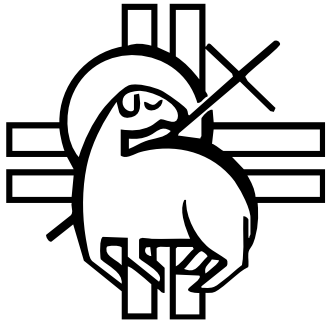




The Parish Church of

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 4 October Harvest Thanksgiving

Collect

Creator God,
you made the goodness of the land,
the riches of the sea and the rhythm
of the seasons;
as we thank you for the harvest,
may we cherish and respect this
planet and its peoples,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

First Reading:

Deuteronomy 8: 7-18

For the Lord your God is bringing you into a good land, a land with flowing streams, with springs and underground waters welling up in valleys and hills, a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey, a land where you may eat

bread without scarcity, where you will lack nothing, a land whose stones are iron and from whose hills you may mine copper. You shall eat your fill and bless the Lord your God for the good land that he has given you.

Take care that you do not forget the Lord your God, by failing to keep his commandments, his ordinances, and his statutes, which I am commanding you today. When you have eaten your fill and have built fine houses and live in them, and when your herds and flocks have multiplied, and your silver and gold is multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied, then do not exalt yourself, forgetting the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, who led you through the great and terrible wilderness, an arid wasteland with poisonous snakes

and scorpions. He made water flow for you from flint rock, and fed you in the wilderness with manna that your ancestors did not know, to humble you and to test you, and in the end to do you good. Do not say to yourself, “My power and the might of my own hand have gotten me this wealth.” But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth, so that he may confirm his covenant that he swore to your ancestors, as he is doing today.

Second Reading:
2 Corinthians 9: 6-end.

What I mean is this: the one who sows a small number of seeds will also reap a small crop, and the one who sows a generous amount of seeds will also reap a generous crop.

Everyone should give whatever they have decided in their heart. They shouldn't give with hesitation or because of pressure. God loves a cheerful giver. God has the power to provide you with more than enough of every kind of grace. That way, you will have everything you need always and in everything to provide more than enough for every kind of good work. As it is written, He scattered everywhere; he gave to the needy; his righteousness remains forever.

The one who supplies seed for planting and bread for eating will supply and multiply your seed and will increase your crop, which is righteousness. You will be made

rich in every way so that you can be generous in every way. Such generosity produces thanksgiving to God through us. Your ministry of this service to God's people isn't only fully meeting their needs but it is also multiplying in many expressions of thanksgiving to God. They will give honor to God for your obedience to your confession of Christ's gospel. They will do this because this service provides evidence of your obedience, and because of your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone. They will also pray for you, and they will care deeply for you because of the outstanding grace that God has given to you. Thank God for his gift that words can't describe!

Gospel Reading:
Matthew 6: 25-33

Jesus said to his disciples, “Therefore, I say to you, don't worry about your life, what you'll eat or what you'll drink, or about your body, what you'll wear. Isn't life more than food and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds in the sky. They don't sow seed or harvest grain or gather crops into barns. Yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Aren't you worth much more than they are? Who among you by worrying can add a single moment to your life? And why do you worry about clothes? Notice how the lilies in the field grow. They don't wear themselves out with work, and they don't spin cloth. But I say to you that even Solomon in all of his splendor wasn't dressed like one

of these. If God dresses grass in the field so beautifully, even though it's alive today and tomorrow it's thrown into the furnace, won't God do much more for you, you people of weak faith? Therefore, don't worry and say, 'What are we going to eat?' or 'What are we going to drink?' or 'What are we going to wear?' Gentiles long for all these things. Your heavenly Father knows that you need them. Instead, desire first and foremost God's kingdom and God's righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."

Post-communion Prayer

Lord of the harvest,
with joy we have offered
thanksgiving for your love in
creation and have shared in the
bread and the wine of the kingdom:
by your grace plant within us a
reverence for all that you give us
and make us generous and wise
stewards of the good things we
enjoy;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Notices

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.

All are welcome to join us for creation-themed Evensong on **Sunday 18 October at 6pm**.

Congratulations to Susan Jackson and Andrew Tustian - the winners of our silent auction for George Walker's paintings. Thank you to all who took part, we hope you enjoyed getting to see the artwork before they go to new homes.

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 Blenheim Road, Longleat Close, and Aston Close

Diary for this week

All in church unless otherwise stated

Sunday 4 October

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

Monday 5 October

8am Morning Prayer on Zoom*

Wednesday 7 October

2.30pm Afternoon teas in Church House

Thursday 8 October

Vicar's day off

Sunday 11 October

8am Holy Communion (BCP)
9.45am Parish Communion

Readings for 11 October

Isaiah 25: 1-9, Philippians 4: 1-9
Matthew 22: 1-14

*ask wardens for link

Contact us

Vicar: Revd Emily Hockliffe Essex revd.emily@gmail.com 07979 931889

Associate Minister: Revd Alice Jolley mthr.alicejolley@outlook.com

Churchwardens: churchwardens.bodicotechurch@gmail.com

Treasurer: treasurer.bodicotechurch@gmail.com

Administrator: office.bodicotechurch@gmail.com

Website: www.achurchnearyou.com/church/5406/

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/BodicoteParishChurch>