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 15 November
2nd Sunday before Advent

Collect

Heavenly Father,
whose blessed Son was revealed to destroy the works of the devil
and to make us the children of God and heirs of eternal life:
grant that we, having this hope,
may purify ourselves
even as he is pure;
that when he shall appear
in power and great glory
we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom;
where he is alive
and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

First Reading:
Zephaniah 1: 7, 12-end

Be silent before the Lord God! For the day of the Lord is at hand; the Lord has prepared a sacrifice, he has consecrated his guests.

At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the people who rest complacently on their dregs, those who say in their hearts, “The Lord will not do good, nor will he do harm.” Their wealth shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them. The great day of the Lord is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the Lord is bitter, the warrior cries aloud there.

That day will be a day of wrath, a day

of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements.

I will bring such distress upon people that they shall walk like the blind; because they have sinned against the Lord, their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like dung. Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the Lord's wrath; in the fire of his passion the whole earth shall be consumed; for a full, a terrible end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

Second Reading:
1 Thessalonians 5: 1-11

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

Gospel Reading:
Matthew 25: 14-30

Jesus said to his disciples: "For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, "Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter

into the joy of your master.' And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, "Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, "Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' But his master replied, "You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

Post Communion Prayer

Gracious Lord,
in this holy sacrament
you give substance to our hope:
bring us at the last
to that fullness of life
for which we long;
through Jesus Christ our Saviour.
Amen.

Notices

We are always looking for volunteers to help at services as sidespeople, readers and leaders of the intercessions as well as people to prepare and serve coffee after the 9.45am service. We are coming up to a very busy time, with all the extra services over Christmas. Maybe this would be a good time to test the waters and offer your help to cover this period, with absolutely no obligation to continue afterwards! If you would like to know more of what is involved, please speak to those on duty. Joanna would love to hear from you as she prepares the December and January rota. jumbo1961@hotmail.co.uk

Our Advent and Christmas Services for your diary:
Sunday 29th November 6pm
Advent Carol Service
Sunday 6th December 3pm
Christingle
Sunday 13th December 6pm
Christmas Carol Service
Sunday 20th December 4pm
Longest Night service
Christmas Eve
4pm Crib Service,
11pm Midnight Mass
Christmas Day
8am (BCP) and
9.45am All-age Holy Communion

This week we pray for all who live or work in Whimbrel Way, Grebe Road, Dunlin Court and Teal Close.

Diary for this week
All in church unless otherwise stated

Sunday 15 November
8am Holy Communion (BCP)
9.45am Parish Communion

Monday 16 November
8am **NO** Morning Prayer on Zoom - restarts 23rd November
11am Funeral of Anne Inns

Wednesday 18 November
2.30pm Afternoon teas in Church House

Sunday 22 November - Safeguarding Sunday
8am Holy Communion (BCP)
9.45am Parish Communion

Readings for 22 November
Psalm 91: 1-16. I Corinthians 13: 1-13
Luke 10: 25-37

Contact us

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