wantage parish

EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY 26 July 2026

Holy Trinity Sung Eucharist: Mass of St Thomas (David Thorne)
Hymns: NEH 345, 500, 433 (omit *), 391, 494 (tune NUN DANKET)

Parish Church Choral Eucharist: Missa Aeterna Christi munera (Giovanni P. da Palestrina)
Gloria: Gloria from the Mass of St Thomas (David Thorne) **Motet:** Jesu, dulcis memoria (Tomas Luis de Victoria) **Voluntary:** Improvisation on a theme of Henry Smart (John Ridgway)
Hymns: NEH 436, 272, 407, 339

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

**Some copies of Matthew's Gospel are available on the table by the door of both churches if you wish to explore the Sermon Series in more depth.*

Saturday 25 July	**James the Apostle** 4pm Mass (Holy Trinity)
Sunday 26 July	**EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY** ***Sermon Series: The Kingdom of Heaven*** 8am Eucharist (Parish Church) *Preacher: the Curate* 9.15am Sung Eucharist (Holy Trinity) *Preacher: the Curate* 10.30am Choral Eucharist (Parish Church) *Preacher: Fleur Taylor* 3pm Godly Play (Holy Trinity) *on the theme of Holy Baptism* ***Godly Play will return on 13 September after the summer break.*** ***Forest Church will run every Monday afternoon at 2pm during August.***
Monday 27 July	9.30am Eucharist (Parish Church) *followed by Parish Breakfast*
Tuesday 28 July	9.30am Old Testament Bible Study Group *(What's On Where)*
Wednesday 29 July	**Mary, Martha and Lazarus** 3pm–6pm Around Table (Holy Trinity) *Last orders at 5.30pm* 7pm Eucharist (Holy Trinity)
Friday 31 July	12 noon Eucharist (Parish Church)
Saturday 1 August	4pm Vigil Mass (Holy Trinity)
Sunday 2 August	**NINTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY** ***Sermon Series: Miracles*** 8am Eucharist (Parish Church) *Preacher: the Curate* 9.15am Sung Eucharist (Holy Trinity) *Preacher: David Richardson* 10.30am Sung Eucharist (PC) *Preacher: David Richardson*

Forest Church is running every Monday afternoon in August at 2pm. *See below for details.*

Morning Prayer is usually 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

First Reading: 1 Kings 3.5-12

At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, 'Ask what I should give you.' And Solomon said, 'You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart towards you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?' It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. God said to him, 'Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you.

Psalm 119.129-136

Response: Lead me, O Lord, in the path of your commandments

Your testimonies are wonderful; therefore my soul keeps them.
The opening of your word gives light;
it gives understanding to the simple. **R/.**

I open my mouth and draw in my breath, as I long for your commandments.
Turn to me and be gracious to me,
as is your way with those who love your name. **R/.**

Order my steps by your word, and let no wickedness have dominion over me.
Redeem me from earthly oppressors
so that I may keep your commandments. **R/.**

Show the light of your countenance upon your servant and teach me your statutes.
My eyes run down with streams of water,
because the wicked do not keep your law. **R/.**

Second Reading: Romans 8.26-end

The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified. What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is

written, ‘For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.’ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Gospel: Matthew 13.31-33, 44-52

Alleluia, **Alleluia**
I am the way, the truth and the life, says the Lord.
No-one comes to the Father except through me.
Alleluia
Jesus put before them another parable: ‘The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.’ He told them another parable: ‘The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened. The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Have you understood all this?’ They answered, ‘Yes.’ And he said to them, ‘Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.’

For Your Prayers: Ken; Alan.

RIP: Alun Brookfield, Peter Peck

Please also pray for: Around Table

Readings & Hymns for next Sunday:
Isaiah 55.1-5, Psalm 145.8-9, 15-end, Romans 9.1-5, Matthew 14.13-21
Hymns at HT: NEH 237, 102, 280 (omit *), 276, 415 (tune 346 RICHMOND)
Hymns at PC: NEH 296, 271, 295, 368

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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Director of Music: Phil Johnson music@wantageparish.com
Personal Discipleship Plan: Susie Lapwood pdp@wantageparish.com
Parish Website: www.wantageparish.com

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

FLEUR TAYLOR, our preacher at the Parish Church, lives in Woodstock and works at Blenheim Palace. She is also currently exploring ministry. Interesting fact: Fleur first knew our Organist Emeritus, John Ridgeway, from her childhood parish church; St Paul's Church, Yelverton on Dartmoor where she grew up! Welcome Fleur and thank you for sharing God's word with us.

FOREST CHURCH: Every Monday in August at 2pm we will be taking to the great outdoors to praise, worship and learn about the God of creation. Meeting at the Parish Church (whatever the weather!), we will find a place outdoors to enjoy stories, activities and a snack (provided, but please bring your own drink). FREE for children and their adults, but 'no commitment' booking at www.ticketsource.com/wantage-parish please.

AROUND TABLE SUMMER BREAK: The Around Table team will be taking a very well-earned summer break on **Wednesday 12 and 19 August**, opening again on 26 August.

CHOIR ON TOUR: The Parish Choir will be taking a break during August and going on tour to the cathedral city of Wells. We wish them well and ask you to keep them in your prayers. If you are interested in going along to support them and would like further details, please see the eNews.

INSTITUTION AND INDUCTION OF REVD LAURENCE PRICE: everyone is invited to Laurence's Welcome Service at St Mary's Childrey on **Monday 21 September at 7.30pm**. It will be a service of Holy Communion followed by refreshments. RSVP please to benefice.ridgeway@outlook.com.

CHURCH PEWS FOR SALE: There are still some church pews for sale: various sizes, made of oak and dating from c. 1854. For details and prices, see the church noticeboard, the eNews or email Vince at buildings@wantageparish.com.

AETHELFLAED - A New Opera: To celebrate AlfredFest, the Parish Church is hosting a recital version of a new opera inspired by King Alfred's daughter and legendary queen of Mercia - Aethelflaed on **Sunday 25 October at 5pm**. Discounted tickets are available until 1 August from www.ticketsource.com/aethelflaed-a-new-opera.
The opera company will also be running a **FREE interactive children's workshop on Saturday 24 October**. Tickets available as above. See the eNews or posters for more information.

URGENT HOUSING & PRAYER REQUEST: Victoria Ifeanyi and her family are still in urgent need of accommodation. Please keep them in your prayers, and if you are aware of a suitable property, please let them know directly or through the clergy or church office.

PRAYING FOR ONE ANOTHER: to request prayer for yourself or another person, please email prayer@wantageparish.com. *Please do not share confidential information without consent*. To ensure that we pray as faithfully as we have promised, names will be printed in the pewsheet for one month only and will be prayed for out loud every Sunday for that month. If prayer is still needed, please email again.
Long term prayer: if you would like ongoing prayer, but do not need the name to be published in the pewsheet every week, please let us know and this will be passed on to the clergy and those who have committed to pray.

COMMUNITY NEWS

THAMES WATER will be doing essential work to reduce leaks and improve water supply in the Wantage area from August, starting with the closure of Scantlebury Way. There will be a drop-in session at Holy Trinity from 1pm-5pm on **Friday 7 August** for people find out more and ask questions. See the link in the eNews more information.