

Collect

Almighty God, by whose providence your servant John the Baptist was wonderfully born, and sent to prepare the way of your Son our Saviour by the preaching of repentance:
lead us to repent according to his preaching and, after his example, constantly to speak the truth, boldly to rebuke vice, and patiently to suffer for the truth's sake; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,

Isaiah 40: 1-11

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. 2 Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to Her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

A voice cries out: 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.

Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

A voice says, 'Cry out!' And I said, 'What shall I cry?'

All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass.

The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever.

Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, 'Here is your God!'

See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

Acts 13: 14b-26

Paul and his companions went on from Perga and came to Antioch in Pisidia. And on the sabbath day they went into the synagogue and sat down. After the reading of the law and the prophets, the officials of the synagogue sent them a message, saying, 'Brothers, if you have any word of exhortation for the people, give it.' So Paul stood up and with a gesture began to speak:

'You Israelites, and others who fear God, listen. The God of this people Israel chose our ancestors and made the people great during their stay in the land of Egypt, and with uplifted arm he led them out of it. For about forty years he put up with them in the wilderness. After he had destroyed seven nations in the land of Canaan, he gave them their land as an inheritance for about four hundred and fifty years. After that he gave them judges until the time of the prophet Samuel. Then they asked for a king; and God gave them Saul son of Kish, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, who reigned for forty years. When he had removed him, he made David their king. In his testimony about him he said, "I have found David, son of Jesse, to be a man after my heart, who will carry out all my wishes." Of this man's posterity God has brought to Israel a Saviour, Jesus, as he promised; before his coming John had already proclaimed a baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel. And as John was finishing his work, he said, "What do you suppose that I am? I am not he. No, but one is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of the sandals on his feet."

'My brothers, you descendants of Abraham's family, and others who fear God, to us the message of this salvation has been sent.

Luke 1: 57-66, & 80

Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. Her neighbours and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her.

On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him Zechariah after his father. But his mother said, 'No; he is to be called John.' They said to her, 'None of your relatives has this name.' Then they began motioning to his father to find out what name he wanted to give him. He asked for a writing-tablet and wrote, 'His name is John.' And all of them were amazed. Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue freed, and he began to speak, praising God. Fear came over all their neighbours, and all these things were talked about throughout the entire hill country of Judea. All who heard them pondered them and said, 'What then will this child become?' For, indeed, the hand of the Lord was with him.

The child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day he appeared publicly to Israel.

Post Communion

Merciful Lord, whose prophet John the Baptist proclaimed your Son as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world: grant that we who in this sacrament have known your forgiveness and your life-giving love may ever tell of your mercy and your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Today

12.30 Baptism of Amelia Kelly in Broughton. 3pm Baptism of Lara Style in Broughton.

Sibford Open Gardens this afternoon. Teas in Village Hall in aid of Holy Trinity

6pm BCP Evensong in Swalcliffe – the proposed Pet Service has been postponed.

The Week Ahead

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| Mon 25 th | 9 Morning Prayer in Epwell 10 Manvir Singh visits Bishop Carpenter School 11 Funeral of Barbara Carlisle in Broughton followed by burial 6pm Junior Youth Group in Sibford |
| Tue 26 th | 9.15 Morning Prayer in Broughton 10 Holy Communion in Tadmarton 6.30 – 8.30 Bishop Carpenter Governors' meeting |
| Wed 27 th | 8.45 Morning Prayer in Sibford 9.30 Holy Communion in Epwell 1pm Funeral of Jill Crisp (ex Sibford) at the crematorium |
| Thu 28 th | Ronald's Day Off |
| Fri 29 th | 9am Morning Prayer in Swalcliffe 6.30 Benefice Choir Practice in Sibford |
| Sat 30 th | 9 Morning Prayer in Shutford 10 – 12 Coffee Morning in Sibford |
| Sun July 1 st | Benefice Eucharist in Sibford 12noon Baptism of Drew Elliot Sole in Sibford |

Summer Soccer School. This year the Summer Soccer School for younger children will be held at Bishop Carpenter School from Wednesday August 1st to Saturday August 4th. We are so blessed that Rob Taylor is able to come to once again lead this important piece of Outreach for us.

As usual we hope that slightly older members of the Wykeham Benefice will be able to help Rob, and Margaret who is "behind the scenes" making sure it all works.

We need;

- People to be at school each morning from 9am for about an hour to do Registration (2 volunteers so far)
- First Aider to be on hand throughout each day. (offer of 1 day or more welcomed)
- "Loo Trip Lady or Gent" to take children to the.....loo (offer of 1 day or more welcomed)(Wed & Thu now covered)
- Cooked suppers for 6 people for each day (offer of 1 supper or more welcomed) (1 supper offered)
- EVERYONE to come on the Saturday morning from 10am-ish, bringing their bag of Donuts or packet of nice (not Nice) biscuits to show support for Rob and the Team, to encourage the Children, and to Welcome Parents who come for the "Cup Final".

If you are able to offer practical; help or support Margaret would love to hear from you. 730315. We have not immediately contacted the "old faithfuls" from previous years so they have chance to step down if they wish....but we'd gladly hear from them!

Please pray for

- The peace of the world – specially Yemen, Syria
- Refugees; those in camps in Europe and Middle East; those migrants in Mexico/USA
- Our young people coming to the end of "exam time"
- All we know who are unwell or bereaved or in special need