pm Annual Service of Remembrance

Readings for 8 November
Wisdom of Solomon 6.17–20;
1 Thessalonians 4.13–end;
Matthew 25.1–13

*ask wardens for link

Contact us

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