

Church News

Review:

Prayer walk: We were delighted to welcome a couple new to the village at our prayer walk, for which the weather fortunately held off. We prayed particularly for those who have moved into the new estates, to settle well and have things run smoothly for them. If you need any extra prayers – please let us know!

Community Breakfast: It was great to see some newcomers to the village at this month's breakfast, which started off quite quietly but rapidly filled up! We're making good use of the new noticeboard – please let us know if there's anything you'd like to advertise! Many thanks to our "washer-uppers" Liz and Margaret for their stirring work.



Songs of Praise with afternoon teas: A small but select band turned out for the Songs of Praise, but that meant that the choir outnumbered us so the singing was particularly good! There were some wonderful hymns and songs including "Guide me O thou Great Redeemer", "Jerusalem", "Be still my soul" (which brought a few of us to tears!) and "Give me oil in my lamp" and finally, the choir sang an anthem. What a shame so many missed out on the lovely singing and delicious home made scones!

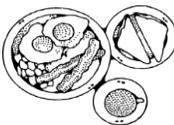


Open gardens: Many thanks to all who opened their gardens, baked cakes or came along and supported this amazing event. The weather was not as kind as it could have been, but nor was it too bad – at least the rain kept off! We all loved visiting the wonderful gardens and enjoyed the barbecue lunch and afternoon tea. There were many compliments about the gardens from both novice and experienced gardeners. We're still counting the money as we go to press, so aren't sure how much the final total will be yet. Keep a look out next month.



Forthcoming events:

Community Breakfast: We will be holding our Community Breakfast again on **Saturday 14th July** and serving breakfast from **8.30am** with last orders at **10.30am**. Come down and join us - especially if you've not been before. Give us a ring if you'd like a lift down or bring a friend if you want someone familiar to talk to - they don't have to live in the village. We have vegetarian options, or if you're not a cooked breakfast fan, just have cereal, toast or a croissant or pain au chocolat. We look forward to seeing you!



Prayer meetings: Our prayer meetings will take place this month at **8pm** on **Wed 11th and 25th July** at **The Birches, Church Rd.** If you have anything you'd like prayers for, please let us know and if you'd like to join us, please be sure to call John, as we often change times and dates last minute.



Church fete: Our church fete will be taking place from **1pm to 4pm** this year on **Saturday 21st July** at **St Luke's church** (at the top of Church Rd – just off Newton Rd). We'll be having our usual

tombola, games, a raffle and refreshments as well as various stalls including a cake stall. **If you'd like to book a table, please contact John or Diane.** Look out for our flyer which will be delivered around the village in a week or so. The week before the fete, we call round every house in the village - usually in the evenings - to collect bric-a-brac (unwanted 2nd hand or new items – toys, books, dvds, jewellery, kitchenware etc) and tombola items (packaged food items within their best before dates – bottles, tins, packets etc). If you're not in, we'll leave a contact number you can call on for us to collect later. It takes us a whole week to cover the village, but we'd absolutely love to have more helpers. **Please call John or Diane if you can help, collecting in the village, or at the fete.**

Afternoon teas: We like to keep busy at church, so our next afternoon teas are on **Sunday 29th July** at **St Luke's** between **3 and 5pm!** You're welcome to drop in and join us for a homemade cream tea or cake. There's no charge, we just love to have a chat, welcome newcomers, meet your children and enjoy offering hospitality, so why not put the date in your diary! If you can't make the date our next teas are **19th August** and **23rd September.**



Special services:

Café church: We'll be holding our next Café church service at **9.30am** on **July 22nd** at **St Luke's church**. If you've not been to a church service before and are feeling a little nervous, this could be the service for you! A light breakfast (sausage or bacon roll, pain au chocolat, croissant, toast or cereal) is served from 9.30am onwards.



There will be a chance to read the newspapers or join in a chat with others over breakfast. At about 10.15 or so, Val (who is leading the service) will ask for your attention and the "service" begins. It's all very informal. There may or may not be a song or a reading, but there will generally be some prayers and possibly interactive thought-provoking comment on life, which is linked with how God fits into our lives in the modern world.

Church Benefice Website: www.brickhillschurches.org.uk. If you want to come to a service, all church service times are listed on the website, along with contact details for the Rector. His phone goes straight to an answerphone but he will reply as soon as he's able. The Rector's day off is Monday.

Church news articles are now available to read on the benefice website (click on Stoke Hammond in the list and scroll down to Stoke Hammond Newsletters) - handy for when you want to click on a web address instead of typing it out!

If you would like to come to church but have mobility problems please ring John (see below) regarding transport. If you would like to volunteer to help, have a prayer request or enquiry, please ring **Harry: Churchwarden, on 07773065271, Diane: Churchwarden, on 270409 or John: Treasurer, on 270202.**