



PARISH OF CIRENCESTER
St John Baptist | Holy Trinity | St Lawrence

The 16th Sunday after Trinity
20th September 2026

Collect

O Lord, we beseech you mercifully to hear
the prayers
of your people who call upon you;
and grant that they may both perceive and know
what things they ought to do,
and also may have grace and power faithfully
to fulfil them;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

or Lord of creation,
whose glory is around and within
us:
open our eyes to your wonders,
that we may serve you with
reverence
and know your peace at our lives'
end,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Jonah 3.10 - 4.11

¹⁰ When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

4 But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. ² He prayed to the Lord and said, 'O Lord! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. ³ And now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.' ⁴ And the Lord said, 'Is it right for you to be angry?' ⁵ Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

⁶ The Lord God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. ⁷ But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. ⁸ When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, 'It is better for me to die than to live.'

⁹ But God said to Jonah, 'Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?' And he said, 'Yes, angry enough to die.' ¹⁰ Then the Lord said, 'You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labour and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. ¹¹ And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?'

Philippians 1.21-30

²¹ For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²² If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labour for me; and I do not know which I prefer. ²³ I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; ²⁴ but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. ²⁵ Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, ²⁶ so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

²⁷ Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸ and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. ²⁹ For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well – ³⁰ since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Matthew 20.1-16

20 'For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard. ² After agreeing with the labourers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. ³ When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the market-place; ⁴ and he said to them, "You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right." So they went. ⁵ When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. ⁶ And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, "Why are you standing here idle all day?" ⁷ They said to him, "Because no one has hired us." He said to them, "You also go into the vineyard." ⁸ When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, "Call the labourers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first." ⁹ When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. ¹⁰ Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. ¹¹ And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹² saying, "These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat." ¹³ But he replied to one of them, "Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? ¹⁴ Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵ Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?" ¹⁶ So the last will be first, and the first will be last.'

Post Communion

Almighty God,
you have taught us through your Son
that love is the fulfilling of the law:
grant that we may love you with our whole heart
and our neighbours as ourselves;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

BCP Sunday 20th September - The Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity

BCP Collect and Readings beginning on Page 182

This Week's Sunday Services more information: www.cirenparish.co.uk

St John Baptist: 8a.m. BCP and 10a.m. Eucharist; 1.30p.m. Baptism;
4p.m. Evening Worship

Holy Trinity: 8a.m. Eucharist and 10a.m. Eucharist;
3.15p.m. Masonic Knights Templar Biennial Service

St Lawrence: 10.30a.m. Eucharist; 4p.m. Restore@4

Next week's CW readings for 27th September – The 17th Sunday after Trinity

Ezekiel 18.1-4,25-32; Philippians 2.1-13; Matthew 21.23-32

BCP Sunday 27th September - The Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity

BCP Collect and Readings beginning on Page 184

Next Week's Sunday Services more information: www.cirenparish.co.uk

St John Baptist: 8a.m. BCP and 10a.m. Eucharist; 4p.m. Evening Worship

Holy Trinity: 8a.m. Eucharist; 10a.m. Eucharist; 1pm Baptism;
4pm Pet Service

St Lawrence: 10.30a.m. Eucharist

Parish Forum open for enquiries Mon, Thu, Fri...10a.m. – Midday

Canon Graham is available every Monday 5.30 - 6.30p.m. in the Parish Forum

NOTICES FOR THE PARISH

Congratulations to The **Reverend Catherine McClure [Katie]** who is to be installed as an **Honorary Canon** in Gloucester Cathedral on **Monday 28th September** at the Cathedral Evensong. Please keep Katie in your prayers.

The confirmation get-togethers have started but it's not too late to join. 12 years and above, no upper age limit. We are meeting in the Parish Forum on Sundays. The next meeting will be on **Today at 5.30p.m. - 6.30p.m.**

Cirencester Beer Festival 2026 will be hosted by the **PCC** and **Cirencester & District Round Table** at **St John Baptist** on **Friday 2nd and Saturday 3rd October**. All proceeds will support the church and the local charitable activity of the Round Table. Questions, please contact Bill O'Connell (villagevicar@hotmail.co.uk or 07834 363486) or Peter Ewart (07748 760519 or peter@ewart.uk.com). To reserve beer/cider contact Cirencester & District Round Table at info@cirencesterroundtable.org.uk

Due to the retirement of the rep for the CDs and DVDs in the **Church Shop** we have been left with a lot of stock. **CDs** or **DVDs** on display are now on sale at **£5.00** each until the end of September. The Cirencester Organ CD and Thomas Hawkes St Davids Cathedral Christmas CD will continue to be sold at the normal price.

Contributions to pewleaflet@cirenparish.co.uk by Tuesday evening please!

The **Friends of the Parish Church** are pleased to announce that **Colonel Robert Dixon**, formerly Commanding Officer of the Gloucestershire Regiment, will be speaking of **'The Glosters at the Battle of Imjin River and the Korean War'** in the **Parish Church** on **Friday 16th October**. The doors will be open at **6.30pm** for the 7pm talk. Tickets are available online or from the Church Shop (£15, including a glass of wine). **Friends** may pick their **free** ticket from the Shop. *Michael Gledhill, Chairman*

Mothers' Union

Corporate Communion: Thursday September 24th in the Parish Church at **noon**.

"Chill & Chatter" evening meeting is on **Thursday 24th September** at **7.30pm** in the Vicarage (41 Rendcomb Drive). All welcome.

Cathedral Prayers, prepared by Cirencester Deanery at **noon** on **Friday 25th Sept.**

The **Harvest Supper** is in the Parish Hall on **Saturday 3rd October**. Tickets (£5 Adult, £3 Children) are available in all three churches.

Pet Service at **Holy Trinity** next **Sunday** at **4pm**, to thank God for our pets and all animals with activities and songs. Please bring your pet along if you can do safely (water & poo bags provided!), or a photo of them. Teddies are also very welcome!

This year's **All Souls** service will take place in the **Parish Church** at **4pm** on **Sunday November 1st**. There are signup sheets in each church from this Sunday until Monday 5th October. Please add names of anyone you would like to be remembered.

Ashley House has a **community day** about once a month and would welcome people to go and join their activities. They will place a leaflet in the Parish Church with the dates.

We are re-commencing **Lay-led BCP Morning Prayer** on **Wednesday 23rd September 7.30am**. Chapel of St. George the Martyr, the Royal Agricultural University

From the Parish Calendar:

- Mon 21 Sep 12.30pm: Funeral – Holy Trinity
- Tue 22 Sep 11am: RAU Matriculation – St John Baptist
- Thu 24 Sep 9.15am: Seedlings – St Lawrence
- Sat 26 Sep 2.30pm: Wedding (Lauren Waldron & Stuart Austin) – St John Baptist

Contact Details:

Canon Graham 01285 239655 / 07871 571147; email: vicar@cirenparish.co.uk

Rev'd Luke 07850 270719; email: revlukefalvey@cirenparish.co.uk

Parish Office 01285 659317; email: office@cirenparish.co.uk

Monday to Saturday:

St John Baptist: Morning Prayer: Daily at 9am (not Saturday)

Midday Eucharist: Daily at noon (Saturday at 10am)

Evening Prayer: Monday, Wednesday, Friday at 5pm

Little Angels: Mondays at 9.30am

Holy Trinity: Eucharist: Wednesdays at 7pm

St Lawrence: Drop In: Wednesdays at 9am

Parish Forum: Coffee & Chat: Thursdays at 10am