

THE BENEFICE OF MINCHINHAMPTON WITH BOX AND AMBERLEY

Accept and share the generosity of God's love.

THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

9th September 2018

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. There is one chalice of non-alcoholic wine available, please indicate at the altar if you would prefer this option. 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 35. 4 – 7a Second Reading: James 2. 1 – 10, 14 - 17

Gospel: Mark 7. 24 - end

AN APPEAL TO BE TREATED AS AN EQUAL

'Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs'. With one sentence Jesus, the Jewish Messiah, is challenged by a Gentile. Not only a Gentile but a Gentile woman. In 1st century Israel there was a clear hierarchy in society; Jews then Gentiles. And, within that hierarchy, women were clearly second class citizens. So it was a brave act for the Gentile woman to challenge Jesus. And it was out of character for a Jewish teacher to accept and act upon that challenge. Jesus seems to be almost caught off guard. He never let the Pharisees get the better of him in a debate. But the Gentile woman did. You can imagine a slightly perplexed expression on his face as he responds 'For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter.' This exchange is quite out of character in another sense. Jesus treated everyone he encountered equally. There is evidence for this in the Gospels and Acts. The followers of Jesus who stayed at the foot of the cross were women. There are more examples. In his letter James touches on another aspect of equality. Equality irrespective of status. James is saying that we, as Christians, should treat everyone the same irrespective of their wealth. We seem to live in an age of celebrity, of the super-rich, yet today there are people who need to go to the Stroud foodbank to feed themselves and their families. Such huge inequality in society should challenge us as much as Jesus was challenged by the Gentile woman. The Gospel message of equality is as important now as it was for those early followers of Jesus and this message is just as counter-cultural.

www.minchchurch.org.uk

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 & Preacher: Revd Anthony Roberts

10am Sung Eucharist
President & Preacher: Revd Anthony Roberts

Hymns: 591, 475, 478, 534

5.30pm Said Evening Prayer
Office: Revd Ann Morris

ST BARNABAS, BOX

9am Eucharist
President & Preacher: Revd Ann Morris

Hymns: 555, 515, 474, 591

HOLY TRINITY, AMBERLEY

8am Said Communion
President & Preacher: Revd John Spiers

10am Non Eucharist
Second Sunday Team

NOTICES –

HORSFALL HOUSE SUMMER FETE – **today!** Starts at 2pm. Pony rides, Wotton- Under-Edge Brass Band, Beer Tent, Children's Games, Cream Teas and lots more!

PIANIST - We have a vacancy for a pianist at St. Barnabas, Box to play once a month for our Sunday service. Contact Christine at the Church Office on 01453 889004.

WEDNESDAY CUPPA - we are looking for helpers for Wednesday Cuppa! If you are interested please contact Sylvie Thomas for more details on 01453 882783

ARMCHAIR YOGA - Wednesdays after the 11am Service. Donations to 6Ps Appeal, contact Hilary Bellhouse on 885254

FOODBANK – needs tinned - vegetables, meat, spaghetti, fruit, fish, custard, tomatoes, soup, rice pudding, steamed puddings, potatoes, pulses. Small sugar, chocolate spread, peanut butter, jam, marmite, UHT fruit juices and milk, biscuits, instant coffee, pasta sauces, toothbrushes. NO BAKED BEANS PLEASE.

FOUNDATIONS IN CHRISTIAN COURSE - Are you interested in finding out more about the Christian faith? Do you feel it would be good to revisit what the Christian faith is about? Would you like to know more about getting baptised or confirmed? You do not have to be someone who goes to church to attend this course. **To be Held the second and the fourth Thursday of every month beginning Sept 13 at 7.30pm** in the Porch Room at Minchinhampton church. If the day and time do not work for you, please let me know in case we can provide an alternative for you. Refreshments provided. For more information contact Revd Sandy Emery, 01452 814148

VISION EVENING - Several organisations work out of the Warehouse/ Brimscombe Office and share a common aim of relieving poverty in the Stroud District and beyond. Collectively: The Foodbank, The Furniture Project, Kidds Stuff, and Long Table are currently supporting 1000's of local people with food, furniture, children's items and also creating job opportunities. A Vision Evening is being held in **DURSLEY METHODIST CHURCH** on Thurs Sept. 27 – 7.30 – 9.30 pm. Each organisation will give an update on their work, hold a Q & A session and let you know how you might help. Refreshments will be provided.

CHARITY NOMINATIONS - Each year we invite you to nominate charities to receive donations from our Christmas and Easter collections. Please nominate an international, national and local charity for the PCCs consideration. Form on notice board at back of church. The Mission Group.

CONFIRMATION COURSE FOR CHILDREN - We offer all children within the benefice aged 10 and over the opportunity to be confirmed as a way of making a deeper commitment to the Christian faith. The next confirmation service will be held on Sunday November 18. As preparation for confirmation and to explore Christianity a little more, Revd John Spiers will be running six sessions that look at the basics of Christianity starting on Tues. October 2, at 6pm in the Porch Room at Holy Trinity, Minchinhampton.

ST FRANCIS DAY - At 7.30pm on the eve of Saint Francis Day (October 3 2018), we are inviting everyone who is interested to share in some stories about Francis and the first Franciscans, and to enter a conversation about the legacy of Francis for the Church and the world today. John & Elizabeth Cowen invite us to meet at their home, next to Bisley Church: Over Court, Bisley GL6 8BE. For further information, contact Fr. John, 07974 432 562 / 01453 350 138.

DECORATING FOR HARVEST – Please can we have donations of fruit and vegetables for Saturday October 6. To be brought to the church from 9.30am onwards. Many thanks.

HARVEST JOINT BENEFICE CELEBRATION Sunday October 7. Informal service of Harvest hymns, poetry and readings at Holy Trinity, Minchinhampton 5pm followed by Harvest Supper in the church. Sign up lists at back of Church. Donations on the night, children free! Gluten-free and vegetarians catered for. All welcome!

QUIET DAY - Revd Alison Guy will be leading a benefice quiet day on Saturday October 13. If you are interested the signup sheet is at the back of the church.

CHELTENHAM GENERAL HOSPITAL - is 170 years old this year – 100 years older than the NHS - and we are celebrating this with a service in St Luke's Church, Cheltenham on Monday October 15, at 7.30pm. The speaker will be Bishop Rachel, and there will be contributions from hospital staff and the Caring Chorus.

THEATRE – Monday October 22 at Malvern to see 'SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE'. Did you see the lovely film? Details on notice board. Booking deadline Sunday September 16 please. Anne Brookes Tel: 886210

THIS WEEK

8am Eucharist (Tues, Thurs, Fri, Sat) in the Parish Church

5.30pm Evening Prayer daily (Mon - Sat, 4.30pm on Fridays)

12TH WED	8am	Eucharist - St Barnabas, Box
	11am	Eucharist (BCP) – Parish Church
	11am	Holy Communion at Cecily Court
	12pm	Armchair Yoga – Parish Church
	2.30pm	Wednesday Cuppa – Porch Room
13TH THURS	10am	Probus – Porch Room
	7.30pm	Foundations in Christianity Course – Porch Room
14TH FRI	5.30pm	Junior Choir Practice – Porch Room
	6.30pm	Adult Choir Practice – Parish Church
	7.30pm	Bell Ringers Practice – Parish Church

NEXT SUNDAY 16TH SEPTEMBER – THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

HOLY TRINITY, MINCHINHAMPTON

8am	Eucharist President & Preacher: Revd Sandy Emery
10am	Sung Eucharist President & Preacher: Revd Sandy Emery
5.30pm	Sung Evensong Office & Preacher: Revd Sandy Emery

ST BARNABAS, BOX

9am	Eucharist President & Preacher: Canon Mike Tucker
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HOLY TRINITY, AMBERLEY

8am	Said Communion 1662 President & Preacher: Canon Mike Tucker
10am	Parish Eucharist President & Preacher: Canon Mike Tucker