



THE MAGAZINE OF

# *St John the Baptist Parish Church*

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

May, June & July 2026

# Vicars Report



## Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**This is the time of resurrection, complete with the spring bulbs emerging and summer flowers returning. I wish you a truly joyful Eastertide.**

I am so grateful for the engagement with our Lent course this year and our special services in Lent and Holy Week. It has been a privilege to journey with you through the landscape of prayer and the story of Christ's passion. Reflections and conversation will, I hope, continue, and if you have any suggestions for what to keep, adapt, or include new next year I would be very happy to hear them.

As we celebrate this season of Easter, we give thanks to God who makes all things new and brings new life out of death. This is a good time to pray for any aspects of our life – individual and collective – that are in need of repair or re-creation. As we continue to work on new projects and initiatives in the life of our church and community, we are seeking always to join in with God's work, and the task of discerning of where God is leading us belongs to the whole community. If you feel that there is something God is calling you – or us – to explore, I am always glad to hear from you.

In the coming weeks we will continue our celebratory season, marking Vocations Sunday on 26 April – an opportunity to think about God's unique call for each of us; gathering for a special evening service on Ascension Day (Thursday 14 May at 7pm); and celebrating Pentecost with an All-Age Communion service (Sunday 24 May at 9.45am). Not to mention taking the opportunity to rejoice in the bonds of friendship and goodwill at our Community Fete on Saturday 16 May.

With much to look forward to I hope to see you soon.

Every blessing,  
Revd Emily

Cover photo: James Neal, aged 8

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*Welcome to our new Associate Minister*

## The Revd Alice Jolley



Alice grew up in North Lincolnshire and read Theology at Durham University before training for ordination at Westcott House in Cambridge. She served her curacy in the City of Lincoln before moving to the Diocese of St Albans where she was Vicar of two parishes in Hemel Hempstead. Alice and Coral moved to Banbury last year, and Alice is now Chaplain at Katharine House Hospice which is part of the Oxford University Hospitals Trust. Alice is really interested in the intersection of spirituality and healthcare, and loves being an Anglican priest working in the NHS. She also has an LLM in Ecclesiastical Law, focussing specifically on burial law and the theological-legal implications of exhumation. In her spare time Alice loves walking her dog, wild swimming, cooking and eating delicious food, reading poetry, singing, listening to music, and spending time in silence.

Alice really enjoys getting to know new people and is always happy to chat over a cup of coffee, so please do come and introduce yourself!

# From the belltower...



**In 1981 I moved to Bodicote with my young family. On the first Sunday morning I was astonished to hear the sound of church bells pealing down the street.**

There was more bellringing on the following Monday evening. I was curious and eventually went to learn more. I was greeted by the tower captain Ron Thorne and a very friendly group of ringers. Once I tried ringing I was hooked and never looked back. I have been tower captain myself now since the late eighties and we still have a great band of ringers.

Of course, the bells are rung for the Sunday services and other church occasions but there is a nation-wide community of bell ringers that share ringing as a hobby. Ringing outings are organised and we get to ring at idyllic country village churches and at magnificent cathedrals as well.

Learning to ring is not easy but very rewarding. if you would like to learn more, please come to our 'open tower' at the Church Fete or come to the tower on a Monday evening.

**Martin Saunders.**

christian  
aid

10<sup>th</sup> -16<sup>th</sup> May 2026

## Christian Aid Week

Inside this magazine, you should find a Christian Aid envelope. If you wish to make a cash or cheque donation, please complete the Gift Aid form if you are a UK tax-payer and return it to the church (during service times, or any of the following addresses:

30 Woodhall Drive, Banbury. OX16 9TY

13 Sideleigh Road, Bodicote. OX15 4AY

4 Innings Close. OX16 9SQ

42 Caldwell Road. OX16 9FB

We realise that times are very hard for everyone globally at the moment, but most of us are living in luxury compared to people who exist on subsistence farming or whose homes have been destroyed in conflicts which they have not instigated, if all 3500 homes in the parish gave £5 we would be able to donate £17,500 to an amazingly worthwhile charity who give 84p in every pound to the needy, please dig deep and be generous.



We have set up an online donation page if this is easier for you: <https://caw.christianaid.org.uk/envelope-2026/thank-you>

Join us and join in!

**Mothers' UNION**  
Christian care for families

# MOTHERS' UNION, BODICOTE BRANCH

We started the new year with our AGM. The current Committee members all agreed to stay on for another year but were pleased to welcome Sue Standley who has agreed to join the Committee. This year is a special year for the worldwide Mothers' Union as it celebrates its 150th Anniversary and there are many exciting events planned over the year both locally and nationally. Tricia outlined the plans for our 150th Anniversary year celebrations.

Our meeting in February was a very interesting talk by the team from the 'Town House Wellbeing Clinic' in Banbury. Their theme was 'The Art of Ageing Well' and they gave us some very informative and useful lifestyle advice.

On February members attended the Ash Wednesday Service at 7.00pm in Church.

On March 6th members took part in 'World Day of Prayer' service in Church. World Day of Prayer is a 'Women-Led, Global, Ecumenical Movement'. The Wave of Prayer encircles the globe beginning in Samoa and ending 146 countries later in American Samoa. This year it was a lovely programme prepared by Christian women from Nigeria. The theme of the service was 'I will give you rest, come' (Matt 11:28-30).

At our March 11th meeting we were pleased to welcome Rev'd Emily Hockliffe Essex as our speaker. She talked about her Early Faith, Discovery of her Vocation, Moments that Confirmed her Calling and What Ministry has Taught her. Also, at the meeting Sue Hanwell was admitted to the Mothers' Union by Emily. The members were pleased to welcome Sue as a new member to our Branch.

At the meeting our Treasurer, Tricia Campbell, announced her plans to move to New Zealand in the summer and that over the next few months she will be winding down her MU responsibilities. The Committee was pleased that Ann Sansom has agreed to take over from Tricia the important role of Branch Treasurer.

March 15th was Mothering Sunday and as usual our members made the beautiful and colourful posies that were given out at the Service.

Deb Lee, the Zonal Trustee for the York Province, is cycling from York Minster to St Paul's Cathedral where the Mothers' Union is holding a service to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the movement on June 10th. She will be passing through Banbury on her bike and the Bodicote Branch will be hosting an afternoon tea party between 4.00pm and 6.00pm in Church House on Saturday 6th June to welcome Deb. Hopefully she will be able to join us for the 9.45am morning Service on the following Sunday before setting off again on her journey towards Oxford to attend the Choral Evensong in Christchurch.

## Coming Up!

- April 22nd Wave of Prayer and our Meeting at 2.30pm.
- May 13th Meeting at 7.30pm - speaker will be Rev'd Sue Cooke.
- May 31st Celebration Service marking 150 years of the Mothers' Union at 9.30am at St Edburg's Church Bicester.
- June 10th Meeting at 7.30 pm - the speaker will be Rev'd Sarah Cotterill, Curate at St Mary's Church, Banbury.
- July 8th Meeting at 7.30pm – the speaker will be Mother Alice Jolley, Chaplain, Katherine House Hospice and Horton Hospital.

### 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.

## 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



# Bishop Loveday School News



**The children have had a fabulous Spring term. We have had a very busy couple of terms, with an Egyptian Day, a black hole experience, trips to the rainforest and multiple trips to Warriner farm to help with the lambing to name a few! Children's learning has really come to life with all of the experiences they have participated in.**

Our ambassadors have been very busy promoting competitions and events for our children to take part in. Our reading ambassadors were invited to participate in a World Book day event at Waterstones and we also celebrated World Book Day at school with lots of reading activities and a parade at the end of the day for parents to enjoy.

We are proud to announce that we have been awarded a platinum award for our Outdoor Play and Learning (OPAL). Our children have been very excited playing outside with the addition of a giant sandpit and amphitheatre where the children have music and dressing up clothes. Our school will be open for other schools to visit our provision in June. We have also been awarded the Arts Mark Gold award for our drive to providing the best 'arts' provision for our children. We are so proud of our Arts provision and recognise how important all of these opportunities are for our children.

We have enjoyed many sporting events, including one of our year 2 classes heading off to football and our year 5/6s to an indoor athletics tournament. For the second time, we have entered the U11 boys and girls Banbury schools football league and we are looking forward to playing other local schools over the summer term.

Finally, I wanted to say a huge well done to our choir, which runs from September to April. The children have had a brilliant season singing at the local event Children singing for children, and Young Voices singing with 6000 children in Birmingham. They were also asked to perform at the Sheldonian Theatre. This event was run by Oxford Opera and was very different to anything the children had participated in before. They particularly enjoyed performing with an orchestra and soloist, singing Toreador from the opera Carmen.

**Dee Loader**, Head of School

Member of  
**advice** UK 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 [helpdeskbanccp@yahoo.com](mailto:helpdeskbanccp@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)

# Easter Crafts

For those who haven't seen it, this is the artwork we did at our Easter crafts which is now displayed in the church.



REQUEST FOR THE

# Community Fete

on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May

Please could we ask those who use our car park to make sure their cars are removed by 10am at the latest on the day of our community fete in order for us to be able to set up our stalls safely. The car park will be closed for the duration of the fete and for a while afterwards while we clear away, again for the safety of all involves (and your cars!)

Thank you.



## St John the Baptist Hymn Book Appeal

Music is such a valuable part of our worship at St John's and our old hymn books have served us well for many years; however, the old books have seen better days, and there are increasingly new hymns and songs that we would like to introduce for our worship. We are now seeking to replace our old copies with *Ancient & Modern: Hymns and Songs for refreshing worship*, including words-only, large-print, melody, and full music editions. This includes many of our favourites from across our current three hymn books as well as containing new words to familiar tunes and other new possibilities for our worshipping life.

You can help by sponsoring a hymn book!

Use the tear-out form overleaf



In memory of  
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Marking the 50th Anniversary  
of the marriage of  
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19th February 2022

Celebrating the birth of  
David Goodwin Loveday  
13th April 2024

## St John's Bodicote Hymn Book Appeal

Please use the form below to sponsor a hymn book. This could be given in memory of a loved one; or to mark a special anniversary or event. Any hymn books you sponsor could be inscribed with a personal message.

I would like to sponsor \_\_\_ new hymn book(s) (min donation £15 per book)

I enclose cash / a cheque made payable to Bodicote PCC for £\_\_\_\_\_ OR

I have paid £\_\_\_\_\_ through the bank with the reference "hymn books" to Nat West Bank Sort code: 60-01-35 Account number: 81003412 Account name: Bodicote Parochial Church Council (PCC)

I am a UK taxpayer and want Bodicote PCC to treat this donation as Gift Aid. I understand I must pay enough UK Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax to cover the amount reclaimed.

I would like the following message inscribed in the book(s) I donate:

Line 1 .....  
Line 2 .....  
Line 3 .....  
Line 4 .....

Please note, you may leave this blank and we will simply recognise your donation. If you are sponsoring multiple hymn books you are welcome to include other messages on a separate page.

My name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact number/email: \_\_\_\_\_

I understand that any surplus arising from the Hymn Book Appeal will go into the PCC's general fund.

Please return your form to the church, 13 Sideleigh Road OX15 4AY or 30 Woodhall Drive OX16 9TY

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATION

# Afternoon Teas

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

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

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



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

## Sunday Club

**Sunday Club continues on the last Sunday of each month until the end of June when we will take a short summer break for July and August.**

We start in church, leaving during the first hymn of our 9.45am service 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. The children enjoy telling the rest of the congregation what we have been doing and showing them what they have made.

Our March Sunday Club celebrated palm Sunday, with a few new members, and we made palm leaves to wave in church.

In April we will be looking at the story of Daniel in the Lions' Den and we will make some lion masks.

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 service or with us in Church House for the duration. Younger children are welcome with a parent.

We are quite a small group at present and would warmly welcome some new members.

  
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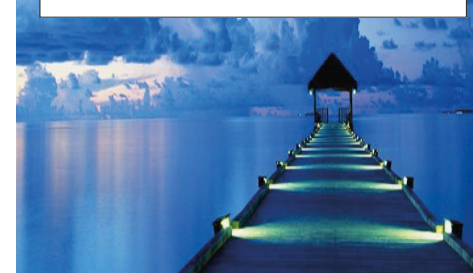
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Check out service times, events and other information.

## Facebook

Why not 'like' our Facebook page?

[www.facebook.com/BodicoteParishChurch](http://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](http://www.facebook.com/groups/255936438824026)



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## Useful Contacts:

**Vicar - Emily Hockliffe Essex**  
[revd.emily@gmail.com](mailto:revd.emily@gmail.com) 07979 931889

**Church House Hire - Nicholas Hart**  
01295 253747  
[ncahart@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:ncahart@hotmail.co.uk)

**Church Wardens**  
[churchwardens.bodicotechurch@gmail.com](mailto:churchwardens.bodicotechurch@gmail.com)

**Baptism Bookings - Claire Roberts**  
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**Parish Administrator** (for general enquiries)  
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ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH

COMMUNITY

FETE

BODICOTE CHURCH

SATURDAY,  
16TH MAY

1PM UNTIL  
4PM

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