wantage parish

BIBLE SUNDAY / ALFRED 25 October 2026

Holy Trinity Sung Eucharist: Mass of St Thomas (David Thorne)
Hymns: NEH 466, 394, 230 (3i), 396, 336

Parish Church Choral Eucharist: *:* Missa Brevis (Andrea Gabrieli) **Gloria:** Gloria from the New People's Mass (Dom Gregory Murray) **Motet:** Almighty and everlasting God (Orlando Gibbons)
Voluntary: Master Tallis' Testament (Herbert Howells)
Hymns: NEH 9, 272, 198, 336

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Saturday 24 October 4pm Vigil Mass (Holy Trinity)

Sunday 25 October **BIBLE SUNDAY / ALFRED**
8am Eucharist (Parish Church) *Preacher: the Vicar*
9.15am Sung Eucharist (Holy Trinity) *Preacher: David Richardson*
10.30am Choral Eucharist (PC) *Preacher: David Richardson*
Followed by Procession & Prayers at the statue of King Alfred
1.30pm Jude from Ashmolean Museum on the Alfred Jewel (PC)
2.30pm Local author of 'Alfred of Wessex' in conversation with the vicar (Parish Church)
5pm **AETHELFLAED**: A New Opera (Parish Church)
See notice below for all Alfredfest activities
3pm Godly Play (Holy Trinity) The Story of Ruth

The sermon at the 9.15am and 10.30am services will use a PowerPoint presentation; you may wish to sit where you will be able to see the screen.

Monday 26 October 9.30am Eucharist (Parish Church)

Tuesday 27 October 10am Old Testament Bible Study Group *(What's On Where)*

Wednesday 28 October **SIMON AND JUDE**
3pm–6pm Around Table (Holy Trinity) *Last orders at 5.30pm*
7pm Eucharist (Holy Trinity)

Friday 30 October 12 noon Eucharist (Parish Church)

Saturday 31 October 4pm Evening Prayer (Holy Trinity)

Sunday 1 November **ALL SAINTS' DAY**
8am Eucharist (Parish Church) *Preacher: the Vicar*
9.15am Sung Eucharist (Holy Trinity) *Preacher: the Vicar*
10.30am Choral Eucharist (Parish Church) *Preacher: Fleur Taylor*
3pm Godly Play (Holy Trinity) *The Story of King David*
4pm Choral Evensong (Convent)

Morning Prayer: usually said in the Parish Church at 9am Monday-Friday

Requiem Mass: every first Monday of the month in the Parish Church at 9.30am (excluding Bank Holidays and Feast Days). If you want someone remembered, email administrator@wantageparish.com with their name.

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

First Reading: Nehemiah 8.1-12

All the people gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the Lord had given to Israel. Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. The scribe Ezra stood on a wooden platform that had been made for the purpose; and beside him stood Mattithiah, Shema, Anaiah, Uriah, Hilkiah, and Maaseiah on his right hand; and Pedaiah, Mishael, Malchijah, Hashum, Hash-baddanah, Zechariah, and Meshullam on his left hand. And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people answered, 'Amen, Amen', lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshipped the Lord with their faces to the ground. Also Jeshua, Bani, Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodiah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan, Pelaiah, the Levites, helped the people to understand the law, while the people remained in their places. So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading. And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, 'This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn or weep.' For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. Then he said to them, 'Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our Lord; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.' So the Levites stilled all the people, saying, 'Be quiet, for this day is holy; do not be grieved.' And all the people went their way to eat and drink and to send portions and to make great rejoicing, because they had understood the words that were declared to them.

Psalm 119.9-16

Response: O Lord, teach me your statutes

How shall young people cleanse their way
to keep themselves according to your word?
With my whole heart have I sought you;
O let me not go astray from your commandments. **R/.**

Your words have I hidden within my heart,
that I should not sin against you.
Blessed are you, O Lord;
O teach me your statutes. **R/.**

With my lips have I been telling
of all the judgements of your mouth.
I have taken greater delight in the way of your testimonies
than in all manner of riches. **R/.**

I will meditate on your commandments
and contemplate your ways.
My delight shall be in your statutes
and I will not forget your word. **R/.**

Second Reading: Colossians 3.12-17

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Gospel: Matthew 24.30-35

Alleluia, **Alleluia**
Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.
You have the words of eternal life. **Alleluia**

Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see "the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven" with power and great glory. And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other. From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see all these things, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

For Your Prayers: Amanda, Pope Leo, Judy, Linda, Steve.

RIP: Barbara Keep, Rachel Steptoe-Jones, Roger Brown, John Fletcher.

Please also pray for: Revd Nikolaj Christensen as he moves on and the parishes of Wantage Downs as they go into vacancy.

Readings & Hymns for next Sunday:
Revelation 7.9-end, Psalm 34.1-10, 1 John 3.1-3, Matthew 5.1-12
Hymns at HT: NEH 478, 369, 485, 456, 197
Hymns at PC: *CfE 176 (omit v.3 & 5), 72, 20, 688*

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

MAKE WAY! Please ensure that the aisles are kept free from obstructions at all times in case of emergency. Stewards will assist with this if you need help. Thank you.

ALFREDFEST EVENTS in the Parish Church TODAY!
12 noon: Procession to the Market Place with prayers at the statue of King Alfred.
1.30pm Free talk on the Alfred Jewel (Jude Barrett)
2.30pm Free talk on his book 'Alfred of Wessex' (Mike Carden in conversation with the Vicar)
5pm AETHELFLAED: A NEW OPERA! Recital version of a new opera inspired by King Alfred's daughter, Aethelflaed queen of Mercia.

ALL SOULS: Those who have died will be prayed for by name at the service at 7pm on **Wednesday 4 November**. If you would like a loved one to be remembered, whether they have died recently or in the past, please add their name to the list at the welcome desk in either church, or email the Parish Office (administrator@wantageparish.com).

RIDE & STRIDE SPONSORSHIP: Thank you to all who participated in last month's Ride and Stride event in aid of the Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust. Please can all sponsor forms and monies be paid in or handed to Ann Gregory at HT or Simon Jones at the PC by 31 October. Half of the money will later be returned to our churches, as long as that is requested on the forms.

FLY ME TO THE MOON: On **31 October 2026 at 7pm** in the Parish Church, the choir's very own **David Mallinson** will be giving a recital of songs which will take us on a journey through love and loss, memories and dreams, from the earth to the stars in what promises to be a stunning evening of music. Tickets £12, concessions £10, under-18s free, from www.ticketsource.com/wantage-parish-music-guild or see the eNews link.

BREWERY FIELD TRIP: On **Saturday 31 October** David Richardson and Sylvia Ward are going to the Indigenous microbrewery in Chaddleworth, which produces *DiscipAle* for our annual Parish Ale Festival (next on Saturday 15 May 2027). If you would like to join us for the visit, to sample a few Indigenous ales and perhaps buy a few pints to take home, you would be very welcome. Please email David at dcrwantageparish@gmail.com.

I AM THE LIGHT, Light Party: **Monday 2 November 10am - 12noon** at Holy Trinity. Children of all ages and their families are invited to join in a morning of activities, craft, food and worship as we celebrate Jesus, the Light of the World. Places are free, but limited, so please register at www.ticketsource.com/wantage-parish or see the link in the eNews.and on posters.

NEW TESTAMENT GREEK STUDY DAY: Reading scripture in its original languages opens up new depths of meaning. Interested? A study day - for **absolute beginners** and up - will give you the basic tools to approach the New Testament in Greek. **Saturday 7 November, 10am-3pm**, Parish Church. Please tell Frances (curate@wantageparish.com) if you would like to come.

ALL THE Bs for Dickensian Evening! Books, Beads, Bangles and Bric-a-Brac. Yes, it's that time of year when we start collecting for our Dickensian Evening stalls. If you need to make space on your bookshelves or have ornaments/games/useful things or jewellery that you no longer need, we would be very happy to take them off your hands as long as they are still in readable/usable condition. There will be boxes in both churches for you to drop things off. Many thanks.

CONTACT DETAILS

Vicar: Revd Katherine Price (Rest Day: Tuesday) 01235 768806 vicar@wantageparish.com
Curate: Revd Frances Caroe (Rest Day: Friday) 07856 278983 curate@wantageparish.com
Children & Young People's Minister: James Clarke (Rest Day: Tuesday)
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Janet Kingdon janet.churchwarden@wantageparish.com
Parish Safeguarding Officer: Klara Ignell safeguarding@wantageparish.com
Director of Music: Phil Johnson music@wantageparish.com
Personal Discipleship Plan: Susie Lapwood pdp@wantageparish.com
Parish Website: www.wantageparish.com