

wantage parish

FIFTH SUNDAY IN EASTER 18 May 2025

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Saturday 17 May	4pm Vigil Mass (Holy Trinity)
Sunday 18 May	FIFTH SUNDAY IN EASTER 8am Eucharist (Parish Church) <i>Preacher: the Vicar</i> <u>NO 9.15am Service</u> 10.30am Joint Service of Choral Eucharist with Confirmations (<i>no incense</i>) (Parish Church) <i>Preacher: Bishop Gavin</i> 5pm Evening Prayer (Parish Church) <i>followed by APCM</i>
Monday 19 May	9.30am Eucharist (Parish Church)
Tuesday 20 May	2.30pm Old Testament Bible Study Group (<i>see What's On Where</i>) 7pm Eucharist (Holy Trinity)
Wednesday 21 May	3pm–6pm Around Table (Holy Trinity) <i>Last orders at 5.30pm</i> 8pm 'Fully Booked' book club (The Bear Hotel)
Friday 23 May	12 noon Eucharist (Parish Church)
Saturday 24 May	4pm Evening Prayer (Holy Trinity)
Sunday 25 May	SIXTH SUNDAY IN EASTER (Rogation Sunday) 8am Eucharist (Parish Church) <i>Preacher: the Vicar</i> 9.15am Sung Eucharist (Holy Trinity) <i>Preacher: David Richardson</i> 10.30am Sung Eucharist (PC) <i>Preacher: David Richardson</i>

Morning Prayer is said in the Parish Church at 9am Monday–Friday.

Eucharist at the Convent: Tuesday–Saturday at 10am, all welcome (space permitting).

What's On Where: For information about regular church groups and activities, see the church noticeboard, the link in the eNews, or scan the QR code:



READINGS & PRAYERS

Collect

Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ have overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: grant that, as by your grace going before us you put into our minds good desires, so by your continual help we may bring them to good effect; through Jesus Christ our risen Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

First Reading: Baruch 3.9-15 & 3.32-4.4

Hear the commandments of life, O Israel; give ear, and learn wisdom! Why is it, O Israel, why is it that you are in the land of your enemies, that you are growing old in a foreign country, that you are defiled with the dead, that you are counted among those in Hades? You have forsaken the fountain of wisdom. If you had walked in the way of God, you would be living in peace for ever. Learn where there is wisdom, where there is strength, where there is understanding, so that you may at the same time discern where there is length of days, and life, where there is light for the eyes, and peace. Who has found her place? And who has entered her storehouses? But the one who knows all things knows her, he found her by his understanding. The one who prepared the earth for all time filled it with four-footed creatures; the one who sends forth the light, and it goes; he called it, and it obeyed him, trembling; the stars shone in their watches, and were glad; he called them, and they said, 'Here we are!' They shone with gladness for him who made them. This is our God; no other can be compared to him. He found the whole way to knowledge, and gave her to his servant Jacob and to Israel, whom he loved. Afterwards she appeared on earth and lived with humankind. She is the book of the commandments of God, the law that endures for ever. All who hold her fast will live, and those who forsake her will die. Turn, O Jacob, and take her; walk towards the shining of her light. Do not give your glory to another, or your advantages to an alien people. Happy are we, O Israel, for we know what is pleasing to God.

Psalms 148.1-6**Response: Praise the Lord from the heavens**

Alleluia.

Praise the Lord from the heavens;

praise him in the heights.

Praise him, all you his angels;

praise him, all his host. **R/.**

Praise him, sun and moon;

praise him, all you stars of light.

Praise him, heaven of heavens,

and you waters above the heavens. **R/.**

Let them praise the name of the Lord,

for he commanded and they were created.

He made them fast for ever and ever;

he gave them a law which shall not pass away. **R/.**

Second Reading: Acts 11.1-18

Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, saying, 'Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?' Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, 'I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. I also heard a voice saying to me, "Get up, Peter; kill and eat." But I replied, "By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth." But a second time the voice answered from heaven, "What God has made clean, you must not call profane." This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the

house where we were. The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, "Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved." And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, "John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?' When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, 'Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life.'

Gospel: John 13.31-35

Alleluia, Alleluia

Jesus said, I am the resurrection and the life.

Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live,
and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.

Alleluia

When he had gone out, Jesus said, 'Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews, so now I say to you, "Where I am going, you cannot come." I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.'

Post-Communion Prayer

Eternal God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life: grant us to walk in his way, to rejoice in his truth, and to share his risen life; who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen.**

For Your Prayers: Sarah Clark, Lizzie, Beth Hirst, Natalie, Rowland Jenkins, Sirma, Mary, Chris, Sharon, Glauce, Pat and Dave, Angela, Deirdre, Alan and Dawn, Rachel, Aubrey.

RIP: Hewlett Thompson

Please also pray for: those being confirmed.

Readings & Hymns for next Sunday:

Ezekiel 37.1-14; Psalm 67; Acts 16.9-15; John 14.23-29

Hymns at PC: NEH 364, 381, 342, 420

Hymns at HT: NEH 364, 366, 381, 342, 420

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

INVITATION TO THE ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING: TODAY (18 May) after Evening Prayer at **5pm** in the Parish Church. **What's an APCM?** It's when we elect our churchwardens and PCC (church council) members, review what has happened over the past year in the parish and share our hopes and plans for the year ahead.

PCC members needed! Anyone who has been on the electoral roll for at least six months can stand (we can also co-opt some members, so if you're not eligible but still interested, do speak to the Churchwardens). We particularly need more representatives from Holy Trinity. Nomination forms are available in both churches and can be filled in any time up to the APCM.

PARISH PILGRIMAGE 26–30 May: *No services Monday, Tuesday & Friday.* There will be a choral service for Ascension Day on Thursday 29 May at 7.30pm at the Parish Church.

WHITSUN CAKES & ALE FESTIVAL: Saturday 7 June at the Parish Church

Lunch & Anglo-Saxon Brewing talk at 12 noon: Free archaeological talk “Drunk monks and a lake of beer!” with Dr Hannah Caroe. Lunch and specially brewed Parish Ale on sale until 2pm. Entry free but booking advised via the Wantage Parish Ticketsource page or email administrator@wantageparish.com.

Ceilidh 7pm – 9pm: Folk music, a ceilidh, sword-dancing and Parish Ale! In partnership with The Royal Oak and Indigenous Brewery. £8 for adults (includes your first ½-pint plus a piece of cake!), £6 for under-18s (soft drinks only). Tickets available on the Wantage Parish Ticketsource page.

Offers of fruit cake appreciated. Any type of fruit cake welcome. Please contact David Richardson (dcrwantageparish@gmail.com) if you are able to contribute.

TEXTILE EXHIBITION IN MEMORY OF HELÉNE. Do you do embroidery, tapestry, lace, or other textile art? The Parish Church will be hosting an exhibition for the Patronal Festival (approx. 26 June to 4 July) in memory of Heléne Lister Cheese who made many vestments and linens for this church and co-ordinated the kneeler project. If you would be willing for your work to be part of this exhibition, please do contact Katherine!

CHANGES TO CHURCH GROUPS (from this week): the **Bible Reading Book Club** has come to an end and the **Old Testament Bible Study Group** has moved to the time of 2.30pm on Tuesdays. For further information see What’s On Where or contact Sheenagh on 01235 219064.

The **‘Fully-Booked’ book club** is meeting on Wednesday 21 May at 8pm in the Bear Hotel and welcomes new members. If you have a proposal for a new church group, Katherine would be delighted to hear from you.

PEWSHEET CHANGES TRIAL PERIOD: To reduce waste and printing costs, we are investigating alternatives to the weekly pewsheets. Many people don’t keep the printed newsletter as all the information is duplicated in the eNews, so for a trial period, from Trinity Sunday (15 June) for 8 weeks, we will only be printing a smaller number of A5 sheets giving the week’s calendar and notices for those who do not receive the eNews. Details of the readings will be provided in advance and as an attachment to the eNews, encouraging people if they wish, to print them at home or bring a Bible to church. This is an experiment and we will be asking for feedback to help us determine the best way forward.

TAIZÉ PILGRIMAGE FOR YOUNG ADULTS: organised by the Dioceses of Oxford and Guildford, from **16–24 August**. Open to anyone aged 15–35. Taizé is a religious community in France where young people are invited to share their simple life and explore life’s meaning. Leaflets with more information are in both churches, or chat to Katherine or Frances.

CONTACT DETAILS

Vicar: Revd. Katherine Price (Rest Day: Thursday) 01235 768806 vicar@wantageparish.com

Curate: Revd Frances Caroe (Rest Day: Friday) 07856 278983 curate@wantageparish.com

Parish Administrator: Cathryn Stanton 01235 764533 administrator@wantageparish.com

Churchwardens: Alastair Hunter alastair.churchwarden@wantageparish.com

Janet Kingdon janet.churchwarden@wantageparish.com

Parish Assistant: James Clarke james.parishasst@wantageparish.com

Parish Safeguarding Officer: Matt Godfrey safeguarding@wantageparish.com

Director of Music: Phil Johnson music@wantageparish.com

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