

The Church of St Mary the Virgin, Great Brickhill

SUNDAY 5th March 2017:- The First Sunday of Lent

Welcome to our Prayer Book Service of Holy Communion this morning, led by the Rector. We hope that Sister Hazel may also be here with us.

Everyone is invited to stay after the service for coffee and a chat.

The readings for the services during Lent are those for the following week's **Lent Course** (see item overleaf) - the themes will focus on particular bible stories based on journeys / pilgrimages. This is **Week 1** and the theme is "**Jacob: Struggling with God**", focussing on the **Genesis** reading. This morning's readings are:- **Genesis 32: 22 - 30; Acts 9: 1 - 9; Luke 18: 1 - 8**

Thank you to the team who met at Rectory Farm early yesterday morning to transfer the load of newspapers from the containers onto the lorry – the second load of the year.

Thanks also to Chris Atkinson for dealing with the tree near the rear steps that came down in the last week's storm and to Andrew Smith and Brian Wright for clearing away the debris.

THIS WEEK AND NEXT:-

The Happy Cup Coffee Club tomorrow, 6th March. The child-friendly drop-in coffee morning, especially welcoming parents and carers of young children is held **every Monday morning during term time in the church from 9.15am to 11.15am.**

Village Drop-In, tomorrow 6th March. Although there is no longer a Post Office, the Drop-In continues on Monday afternoons at the Parish Hall, from 1.20 - 3.20pm, so please call in for a cup of tea, slice of cake and a chat.

NEWS AND EVENTS:

SNOWDROP WALKS:

What a difference in the two weeks of the Snowdrop Walks! The cold and snowy conditions for the first walk was followed by a beautiful afternoon for the second week. How wonderful it was to see so many enjoying the walk among the snowdrops and then having a lovely time in the church. Well done to those serving the tea and cakes for coping so well with the queues. We don't have a

record of the number of people attending, but in terms of money raised, last Sunday's total of **£1034.38** surpassed all previous days. With the **£341.50** raised for the first walk the total for the two weeks was **£1375.88 plus gift aid** (£1329 in 2016).

Thank you to David for arranging for the team of bell ringers and to all those who baked the cakes and helped with the teas. But most of all, thank you to David and Sally for opening up the Manor grounds, without their support this event would not be possible. David Marlow has uploaded photos of the two weekends on his website:- www.davidmarlowphotography.com

LENT COURSE:

The Lent Course "Pilgrims: Meeting God on the Journey" starts this week. There will be an afternoon group at **Stoke Hammond on Tuesdays at 2pm** and an **evening course at venues across the Benefice at 8pm** on Wednesdays 8th & 15th March, Thursdays 23rd & 30th March and Wednesday 5th April. **A Lent Course leaflet** (white) giving full details of all the dates and venues of the Lent Course is available for collection from the bookcase, or download the information from the "Lent Courses" section of the website (address below). A leaflet will also be produced each week.

ADVANCE DATE:- The annual **Plant Fayre, Saturday 8th April**, 11.00 – 4.00pm. Plants and cakes required for the stalls, plus offers of help – contact Celia Hall:- 261075 celiafeetam@madasafish.com

SERVICES ON SUNDAY, 12th MARCH:

There will be a service of Holy Communion (Common Worship) at 9.30am in Great Brickhill, led by the Rector.

Other Services across the Benefice:-

Bow Brickhill:- Family Service at 11.00am

Little Brickhill:- No Service

Stoke Hammond:- Holy Communion at 9.00am

SUNDAY, 19th MARCH - CAFÉ CHURCH, 9.30am - 11.00am

A special form of Coffee Morning including a short time for worship, to celebrate the support for the church given by many people. **Please feel free to come and join us**, for as little or as long as you would like, at this informal gathering in place of a formal service.

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The address of the Benefice website:

www.brickhillschurches.org.uk