

THE MAGAZINE OF

St John the Baptist Parish Church



Serving the communities of
Bodicote, Cherwell Heights and Longford Park

October/November 2025

Introduction from our New Vicar



It is a real pleasure to be writing this introduction for the parish magazine and to anticipate the beginning of my time with you all in November. I am very much looking forward to joining you as your new vicar, along with my partner, Miranda, and our dog Mimi (who has already visited the church and declared her satisfaction with it by singing along to the organ!)

We have spent the past three years in Headington Quarry, where I have served my curacy at Holy Trinity church – the worshipping home of C.S. Lewis. In addition to learning about church life and my own ministry, I've particularly enjoyed expanding our ministry to children, young people, and families; developing the many and varied gifts of the church community; and creating worship that is warm, inclusive, and rooted in tradition. I've also been privileged to lead Holy Trinity through the last nine months of vacancy, which has been a fantastic foundation from which to enter my first incumbent's post.

Alongside parish ministry, I engage in academic work in the field of feminist trauma theology. This explores how our Christian faith speaks into experiences of pain and brokenness, and how God's love meets us in those places with hope and healing. I'm really passionate about finding ways to bridge the gap between academic theology – even at its most complex or abstract – and the day-to-day life of faith.

This is (in my rather biased opinion) the best job in the world! No other role combines tea and cake and deep questions, and music and tears and laughter, the way ministry does. I look forward, perhaps most of all, to the opportunities to get to know you: to share in the ordinary moments of village and parish life, to hear your stories, and to discover how God is already at work among you. I'm excited to celebrate and honour all that has shaped this community, and to look for new opportunities and ideas as we grow together. At the heart of it all, I hope to be a prayerful, encouraging, and visible presence in the parish, as we make this journey of faith together.

I am hugely grateful for the warm welcome I received on the day of the interviews, and I am excited to celebrate with you when I am officially installed on Wednesday 12 November.

With every blessing for the coming weeks,

Revd Emily Hockliffe Essex

Cover Photo

James Neal, aged 8

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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

Churchwardens' Corner, September 2025

Having successfully appointed our new vicar on the 10th July we are now entering an exciting time for our parish. The Rev'd Emily Hockliffe Essex will be joining us in November and plans are in hand to give her a very warm welcome when she is instituted, inducted and installed in a service in church on Wednesday, 12th November at 7.30 pm, to which all are welcome. From a strong field Emily was the stand-out candidate and we are looking forward to working with her. Please see Emily's introduction in the inside front cover of the magazine.

Apart from the planning for this service the life of the parish continues. We were very pleased that Paul Sansom, our Treasurer, married Leanne here in church on the 6th September at a joyful ceremony led by the Rev'd Nick Fielden.

Thanks are also due to everyone who got involved with the annual Ride and Stride on the 13th September. Half of the sponsorship money comes back to the church and the remainder goes to the Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust, which supports Oxfordshire churches.

Looking forward, on the last Sunday of the month our Sunday Club will resume and our Harvest Festival services will take place on the 5th October. Both services will be led by a very good friend of this church - the Rev'd Canon Glyn Evans. It is fitting that Glyn leads these services as he was, for many years, the Diocesan Rural Officer. We also look forward to welcoming Michael and Jodie who are to be married here on 10th October.

On 2nd November we shall hold our annual All Souls' Service at 6.00 pm. This is a thoughtful service when we remember all our loved ones who have gone before us by lighting candles in their memory. A week later - 9th November - we shall hold our annual Remembrance Day service in the afternoon and a brief service round the war memorial in the churchyard at 11.00 am on Tuesday 11th November.

Other community events are planned - the usual Afternoon Teas on certain Wednesday afternoons and the popular Bingo sessions resume on the 27th September. An autumn highlight will be the Banbury Strings concert on the 4th October at 7.30 pm. Please see the posters or ask for details. On the same day our popular Family Craft Session for the Autumn will take place in Church House from 2.00 - 3.30 pm.

As always we are indebted to the PCC and the many people in the congregation who have shared their skills and talents in providing meaningful acts of worship and enjoyable activities. Last, but certainly not least, our thanks go to the visiting clergy who, Sunday by Sunday, lead our worship with such care and commitment.

Lynne Philpot and Rob Kirk, Churchwardens

St. John the Baptist Parish Church,
Bodicote

Sunday Club

Our Sunday Club sessions continue on the last Sunday of each month, during the 9.45am service.

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.

All primary aged children are welcome to join us but, please note, this is not a "drop off" - parents/grandparents/carers are expected to be in the church service for the duration!

Sunday 28th September Noah's Ark

Sunday 26th October David and Goliath

Sunday 30th November Meaning of the Christingle

Please note: No Sunday Club in December

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



In August we held a lovely service in Church to celebrate and give thanks for the life and work of Mary Sumner, founder of the Mothers' Union and for all that has been achieved in her name for the glory of God. From the first meeting in Old Alresford in 1876, the Mothers' Union has made a difference across the world to the lives of millions of people. The service was well attended by members and friends.

At our September meeting the speaker was the Rev'd Steve Short, Associate Minister from St Paul's Church in Banbury. His talk was titled 'Reaching the Least, the Last and the Lost'. He works with and supports the residents on the Bretch Hill Estate and has started a new worshipping community there which meets in the Sunshine Centre. The services are open to all; they are less formal than traditional services and include discussions on the Bible Readings/Lessons and even has a coffee break in the middle. It aims to provide practical care as well as proclaiming the Gospel to the community. It was a very interesting talk and certainly gave us something to think about.

Our next meeting is on October 8th when we will be having our Harvest Service at 7.00pm followed by a Bring and Share Supper. Members are welcome to bring guests. October 15th is the Diocesan Autumn Meeting and AGM at Benson. If any member would like to go, please speak to one of the committee members.

As Autumn comes in with the darker evenings, we will now be holding our meetings at 2.30pm until the Spring. So, the next meeting will be at 2.30pm on Wednesday 12th November. Once again, we will be writing Christmas Cards for the prisoners in Bullingdon Prison.

This year's Christingle Service is on Sunday 30th November at 3pm and will be led by Revd Emily Hockliffe Essex. As usual, members of the Mothers' Union will be preparing Christingles for each child the day before.

Our last meeting of the year will be at 2.30pm on 10th December which will our Christmas Social.

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.

Bishop Loveday School News

We have had an amazing start to the term, and it has been so lovely to welcome so many new families to our school! We have welcomed our new children into early years as well as across other year groups throughout the school. The children have come back so determined to try their best and we have been so proud of what they have achieved in their learning already!

The term started for the children focusing on relationships and routines and looking at our vision and who we are as a school. We have created collaborative pieces of artwork and the children have enjoyed working with a couple of artists to create an art installation for the front of our school.

We always start the school sporting calendar with our annual cross country event for all of our KS2 children. We were so proud of all of our children and how they showed such support and kindness to each other, as well as determination to finish the race. We will now send 4 teams of children in key stage 2 to compete at Wykham Park with other schools within the Banbury area.

Our Courageous Advocate Team have been chosen by their peers and we are looking forward to our first meeting where we discuss, as a pupil voice, targets for the year to make the school and community a better place.

We are all very excited about the new school year ahead!

Written by **Dee Loader**

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.



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.

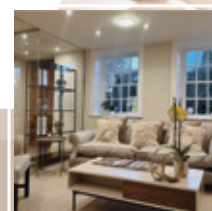


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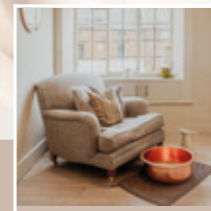
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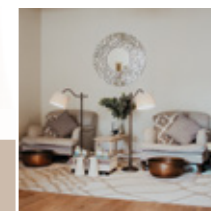
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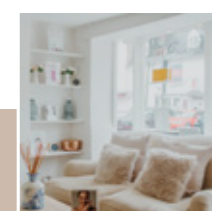
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St. John the Baptist Parish Church, Bodicote

Family Christmas Crafts Afternoon

on

Saturday 13th December

2—3.30pm

in Bodicote Church House

Come along and join us for a relaxed
and fun afternoon trying various crafts

Free event, but any donations towards
costs welcomed!

All children must be accompanied by a
responsible adult

Book and Jigsaw Swap

PLEASE READ IF YOU USE THIS COMMUNITY ASSET.

The number of books being left in church has become unmanageable for the space available, so we need to set down a few ground rules if it is to continue!

Firstly, it is a book and jigsaw **SWAP** – please do not leave more books or jigsaws than you borrow.

We only accept **FICTION BOOKS**, and preferably paperback (although we appreciate that some of the new releases tend to be in hardback first)

NO non-fiction, study guides, cookery books, dictionaries etc.
And also no children's books please.

Please do not return jigsaws that you find to have missing pieces.
It's very frustrating for others using them. Please just dispose of these yourselves.

We realise that many charity shops are unwilling to take books,
but here are a few alternative suggestions:

Book selling sites such as "World of Books", "*We Buy Books*"
and "*MusicMagpie*" – you don't usually get a lot for them,
but it does mean they are reused.

Banbury Freecycle or *Banbury Freegle* – easy to sign up on their websites
and you might even find some things on there you would like!

Anglo Doorstep Collections collect in our area several times a month and will currently take books, along with other household items, clothes etc. (Unfortunately, not jigsaws). Things are distributed around the UK and worldwide to where they are most needed and proceeds donated to various charities – you can choose which you would like your donations to go to. 95% of items collected are rehomed or reused. The other 5% is recycled.

Details of all of the above can be found from a quick internet search.

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

Christingle Service

Sunday 30th November @3pm

Midnight Mass

Christmas Eve @11pm

Family Christmas Crafts

Saturday 13th December @2pm

Holy Communion (BCP)

Christmas Day @8am

Christmas Carol Service

Sunday 14th December @6pm

Parish Communion

Christmas Day @9.45am

Crib Service

Christmas Eve @4pm




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Summer Holidays Matchbox Challenge Winners

Thank you to all who took part.

We decided to have an adult and
child winner. They were:

Adult: James L

Child: James and Jonathan N
(joint winners)

By incredible co-incidence, all 3 of
them managed to cram 106 objects
into their matchboxes. They had
raided all parts of their homes and
gardens, including the kitchen, and I
have to say, their matchboxes smelt
lovely too!

Well done to you all. They have now
received their prizes.



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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:

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Treasurer
treasurer.bodicotechurch@gmail.com

Church Mobile Phone
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Church House Hire - Nicholas Hart
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St. John the Baptist Parish Church, Bodicote

Christmas Bazaar

Saturday 6th December

2—3.30pm

All the usual stalls, tombola,
refreshments and raffle



Free admission—all welcome.

Do come along and bring your friends.