

The Church of St Mary the Virgin, Great Brickhill

SUNDAY 18th February 2018:- The First Sunday of Lent

Welcome to our first service in this season of Lent, Morning Worship led by Phillipa. There will be a story for the children and then there will be activities for them in the Lady Chapel. Andrew will be playing the music for our hymns. Everyone is invited to stay after the service for coffee and a chat.

The readings this morning are:- **Genesis 9: 8-17; Mark 1: 9-15**

Today's psalm is verses from **Psalm No 25**. The response for the congregation is:- "***Your paths, O Lord, are love and faithfulness, to those who keep your covenant***"

SECOND SNOWDROP WALK THIS AFTERNOON, 2 – 4pm:

It should be warmer and drier than last Sunday afternoon, with no danger of a snow storm, for this afternoon's walk. Do come along and enjoy the walk, followed by teas in the church. Thank you to all who braved the elements last week for the first Snowdrop Walk, which raised an amazing **£714.63** plus gift aid. Well done to all concerned and grateful thanks to our hosts David and Sally Duncombe.

THIS WEEK AND NEXT:-

The Happy Cup Coffee Club, the child-friendly drop-in coffee morning for parents and carers **is held on Monday mornings during term time, in the church from 9.15am to 11.15am. The Coffee Club resumes tomorrow**, after the half term break.

The Village Drop-In is held on Monday afternoons at the Parish Hall, from **1.30 - 3.30pm**, so please call in for a cup of tea, slice of cake and a chat. **The Post Office in the Parish Hall** is now open **on Mondays, from 1pm to 3pm** in the small meeting room.

NEWS AND EVENTS:

St MARY'S YEAR BOOK 2017:

David Marlow has produced another wonderful Year Book, an excellent photographic review of the church events throughout 2017. The book is on the table just inside the entrance to the church. Thank you to David for all his time and effort taking the photos and compiling the book. He has sent a request for anyone who holds a fund raising event to send any photos to him for possible inclusion in the 2018 Year Book:- david@davidmarlowphotography.com

“FEED THE HUNGRY” & “LINK TO HOPE” APPEALS:

Rosie has written a report for these two appeals, giving details of how the schemes operate and news of the good work that they achieved in 2017. **Please take one of the pink sheets on the bookcase.** Thank you to Rosie and all who contribute to these appeals.

PRAYER GROUP:

There will be a weekly Prayer Group on Thursday mornings starting on 1st March. Meeting at **10.30am** for tea and coffee it will be an informal gathering in the Lady Chapel with an opportunity for quiet, private and open prayer. All will be welcome on any Thursday.

END OF NEWSPAPER COLLECTION:

Sadly, the paper recycling company can no longer do the collection from the containers. The final collection from Lower Rectory Farm will be next Saturday 24th February. Newspapers and cardboard should now be recycled via the blue wheelie bins. Thank you to all who have supported this scheme either donating their unused newspapers, or helping with the collection and emptying the containers onto the lorry. And most of all thank you to the Turner family for supplying the container and allowing it to be located at Lower Rectory Farm.

LENT COURSES & BUCKINGHAM AREA DAY CONFERENCE:

Starting the **week beginning 6th March** there will be a **three-week Lent Course “Exploring the Beatitudes”**, at Stoke Hammond on Tuesday afternoons and a midweek evening course held at venues across the Benefice. Full details will be available next week. The course will follow the Bishop of Oxford’s initiative “Called to be Christ-like: contemplative, compassionate and courageous”.

On a similar theme there is a **Buckingham Area Day Conference with the Bishop of Oxford, Saturday 24th March**, Sir Henry Floyd Grammar School, 10 - 4.30pm. See the poster on the notice boards near the vestry and in the porch for details.

SERVICES ON SUNDAY, 25th FEBRUARY:

There will be a **Family Service with Baptism here at 11.00am** led by the Rector. Other Services across the Benefice:-

Bow Brickhill:- Holy Communion at 9.00am

Little Brickhill:- No Service

Stoke Hammond:- Morning Worship at 9.00am

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