

St Mary the Virgin, Great Brickhill

PCC NEWSLETTER, 5th MARCH 2018



To thank you for the help you all give to the church and to celebrate the support given by many people in different ways, the PCC would like to invite you to:-

CAFÉ CHURCH

Sunday 19th March at 9.30am

Join us for coffee and pastries at this informal gathering in place of a formal church service, with a short time for simple worship

It would be helpful if you could let us know if you are able to come:-

Julia 261213 juliaturner.it@icloud.com Phillipa 261521 pjcook6@gmail.com

SNOWDROP WALKS – SUNDAY 11th & 18th FEBRUARY:

The Snowdrop Walks were very well supported again this year. On the first Sunday, as the visitors arrived, so did the frequent showers of rain, hail and sleet. Not to be disappointed most ventured out to see the wonderful display of snowdrops before returning to the Church for a welcome cup of tea and the obligatory slice of cake! The weather on the second Sunday was much warmer and drier, with no danger of a snow storm. Over the two days **£1,370** was raised for church funds, much of it donated under the gift aid scheme. Thank you to our hosts David and Sally Duncombe and to all who baked the cakes and helped with the teas. David Marlow has uploaded photos on to his website:- www.davidmarlowphotography.com

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

END OF NEWSPAPER COLLECTION:

Sadly, the paper recycling company can no longer do the collection from Lower Rectory Farm. This has been a good source of income for the church over many years. **Thank you to all who have supported the scheme** by 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. (Newspapers and cardboard can be put in the blue recycling bins to be collected fortnightly).

WEEKLY PRAYER GROUP, THURSDAY MORNINGS:

A weekly Prayer Group started last week in the Church. Meeting on Thursday mornings at **10.30am for tea and coffee** it is an informal gathering in the Lady Chapel with an opportunity for quiet, private and open prayer. **All are welcome on any Thursday.**

PLANT FAYRE, SATURDAY 7th APRIL, 11 – 4pm:

Our next fund-raising event is the annual Plant Fayre. If you are able to help and haven't yet offered your services I am sure that John and Celia would be pleased to hear from you, whether supplying plants for the Plant Stall, cakes for the Cake Stall, helping on the day with setting up, assisting on one of the stalls, or clearing away:-
01525 261075 johnnewhall@yahoo.co.uk celiafeetam@madasafish.com

A flier for the Plant Fayre is attached – please spread the word to friends and family.

A PLEA FOR MOWERS:

And not of the mechanical sort! As I am sure you know a team of willing volunteers help to mow the churchyard (the area around the church, not the cemetery) over the summer months on a fortnightly basis. We are in need of some able-bodied persons to volunteer to take a turn on the rota – most do just one session a year. Depending on how much it has rained it takes about three hours to mow the whole area.

The mower and petrol are provided and can be delivered to the church if necessary. **If anyone feels able to help out, or would like more information please contact Phillipa** (details below). If there are a couple who would like to “share” a turn on the rota, and hence spend just half the time doing the mowing, a second mower can be made available.

THE BIBLE COURSE:

This is an **8-session course exploring the world's bestseller**. Discover how the key events, books and characters all fit together, see the BIG picture and discover how the Bible applies to your life. Those who attended an earlier version of the course three years ago are looking forward to this new version and can thoroughly recommend it.

There is a choice of **two Introductory Sessions** the week before Easter:

- **Wednesday 28th March** in the small meeting room **at The Parish Hall**.
Desserts and freshly made coffee at **7.30pm** with the course starting at 8.00pm.
- **Thursday 29th March, 2.30pm** at **The Rectory, 10 Pound Hill**

The **seven follow on sessions will be held after Easter** – dates and times tbc

For more information contact:-

Phillipa Cook 01525 261521 07788 740969 pjcook6@gmail.com

For a preview of the course visit:-

<https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/explore-the-bible/the-bible-course/>

THE LENT COURSE:

The three-week Lent Course across the Benefice starts this week, a choice of afternoon or evening sessions. It is a three-week course “**Exploring the Beatitudes**”. The course will follow the Bishop of Oxford’s initiative “Called to be Christ-like, a call for Christians to be contemplative, compassionate and courageous”.

Attached is a flier giving all the times, dates and venues of the sessions. If any of you would like to attend any of the sessions then you would be most welcome.

AND FINALLY,

As we approach the celebration of Easter please note below the services in the Benefice during the period of Lent and Easter:-

MOTHERING SUNDAY, 11th March:-

Bow Brickhill:- 11.00am Family Service
Great Brickhill:- 9.30am Holy Communion
Little Brickhill:- No Service
Stoke Hammond:- 9.00am Morning Worship

PALM SUNDAY, 25th March:-

Bow Brickhill:- 9.00am Holy Communion
Great Brickhill:- 11.00m Family Service
Little Brickhill:- No Service
Stoke Hammond:- 9.00am. Morning Worship

MAUNDY THURSDAY, 29th March:-

Great Brickhill:- 7.00pm United Benefice Service of Holy Communion (Said)

GOOD FRIDAY, 30th March:-

Bow Brickhill:- 9.30am Hymns and Readings
Great Brickhill:- 2.00pm Hour of Devotion
Little Brickhill:- Church open for prayers, 9.00am – 11.00am
Stoke Hammond:- Church open for prayers, 12 noon – 3.00pm

EASTER SUNDAY, 1st April:-

Bow Brickhill:- 9.00am Holy Communion (Revd John Waller)
Great Brickhill:- 11.00am Holy Communion (Revd John Waller)
Little Brickhill:- 9.30am Family Service with Holy Communion (Revd Steve Barnes)
Stoke Hammond:- 11.00am Family Service with Holy Cmnn (Revd Robert Wright)

For further information please contact:-

Phillipa Cook TEL: 01525 261521 07788 740969 pjcook6@gmail.com

Do please remember that all the information about Church events or services can be found on the Benefice website:- www.brickhillchurches.org.uk

David Marlow kindly takes photographs at our special services and events. To view the photos visit:- www.davidmarlowphotography.com