

THE PARISH OF FROME, ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, BA11 1PL
SUNDAY 4 OCTOBER 2026
Harvest Festival - Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity

SUNDAY SERVICES

Saturday
5pm Vigil Eucharist
in the Lady Chapel

Sunday
8.45am Online Service
contact admin for code

10.00am Choral Eucharist

5pm Evening Prayer

WEEKDAY SERVICES

Monday
8.45am Mattins

Friday 9th
9am Eucharist
in the Lady Chapel

Confessions, Sacrament of the Sick and Pastoral Conversations are by appointment. Please contact Rev. Seamus to arrange.

Tues 6	9am St John's School Harvest Festival
Wed 7	11am Selwood Academy Yr 5 Welcome Service
Fri 9	9am Eucharist (instead of at 12.30pm) 11am Funeral of The Revd Patricia Lawless
Mon 12	7pm St John's Women's Group
Thurs 15	2pm Craft & Conversation 7.15pm Deanery Synod at St Giles, Leigh on Mendip BA3 5QJ
Mon 19	8.45am Mattins: St Luke the Evangelist
Sat 24	Confirmation Retreat at St John's
Tues 27	11am Julian Meeting

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Eighteenth after Trinity (Year A)

FIRST READING: Isaiah 5.1-7

Let me sing for my beloved my love-song concerning his vineyard: My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill. He dug it and cleared it of stones, and planted it with choice vines; he built a watch-tower in the midst of it, and hewed out a wine vat in it; he expected it to yield grapes, but it yielded wild grapes. And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and people of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. What more was there to do for my vineyard that I have not done in it? When I expected it to yield grapes, why did it yield wild grapes? And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard. I will remove its hedge, and it shall be devoured; I will break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down. I will make it a waste; it shall not be pruned or hoed, and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns; I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it. For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel, and the people of Judah are his pleasant planting; he expected justice, but saw bloodshed; righteousness, but heard a cry! For the word of the Lord, **Thanks be to God**

SECOND READING: Philippians 3.4b-14

Even though I, too, have reason for confidence in the flesh. If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on towards the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

For the word of the Lord, **Thanks be to God**

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 21.33-end

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord

‘Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watch-tower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them, saying, “They will respect my son.” But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, “This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.” So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?’ They said to him, ‘He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.’ Jesus said to them, ‘Have you never read in the scriptures: “The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord’s doing, and it is amazing in our eyes”?’

Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.’ When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

This is the Gospel of the LORD. **Praise to you, O Christ**

NOTICES & DIARY DATES

The Revd Patricia Lawless: we have received many tributes to Pat following the news of her death, you can read some of them in this month's magazine. Pat was so well-loved and respected, not just in this parish, but across the deanery. Her funeral will take place in St John's on Friday 9 October at 11.00 am, to be followed by a gathering in church.

October Café & Mini Market - Sunday 4 October: Do stay for our monthly event! Our thanks for your donations of goods and offers of help, they are much appreciated

Christmas Shoebox Appeal 2026: The plan is to collect donations of suitable items for inclusion in the boxes, suggested lists will be in church soon. Our team will sort and fill boxes ready for collection. Individuals and families are also very welcome to complete their own boxes too. This community approach keeps it affordable. We do need more empty shoeboxes now. If you would like to join the decorating/filling team please tell Alison H.

Rev. Seamus is away 5 - 19 October: All services will take place as usual. Please contact the church office for any admin enquiries and our Readers or Fr. Kevin Tingay for pastoral care.

Save the Date! Christmas Lunch: Our Christmas lunch will be on Wednesday 16 December in the Bennett Centre.

Fair Frome Foodbank: There are collection points in most supermarkets. All help gratefully received – thank you!