

THE MAGAZINE OF

# *St John the Baptist Parish Church*



Serving the communities of  
**Bodicote, Cherwell Heights and Longford Park**

**August/September 2025**

# Churchwardens' Corner, July 2025

Following on from the last Churchwardens' Corner, Rob continues to improve. He's now able to do odd jobs around the church and does his share of the admin tasks as previously. Still attending cardio rehab gym sessions at present, he's hoping to be discharged by the JR in a couple of months' time. Probably won't be running any marathons though, not that he ever did.

Last time we mentioned our disappointment at the lack of applicants to be our new vicar. When you consider that Bodicote is a single benefice parish, meaning it only has one church not three or four like many other parishes, we were surprised to say the least. The post was readvertised in the Church Times at the end of May and on this occasion, we received six applications. A short list was prepared and three candidates visited Bodicote on Thursday 10th July to be interviewed. After a short Eucharist service led by the Bishop, the formal interview process was conducted in Church House. All three candidates were excellent, making it difficult for the six-person interview panel to reach a verdict. However, we have appointed a new vicar. Once the formalities have been completed, we'll be able to let you know who they are! We would like to thank all the members of the PCC who were able to attend for their hard work providing catering, various visits around the parish and looking after the candidates. It all went like clockwork thanks to you!

Later in the year, a licensing service will be held for the new vicar. Similar to the service provided for Sarah at Wychwood Benefice last year. Let's hope we don't have atrocious weather on this occasion.

As always, the work of the church continues with services taking place as usual. We continue to hold various social activities including Afternoon Teas, Bingo, Quiz Nights etc. Further details can be found in this edition of the magazine. One such event was the Church Fete and Treasure Hunt, held earlier this year on 17 May. We were incredibly lucky to be blessed with good weather and the help of many local organisations who provided various stalls and attractions. Obviously, members of the church were involved and the bellringers gave a resounding demonstration of their skills. The Fete was well attended and it was good to see everyone enjoying themselves. Our thanks to all those who helped to make the Fete such a success!

None of the above could take place if it weren't for the help of others. So, our thanks go to our loyal congregation, the PCC and the supportive visiting clergy. The help and support they all provide is quite simply amazing, a big THANK YOU to all of you!

**Lynne Philpot and Rob Kirk**, Churchwardens

## Cover Photo

Photo from our archives - flowers in church as part of Bodicote Open Gardens (2017)



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## Thank you...

...to all who came along to our  
**May fete and mini treasure hunt.**

We were thrilled with the turnout,  
and you will be pleased to hear

**WE RAISED £900  
FOR CHURCH FUNDS**

The local groups taking part  
also raised money for their funds  
and everyone seemed to enjoy  
the afternoon.

We hope to repeat this event  
next year on Saturday 16th May,  
so do look out for details  
nearer the time.

## Sunday Services

The church is open for private prayer,  
and to exchange books and jigsaws  
between **9.00am and 4.00pm daily**  
except when there is a service.

**8:00am** Communion in Church  
(Book of Common Prayer)

**9:45am** Parish Communion in  
Church

**6:00pm** Occasional services  
in Church  
As advertised on our  
website and Facebook page





## Young Eco-Warriors: 1st Bodicote Rainbows Lead the Way in Environmental Action!

**The youngest members of our local Girlguiding family are making a big splash in environmental conservation!**

This term, the 1st Bodicote Rainbows have embraced their role as guardians of our planet through the brand-new Girlguiding Eco-Award program.

These enthusiastic 5-7 year olds have been busy constructing bug huts to enhance biodiversity on Church grounds, creating wildflower seed bombs to brighten community spaces, crafting bird feeders, and planting herbs and vegetables to learn about sustainable food.



Launched on Earth Day 2025, the Eco-Award is the first program accessible to all age groups from 4-18 years across Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, and Rangers. It empowers girls to take ownership of environmental actions, fostering responsibility from an early age.

These valuable units rely entirely on volunteers. If you're looking for a rewarding way to give back, consider volunteering with Girlguiding - no previous experience necessary!

Visit [www.girlguiding.org.uk](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk) today to register your interest.

**Would you like your daughter to join?** Bodicote hosts three active Girlguiding units:

- Rainbows (ages 5-7),
- Brownies (ages 7-10) and,
- Guides (ages 10-14)

Visit [www.girlguiding.org.uk](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk) to register your interest.



## Bishop Loveday School News

This term, we have welcomed our new cohort of children and parents into our school community. It was lovely to meet everybody, and all of our children have enjoyed 'Move up Monday' meeting their new teachers and teaching assistants.

At the end of June, our year 6 children did a fantastic production of Pirates of the Curry Bean. All of our children had a chance to shine whether it was singing, dancing, acting or being part of the stage crew, lighting or sound. We were so proud!

The following week, we also enjoyed our new community event, 'FOBLS Fest'. The attendance was amazing and the atmosphere was brilliant. Thank you to everybody who helped and supported with this event.

We then had our annual community event with Frank Wise. Every week, Frank Wise children come to join in with our learning with our year 3 children. The children performed handbell pieces together to the parents/carers from both schools. It was then time for both our communities to join in with a folk music workshop. We had so much fun!

We continue to strive with the sport that takes place at BLS, gaining the Schools Games Platinum Award this summer after achieving Gold six years in a row. Our year 3/4 and 5/6 quad kids teams made it through to the North Oxfordshire Final and improved on their personal bests achieving lots of Gold and Silver levels. This year, we have entered a year 6 girls' and boys' Banbury Partnership football tournament. Our girls made it through to the semi finals and our boys are playing the final this week! We are so proud of them all and they have shown such kindness and respect throughout.

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank our children, staff and parents as we come to the end of the academic year. We have had such an amazing year and our staff have worked so incredibly hard, they really do go above and beyond for the children within our school community. We are so proud of what our children have achieved this year and the support from our parents has been so appreciated.

Written by **Dee Loader**

# Mothers' Union, Bodicote Branch *Join us and join in!*



Our May meeting was a little different as it was an Open Evening with members of the community joining us for a talk by Mike Chapman from the Commonwealth Graves Commission. This was a very interesting talk as we were told about the history and the ongoing work of the Commission.

Our June meeting was also a change from our usual routine as we had been invited to visit Sarah Sharp at her home in Shipton-under-Wychwood. A group of 19 members and husbands went and enjoyed afternoon tea in Sarah's garden.

The July meeting was an introduction to Flower Arranging. Chris Danks kindly gave a demonstration of how to put together a simple small table arrangement. Then members were encouraged to make their own small arrangement to take home, from the flowers and greenery that Chris had provided. It was a very successful evening.

**On 10th August in 6.00pm in Church** when we will be holding our annual Service to celebrate the life and Work of Mary Sumner – founder of the Mother's Union. Everyone (members and non-members) are encouraged to attend this special Service.

Then our next meeting will be on **September 10th at 7.30pm in Church House** when the speaker for the evening will be the Rev'd Steve Short. He will be talking to us about his work on Bretch Hill and the title of his talk is – 'Reaching the Least, the Last and the Lost'.

## Join us and join in!

All are welcome to come to any of our meetings or services. If you would like any further information about our Branch or the Mothers' Union then please contact either Lynne Philpot on 01295 256982 or Claire Roberts on 01295 254597.

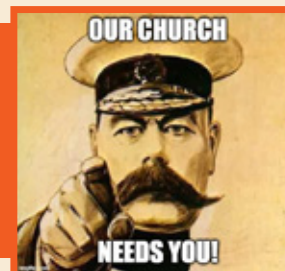


**Churchyard working parties are held on the 1st Saturday of each month from 9.30am. (March to December)**

*New volunteers are always welcome!*

*Please bring along your own gardening tools and help us to keep our beautiful churchyard tidy.*

**Refreshments are available on a "bring and share" basis.**



# *Our churchyard needs you!*

You don't need to be Alan Titchmarsh or Monty Don! You just need to have some spare time on the first Saturday of each month and some basic gardening tools (we can lend these if necessary).

Our small group of friendly people will welcome you with open arms! We meet at around 9.15am and finish with bring and share refreshments at about 11am. No need to stay the whole time – even 1/2 hour would be appreciated. Please do contact the office email/mobile phone for more details.

Thank you in advance, **Marian Kirk**





## OPEN TOWER AT BODICOTE FETE

17th May 2025

At the Church Fete this year I made the bell tower open to visitors. A good number of people came, including a few mums and dads with young children. I gave a brief description into how the bells are installed for ringing and an introduction to change ringing. Supported by some of our regular ringers we gave some demonstrations of ringing.

I had set aside a bell rope that was attached to a bell in a 'safe' mode and offered the chance for one or two youngsters to try to ring it. When after a few pulls they made it ring there was such a look of delight on their faces!

If anyone would like to join us and learn to ring, please come along on a Monday evening between 7.30-9.00pm. (not bank holidays) We ring on Sunday mornings from 9.00 – 9.45am and for special occasions, such as weddings, as well as hosting visits from other groups of bellringers.

**Martin Saunders**, Tower Captain

Contact can be made through the church email:  
**office.bodicotechurch@gmail.com**,  
 Or mobile **07840 646651**.



**St. John the Baptist  
Parish Church, Bodicote**

Join us for an afternoon of

# BINGO

in Bodicote Church House on Saturdays:

**27th September, 25th October  
and 29th November**

for a fun, family afternoon. Eyes down at 2pm

£6 for a book of 5 games, to include tea and biscuits. Cake charged as an optional extra!

Raffle, £1 a ticket.  
Prizes for first line and full house.



## Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust RIDE & STRIDE 2025

**Saturday 13th September**

We are hoping to outdo last year's efforts with more riders and striders and sponsors! We will need volunteers to be welcoming in the church so that visitors will be able to have a drink and a rest, if required. If you would like to take part, on whatever mode of transport you can think of, you will find forms in church to enable you to gather sponsors.

There is also an online option for this.

Please visit <https://ohct.org.uk/ride-and-stride/> for more details.

Thank you for your support.

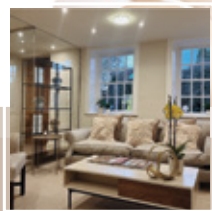
Marian Kirk

**RIDE+STRIDE**  
for Churches 2025

From the moment you step through the doors of all the Cedar salons you are enveloped in a serene atmosphere designed to soothe the senses and rejuvenate the spirit.

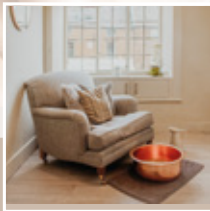
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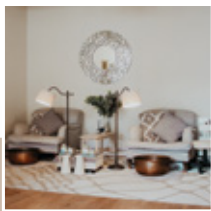
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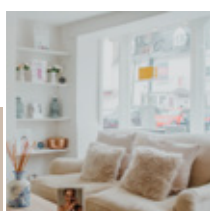
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## Sunday Club

We will be taking a summer break from Sunday Club, re-starting on Sunday 28th September and continuing on the last Sunday of each month (omitting December) during the 9.45am service.

For those of you who haven't been before, we start in church, leaving during the first hymn to go over to Church House for a Bible story and related crafts and activities, leaving parents to be able to focus on the service without their usual distractions! We will bring the children back to church in time to join their families for Holy Communion.

We do have a children's corner in church, with various books and toys for the younger children, as well as some colouring activities for slightly older ones. Please do make use of these!

## Afternoon Teas

**Bodicote Church House**  
(adjacent to the church)

**2:30pm - 3:30pm**

The 1st, 3rd & 5th  
Wednesday of each month.

**Fun Table Quiz. Donations towards the cost.**

*All welcome*



## Future Dates for your diary

### Autumn Bingo afternoons

Saturdays 27th September,  
25th October & 29th  
November 2pm

### Christmas Bazaar

Saturday 6th December 2pm

### Christmas Family Crafts

Saturday 13th December 2pm

### Autumn Family Crafts

Saturday 4th October 2pm

### Banbury Strings Concert

Saturday 4th October 7.30pm







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St. John the Baptist Church, Bodicote

Serving the communities of Bodicote, Cherwell Heights and Longford Park

## Autumn Family crafts afternoon

in Bodicote Church House

Saturday 4th October

2—3.30pm

No charge, but donations towards costs much appreciated.

Do come along and join us for an afternoon of Autumn- themed crafts which you can  
enjoy with your child(ren)

All children must be accompanied by a responsible adult.



**BANBURYSHIRE ADVICE CENTRE**

### Need Advice?

We can help with Benefit advice, benefit forms, general advice, education course information and Career Advice. We are able to arrange Home Visits to fill in disability forms with DWP Visiting Team. We do not give debt advice but can issue Foodbank vouchers.

Our advice points are across Banbury. We help people living in Oxfordshire, South Northants and South Warwickshire and Buckinghamshire. The service is run by volunteers. Please feel free to make a donation to support the charity.

We are closed on Fridays and weekends. Appointments take place between 10.30am to 2pm.

### Need advice on Power of Attorney and Wills?

We can arrange free initial advice.

Main Phone line 01295 279988 and leave a message.

### We work by appointments only

Email is the quickest way to get a response. Email [helpdeskbanpc@yahoo.com](mailto:helpdeskbanpc@yahoo.com)

### Banburyshire Advice Centre

Cherwell Business Village, Units F10-F11, Southam Road, Banbury, OX16 2SP  
TEL: 01295 279988 and leave a message.

### Phoenix Office

49C Castle Street, Banbury, OX16 5NU  
TEL: 01295 257974 (only staffed on appointment days)

### Website:

[www.banburyshirecitizenproject.org.uk](http://www.banburyshirecitizenproject.org.uk)

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## Want to stay in touch?

Check out service times, events and other information.

### Facebook

Why not 'like' our Facebook page?

**www.facebook.com/BodicoteParishChurch**



We keep this updated with news of services and what we are doing, as well as daily posts of prayers and perhaps a 'thought for the day,' relevant painting or sculpture, piece of music, words of a hymn and so on.

For those of you particularly interested in our fundraising and charitable giving, we have a dedicated Bodicote Church Fundraising group which you are welcome to join:

**www.facebook.com/groups/255936438824026**

### Website

More detailed information about the church, its people, history, services and events, as well as links to the weekly newsletters can be found on our website:

**www.achurchnearyou.com/church/5406/**

### Useful Contacts:

**Church Wardens**  
churchwardens.bodicotechurch@gmail.com

**Parish Administrator** (for general enquiries)  
office.bodicotechurch@gmail.com

**Treasurer**  
treasurer.bodicotechurch@gmail.com

**Church Mobile Phone**  
07840 646651

**Church House Hire - Nicholas Hart**  
01295 253747  
ncahart@hotmail.co.uk

**Baptism Bookings - Claire Roberts**  
claireroberts500@gmail.com

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### Want to make a donation?

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<https://www.parishgiving.org.uk/donors/find-your-parish/bodicote-st-john-banbury/>





# ***Banbury Strings***

A concert by the  
**Banbury String Players**

**October 4<sup>th</sup> 7.30 - 9.00pm.**

Tickets: £10 to include a glass  
of wine or soft drink.

Children under 16: £5

Raffle

Tickets available in advance from the church after Sunday  
services or **[office.bodicotechurch@gmail.com](mailto:office.bodicotechurch@gmail.com)** from  
mid-August. Will also be available at the door.