

Love God and Love your Neighbour as Yourself

Ronan Keating once sang 'life is a roller coaster, just gotta ride it'. Never has that been more true. Some days we are travelling upwards, admiring the view, waiting in excited anticipation, and some days we are heading downwards at great speed holding on for dear life and screaming with terror. For some the ups will out way the downs but for others the downs are becoming more prolonged, a lot less fun and rather relentless. Unlike a roller coaster ride the situation we find ourselves in during the pandemic has no end in sight and this can mean anxiety levels increase and we become stressed. Please do not suffer in silence. Stress and anxiety are not measured on a worthiness scale of who has the right to feel bad and who doesn't. If you are feeling sad this is acceptable. What you have control over is what you do about it. Please don't sit alone all day, phone a friend (or me), seek help if you need to from organisations like the Samaritans who you can call for free on 116123 and if you are worried about someone else explore the website: www.samaritans.org.

The Samaritans do not have this name by chance. It reflects the parable of the Good Samaritan found in St Luke's gospel chapter 10 verses 25-37. Samaritans were the outcasts of Jesus' day and yet in his parable Jesus made them the hero who stopped to help, demonstrating that everyone is our neighbour. And good neighbours abound in Bodicote. The Bodicote Cares scheme, started at the beginning of the pandemic to provide a safety net for everyone in the community, had over 70 volunteers prepared to pick up prescriptions and shopping, walk dogs and make a friendly phone call every week. But this safety net was barely utilised as people discovered their actual neighbours were willing to do these things for them if they were needed. And Sally and all the staff in the shop ensured that people got their groceries. Throughout this pandemic this parish displayed outstanding community credentials which we can continue to build upon.

The Church Community was devastated (and rather angry) to be forced to lock its doors for private prayer and reflection. We pray that we will never have to do this again even if public worship has to be suspended for the greater health of our nation. But although our doors were locked, the heart of the Church is not the building but the people. And throughout this publication you will hear of the tremendous things that we were able to achieve throughout this time from fundraising to care of the fabric. What is harder to show is the life of faith that continued in people's homes, the online services joined, the daily acts of worship made and the prayers offered. These remain vitally important as the things we are allowed to do remain severally restricted. We can no longer offer hospitality as we would like or put on the services that mean so much to everyone from harvest festival to All Souls and Remembrance Sunday. And it does look as if Christmas will be very different too. But it doesn't pay to look too far ahead, that's why we have a website and facebook page to find out what's happening nearer the time. They also offer prayers and keep you informed of our fundraising events. And so to finish, a prayer for our time:

Lord Jesus Christ, you taught us to love our neighbour, and to care for those in need as if we were caring for you. In this time of anxiety, give us strength to comfort the fearful, to tend the sick, and to assure the isolated of our love, and your love, for your name's sake. Amen.

Sarah Sharp 01295 250282 s550sharp@outlook.com



Pause for Prayer...

Last Friday of every month

As Christian we are called to both action and prayer: action to help create a fairer, kinder and more peaceable world; prayer to ask for God's help in guiding our actions and the actions of those in positions of power and responsibility.

At 12 noon on the last Friday of most months we come together in the parish church for 30 minutes as we pray for the needs of the world and our part in it. We usually focus on topics of particular concern at the time, using a mix of said prayer and short silences for personal thoughts and prayers.

The theme for **Friday 27th November** will be **Remembrance**, focusing on the bereaved and those who have given their lives in the service of others. All welcome.

There will be no Pause for Prayer in December: we resume again on Friday 29th January 2021.

We believe that prayer really can make a difference to our world!

The cover photograph was kindly provided by Keith Davies from the Volunteer Driver Service - Please see their advert on p.15

2021 Bodicote Lalendar



















NOW AVAILABLE FOR JUST £5!

We are very excited that copies of the Bodicote 2021 Calendar are now available to buy. The calendar is comprised of some of the photographs entered in the lockdown photo competition run by the "Bodicote History and Memories" group on Facebook (photos shown above).









Christmas cards (pack of 5) £2.50 2 packs of notelets and pen £5 Blue torches £3 Black pens £2

To order any of the above, please speak to Sarah or email office.bodictechurch@gmail.com

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting was rather delayed this year and held on the 14th October. We thanked Ann for her three (and a half) years as church warden and re-elected Claire who will have to work alone this year. Please do consider taking on this role.

At the APCM we elect the Parochial Church Council (PCC) for the following year. The general purpose of the PCC is to consult on matters of general concern and importance in the parish and cooperate with the minister in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. We attempt to operate a three year term with an opportunity to serve two consecutive terms. This means that you can consider joining without signing your life away. This year we said goodbye and thank you to Judith Andrews, Brian Gardner, Sue Hollies who undertook the role of secretary and Veronica Warner who also stepped down as deanery synod rep. Lynne Philpot, Tricia Campbell and Liz Smith agreed to continue as our deanery synod reps. We welcomed Sue Standley onto the PCC and re-elected all our sidepersons adding Lionel Smith, Sue and Mike Standley and Mavis and Roger Moon to the list. At the PCC which followed Paul was re-appointed as treasurer. Lionel agreed to continue as gift aid officer and Liz took on the role of electoral roll officer.

It felt important to acknowledge the ministry of David Lewis as server which he is currently unable to offer due to the pandemic. David has fulfilled this role faithfully for many years and we hope that one day he may be able to do it again.

Could I please ask you to pray for our PCC at this difficult time in our national history and give them your support. Do please consider whether you could join us after our next APCM which will be held in the spring.

CHARITY CHRISTMAS TREE EVENT **SAT 19TH DEC, 9AM - 5PM**

We know that Christmas this year will be different, due to ongoing Covid restrictions. In the church we are considering how we can best celebrate this season, traditionally associated with giving and sharing, and have decided to introduce a Charity Christmas Tree. We invite you to come and hang a decoration on the tree and make a donation to Crisis at Christmas and/or the Children's Society. Sit for a while to enjoy the magic of Christmas Carols sung by wonderful choirs, celebrity groups and solo artists, playing throughout the day.

For your safety, a steward will be present at all times to help ensure Covid restrictions are maintained.

We welcome you this Christmas

Follow Us On Facebook

We try to post something new on Facebook every day – prayers, perhaps a thought for the day, or a relevant painting or piece of sculpture; and, of course, news of what we're doing and how you can join in. https://www.facebook.com/BodicoteParishChurch/

Take a look at our website for up to date information about our services and general information about our church. www.bodicotechurch.org

Inkjet Cartridge Recycling

Despite the current situation, we are continuing to collect your inkjet cartridges for this scheme. Not only are we doing our bit for the environment by making sure they are properly recycled, but, so far, we have raised £338.40 for church funds.

There will still be collection boxes in church and church house but, unfortunately, after the end of this year they will no longer be accepting the envelopes.

However, to compensate for this a little, they have increased the range of acceptable cartridges which now includes some remanufactured ones. Please check their website for the accepted types – unfortunately, we just have to dispose of any not on the list.

https://www.recycle4charity.co.uk/InkjetCartridges



OLD COINS

Ever wondered what to do with the purse full of foreign coins you bring back from holiday or the odd old £1 coin which has now gone out of circulation?

Well, we can help you dispose of them and raise some money for the church at the same time! We have found a company which will exchange at a reasonable rate. Please pop them in the wall safe (to the right-hand side of the door as you enter church), into our collection or bring along to any of our events. When we have a sizeable quantity, we will send them off to be exchanged. Any old coins, notes or foreign currencies accepted. Thank you for your help!

Easy Fundraising!

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We have also found another way you can support the Church at no cost to yourself. When you are shopping online, please consider using the

easyfundraising site as we receive a percentage of the expenditure. The amount varies depending on the retailer, with special rates occasionally applying



when they have promotional weeks.

It is simple to sign up and there is the option to set up a reminder on your phone or

tablet, which informs you when you are using a site that supports this scheme. Our link is: www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/bodicotepcc

Children's Society boxes

We now have permission from the Society to open the boxes this year. Please bring your box to church or give to Sarah as soon as possible.

The Children's Society box holders have been incredibly generous over the years and we really appreciate your support. In 2019 we raised a record £970.27 from Bodicote St John Baptist Church to help towards supporting thousands of vulnerable children.

We hope that the restrictions will ease soon, but in the meantime there are still vulnerable children needing more help and support in these troubled times and if you would like to help you can donate directly to the Children's Society https://donate.childrenssociety.org.uk/page/46932/donate/1

As well as the special event mentioned on page 5 there will be a national Christingle service on 13th December and the Mothers Union will be providing Christingle bags. Further information to follow nearer the time.

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Fundraising during lockdown

At the beginning of lockdown, we were very concerned as to how the closure of the church would affect our finances. Despite the church being closed for prayer and worship, and all our usual activities being curtailed, we, like everyone else, still had bills to pay!

But, thanks to the amazing support of our regular givers and some extra inspiration for different kinds of fundraising, we have managed to stay afloat.

Sewing masks

Karen Hin saw the need for a supply of face coverings and set to work sewing beautiful non-surgical masks from her home. These were available from the local shop, and to order, raising £500 for church funds. A huge 'thank you' to her for her fantastic efforts.

Charity donations

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As well as raising funds for the church, we have been committed to continuing to make charitable donations. Our Lent Lunches were stopped almost as soon as they started and we lost the usual 10% donation to a chosen charity from the school fete, let alone restrictions on the Christian Aid annual appeal, KHH midnight walk and the Ride and Stride for the Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust. Our Christingle services in aid of the Children's Society will not be able to take place in the usual way either.

But, we have been able to adapt our giving and support in other ways:

- We have provided collection points for the local foodbank - more elsewhere in magazine.
- The one Lent Lunch we held raised £130 each to MIND, Alzheimer's Society and Katharine House.

- Christian Aid was supported by physical donations totalling over £500 plus any on-line donations made separately by members of our congregation
- A small team manned our church for the annual Ride and Stride visitors and sponsorship amounted to £255.
- We supported the KHH Midnight Walk Reimagined with a pebble pool and local quiz for walkers.
- The raffle for our harvest hamper resulted in £200 for the Water Aid Harvest Appeal
- Sales of our 2021 calendars are including a 10% donation to Volunteer Driver Service North Oxfordshire
- We are planning a Christmas event in aid of The Children's Society and Crisis – details elsewhere in magazine and look out for details of packs to make your own Christingle and a service via zoom

Sale of George Walker paintings

The Bodicote Archive Group and church have recently been given a number of George Walker originals, many of which were generously donated by the family of Rev. Donald Bishop. These were auctioned on Facebook, with the option of non-Facebook users to bid too, and raised £385.



Our Summer Auction was a huge success with 101 lots and plenty of bargains

It raised a total of

£910

Thank you

to everyone who donated items or promises to Ann and all who helped organise the event and to everyone who joined in the bidding

In aid of St John the Baptist Parish Church, Bodicote

1000 Mile Challenge

During May, and white we were still in strict lockdown, our church treasurer Paul completed 1,000 miles on his exercise bike. When he set himself this sponsored challenge he obviously didn't realise just how hot the month was going to be!



Congratulations Paul for raising a magnificent

£1,884

for church funds

And thank you to everyone who so generously sponsored him

Luxury Harvest Hamper Raffle

the winning number was

230

the number winning the 2 bottles of wine was 19

Thank you

to everyone who generously contributed the conderful selection of food and drink for the hamped and to all who bought tickets

The raffle has raised £200 for the WaterAid Harvest Appeal

and £600 for church funds

A wonderful result

In aid of St John the Baptist Parish Church, Bodicote

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Bishop Loveday School News

This year has been a very different start to the new school year. In September, our children returned to their previous class for the first two days of term, giving children and teachers the opportunity to catch up on life during lockdown before moving on to their new classes. Children did a 'move up' session with their new teachers and then began their new classes the following week. Due to this, our new Early Years children had a slightly delayed start to 'big school.' I have been amazed at how well the children have settled into school; they are really enjoying being back and we are really enjoying having a full school again.

Many of our usual educational visits have been cancelled due to COVID restrictions this year. However, early years children have managed a visit to Broughton Farm and Year 5 have enjoyed an Egyptian Day in school, where they came to school in some amazing costumes and learned about life in Ancient Egypt.

We will be changing the way we do our school tours for children starting reception class in September 2021. This year, there will be a virtual tour of the school which will be available on the school website. There will also be an opportunity for prospective parents to submit questions to the Headteacher with the possibility of a follow up phone call. Our newly elected House Captains and Vice Captains are looking forward to helping create the virtual tour.

Jane Ridley



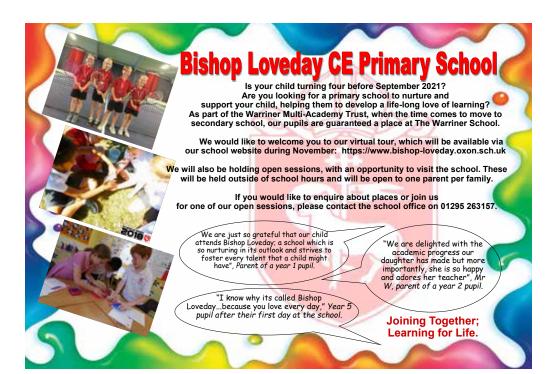


School Foundation Governor vacancies

We are looking for 2 people willing to stand as Foundation Governors. They need to be worshipping members of a Christian church to be eligible.

Please speak to Rev. Sarah 01295 250282

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There is a book and jigsaw exchange in the church

Please do come and borrow or exchange books and jigsaws to see you through the winter nights

The church is open daily 9.00am to 4.00pm

Please avoid service times

Sunday: 8.00am Communion (BCP); 9.45am Parish Communion Monday: 8.30am Morning Prayer Wednesday: 9.30am Morning Worship Thursday: 8.30am Morning Prayer; 5.45pm Evening Prayer Friday: 8.30am Morning Prayer; 4.00pm Evening Prayer



100 CLUB

Just £12 buys you a number in each draw for a year

Drawn monthly with prizes of £50 and £10



If you don't already hold numbers, you can purchase them at any time - just send an enquiry message via Facebook or e-mail: office.bodicotechurch@gmail.com

A number of those who already hold numbers may need to renew them soon – watch out for a reminder e-mail

The more numbers you hold the greater your chances of winning

In aid of St John the Baptist Parish Church, Bodicote serving the communities of Bodicote, Cherwell Heights and Longford Park

CHURCH HOUSE HIRE

To hire Church House, please contact Nicholas Hart on **01295 253747** or email **nchart@hotmail.co.uk**General enquiries can be made to **office.bodicotechurch@gmail.com**

The Foodbank service has continued at St. Francis Church at Highlands and the main branch at The Peoples' Church on Horsefair, on Tuesday and Thursday mornings respectively. Generous donations of food have continued from local individuals, surrounding Benefices, and Banbury Food for Charities. And financial donations have enabled the Foodbank Warehouse to remain well stocked. The client numbers are now increasing, and as more jobs are lost, we anticipate more people across the socio-economic spectrum to fall into food poverty, through no fault of their

own. Even professional people can suddenly find themselves without money for food, as income evaporates and housing needs to be paid for. There should be no shame in needing to access a Foodbank. Foodbank can issue food for 3 days, three times, in a crisis (longer when appropriate). If you hear of anyone losing their job- please pass on the following:

Food donations - please ensure that food is IN DATE. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the Food Bank service.

Melanie Titman

DO YOU NEED A FOODBANK VOUCHER?

Please contact the Citizens' Advice Centre: Telephone: **0300 330 9037** (there is an answerphone message with options) Or Email: **advice@citizensadvicenosn.org.ul**Both are manned Monday - Friday 10am-4pm

ESSENTIAL WORKS DONE

Church House car park drainage

Back in May, as restrictions allowed, you will be aware that we had some much needed work done on the drains at the back of church house. For many years, they have been subject to regular blocking, leading to them overflowing in the car park. This was a necessary precursor to getting the car park resurfaced, which we hope to be able to do soon.

Roof alarm

Following a spate of lead thefts from church roofs, which has affected some of our local churches, the advice from the Diocese has been to have a roof alarm fitted. This has been re-inforced by our insurance company, to the extent that, without a roof alarm, we would no longer be fully covered in the event this happened in Bodicote. With this in mind, the alarm

was fitted early on in lockdown. We only had one report by a neighbour of strangers on the roof that day! This means we are now fully insured again and have some protection in the unfortunate event that someone tries their luck!

The roof alarm does need periodic testing.

We are planning to do this during the churchyard working parties on the first Saturday morning of each month.

Churchyard working parties

We are very grateful to the small band of volunteers, who turn up in most weathers, to keep our churchyard looking tidy and cared for. I am sure you will have appreciated this quiet, green area during your daily walks. Have you managed to spot any residents in the bird boxes we had installed earlier in the year?

Our Winter Warmer is Back!

Enjoy 5 months of golf on our beautiful heathland course, where tees and greens are maintained year-round. An excellent way to play value for money winter golf.

Thinking of getting back into golf or trying out a golf club that is great for playing in the winter months? Now is your chance to come and try Tadmarton Heath Golf Club, one of the finest heathland courses in Oxfordshire, with stunning views across the countryside and with its free-draining sandy soil. For just £360 our Winter Warmer is a great way to find out if our club is for you.

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For more information please contact: **generalmanager@tadmartongolf.com** or telephone **01608 737278**

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advice UK BANBURYSHIRE ADVICE CENTRE

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We can arrange home visits for disabled people who need help with benefit forms

as we have a relationship with DWP Visiting Team.

For help email: helpdeskbancp@yahoo.com or phone 01295 279988 and leave a message.

Website: http://banburycp.moonfruit.com/

OPEN TIMES

Monday 10pm - 2pm by appointment only at the Advice Centre

Tuesday 10pm – 2pm by appointment and drop in Hanwell Fields Community Centre, Rotary Way, Banbury, OX16 1ER

Thursday 10.30am – 2pm by appointment at the Pheonix office, Suite 5,

Borough House, Marlborough Road, Banbury (Thursday only tel. 01295 257974)

The charity was founded by Andy Willis BCAv.

Andy Willis is the holder of the National Honour, The People's Honour.

To make a donation to our charity, please send cheques made out to

Banburyshire Citizen Project.

Banburyshire Citizen Project We're a registered charity in England (no. 1170519)

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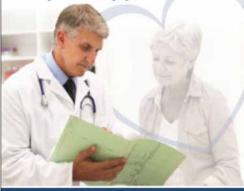
For a friendly local service—based in Banbury call 01295 267259 or 07946 670122

E: antoncosullivan@gmail.com



HOME EYE TESTS 01295 261080

Kathleen missed her hospital appointment



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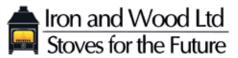
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Banburvshire Advice Centre

Cherwell Business Village

Units F10 = F11

Southam Road

Banbury

OX16 2SP

CURRENT PATTERN OF WORSHIP

Commencing Sunday 25th October

Sunday: 8.00am Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
9.45am Parish Communion

There will be no singing. Communion in one kind (bread only) will be offered to those in the congregation who wish to receive it.

Monday: 8.30am Morning Prayer

Wednesday: 9.30am Morning Worship (non-eucharistic)

Thursday: 8.30am Morning Prayer; 5.45pm Evening Prayer

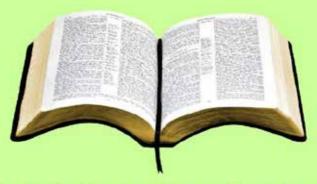
Friday: 8.30am Morning Prayer; 4.00pm Evening Prayer

This weekly pattern of services will be reviewed regularly

Please follow all of the safety guidance given on the day and wear a face covering whilst in the church

A list of attendees will be made and held for 3 weeks to support test and trace.

The QR code can be scanned in the porch.



The church will continue to be open for private prayer between 9.00am and 4.00pm daily except when there is a service. Please avoid the pews that have been used for services (clearly labelled)