

THE BENEFICE OF MINCHINHAMPTON WITH BOX AND AMBERLEY

Accept and share the generosity of God's love.

The Fifth Sunday after Trinity

16th July 2017

A warm welcome to our services, especially if you are here for the first time. Everyone baptised or who normally receives in their own church, including children, may receive the bread and wine at the altar. If you require a gluten free wafer, please indicate this at the altar rail. If you prefer to receive a blessing, please carry the service booklet with you when you go up to the altar.

Readings for Today

First Reading: Isaiah 55. 10 -13

Second Reading: Romans 8. 1 – 11 Matthew 13. 1 – 9, 18 – 23

THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER

Of all the parables, this is one of the ones most familiar to us. How receptive are we to the Word of God? it seems to ask. It challenges us as to whether we are fertile soil, or shallow ground. Does the Word of God take root in us? Does it fruit and produce good things in our lives and the lives of those around us as we share the good news? Or do we let other priorities come in, so the things that really matter get pushed aside? The parable holds up a mirror to our human nature and wonderfully reflects back at us the different choices we can make in life. The danger with over-familiar passages like this is we can fail to really hear it, but it should still make us stop and think: where are our own values at this moment in time? Because we may not be one kind of soil for the whole of our life, but have seasons where sometimes we are very receptive to God's word, and other times in need of recognising we have moved further away from what is important. We should always be testing the kind of soil we are! But the other aspect this parable teaches us, alongside the nature of humanity, is the nature of God. God is not a careful sower who jealously counts out the precious seed, sowing it only in fertile ground in carefully tilled furrows. He is a God who is liberal and generous, and regardless of how receptive people are, will go on indiscriminately scattering seeds of love far and wide, in all places. He never gives up, never takes his love away. He sows and sows, loves and loves, in lavish abundance.

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Church Office: 01453 889004

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SERVICES AT OUR CHURCHES TODAY

HOLY TRINITY, MINCHINHAMPTON

There is a loop system for those with hearing aids.

8am Eucharist
President: Revd Deborah Curram Assistant Curate
Preacher: Revd Sandy Emery

10am Sung Eucharist
President: Revd Deborah Curram Assistant Curate
Preacher: Revd Catherine Williams

Hymns: 253i, 376, 421, 627

5.30pm Sung Evensong
Office & Preacher: Reader Linda Jarvis

Hymns: 20, 523, 447, 165

ST BARNABAS, BOX

9am Eucharist
President & Preacher: Canon Mike Tucker

Hymns: 251ii, 515, 311, 430

HOLY TRINITY, AMBERLEY

8am Said Communion 1662
President & Preacher: Revd John Spiers

10am Parish Eucharist President & Preacher: Revd John Spiers

NOTICES –

TODAY – After Revd Deborah Curram first Eucharist there will be a bring and share lunch after the 10am Service. All Welcome.

HEAVEN KNOWS! (Even if we don't) - a book of rhymes and recollections, a light-hearted look at Minchinhampton and travels further afield. On sale at church, the parish office, Henry's and Stafford Cottage, £5 in aid of the 6Ps Appeal. Information from Hilary (884163), Mandy (882477).

MORNING COMMUNION WEEKDAY TIME - The plan is for this service to remain at 8.30am from now until March. At the beginning of next year we will review whether it should revert to 8am during British Summer Time and 8.30am during the winter. If you have never attended our daily communion service, or have been meaning to come along to it, why not try putting one morning service a week into your weekly habit of prayer? It is a wonderful way to begin the day.

PIANIST NEEDED AT ST BARNABAS, BOX - Terry Payne who has played the piano for the 9am service at St. Barnabas has moved to Witney. We will miss his talent which has been valued over many years. His departure has left a gap in our monthly rota to play the hymns for the 9am Eucharist service. If you are able to help please contact the Church Office.

THE DIOCESE OF GLOUCESTER VISION STRATEGY LIFE - challenges each one of us to commit to going out and sharing the transforming Gospel of Jesus Christ, so that people may know life in all its fullness. (John 10:10). Please collect a copy of the Stroud Deanery vision for the future of our parishes which offers some ideas towards making the Diocese vision a reality locally.

MSi MISSION SHAPED INTRO - a short six week course for all the churches of Stroud Deanery. We have been asked to send two people on this course. Could this be you? See information on the notice board and then speak to Sandy or Margaret Sheather Lay Chair of Stroud Deanery Synod.

CONFIRMATION CLASSES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULTS ACROSS THE BENEFICE – Are you interested in confirming your faith? If you are we are offering the opportunity to learn more about the Christian faith and explore what confirmation may mean to you. These classes are open to any young people, over the age of 10 and to all adults regardless of age! If you want to know more about this and whether confirmation might be for you, do have a word with the Revd Sandy Emery or Revd Deborah Curram, or Revd John Spiers. Contact details in Parish Magazines.

THE THEO CHAIR - the Victorian Society recently commended 'the Parish for its choice of Theo replacement chairs'- if you would like to sponsor a chair(s) in memory of a loved one, to mark a special occasion or simply as a chair(s) pick up a leaflet at the back of church. Talk to the church wardens: Howard or Mandy.

AFTERNOON TEA AT THE RECTORY, BUTT STREET – Saturday July 22. 2.30 – 4.30pm in aid of 6P's Appeal. Come and enjoy a delicious afternoon tea and stroll around the Rectory garden. Tickets £10 from any of our churches and the Church office.

OPEN DEANERY MEETING ON PARISH SHARE – Wed. July 26, 7.30pm in St Laurence Church, Stroud. Archdeacon Jackie and members of the Diocesan Finance Team will be leading the discussions about Parish Share. An opportunity for everyone to follow up any questions and concerns they have, All welcome.

MALVERN THEATRE - "Private Lives" Noel Coward's celebrated comedy. Coach trip on Thurs. Sept 7. Full details on notice board. Deadline for booking Thurs July 20.

BENEFICE RETREAT - This is advance warning of the dates for this year's Benefice Retreat, which takes place at Nymphsfield from Friday Oct.13 until Saturday Oct.14. It will be led by the Revd John Hunnisett. Please get the dates in your diary, and further details will be forthcoming nearer the time.

THIS WEEK

8.30am Eucharist (Tues, Thurs, Fri, Sat) in the Lady Chapel, Parish Church 5.30pm Evening Prayer daily (Mon - Sat, 4.30pm on Fridays)

18TH TUES 9am Porch Room Cafe – Porch Room

19TH WED 8am Eucharist, St Barnabas, Box
11am Eucharist (BCP), Parish Church
2.30pm Wednesday Cuppa

20TH THURS 2pm Service of Celebration - Kathleen Bulmer – Parish Church
(Followed by Funeral Tea – Porch Room)

21ST FRI 1.30pm Funeral and Burial Service – Judith Turland
– Parish Church
5pm Junior Choir Practice – Porch Room
6pm Adult Choir Practice – Parish Church
7.30pm Bell Ringers Practice – Parish Church

22ND SAT 2.30-4.30pm Cream Teas at The Rectory in aid of the 6P's Appeal

NEXT SUNDAY 23RD JULY – THE SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

HOLY TRINITY, MINCHINHAMPTON

8am Eucharist
President & Preacher: Revd Ann Morris

10am Sung Eucharist
President & Preacher: Revd Ann Morris

5.30pm Said Evening Prayer
Office: Revd Deborah Curram Assistant Curate

ST BARNABAS, BOX

9am Eucharist
President: Revd Deborah Curram Assistant Curate
Preacher: Revd Ann Morris

11am Baptism of Rose Bowrey

HOLY TRINITY, AMBERLEY

8am Said Communion
President & Preacher: Revd John Spiers

10am Methodist Led
Revd Simon Topping