

The Church of St Mary the Virgin, Great Brickhill

SUNDAY 22nd April 2018:- The Fourth Sunday of Easter

Welcome to our **Family Service** this morning led by the Rector. Thank you to Andrew and possibly Margretta for playing the music to accompany our songs. The theme of the service is the Good Shepherd. We will be using the projector and screen again and so no sheets or books are required.

There will be activities for the children in the Lady Chapel.

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

The bible reading this morning is:- **John 10: 11 - 18**

FUNERAL NEWS:

The funeral service for Valerie Vestergaard will be held this Tuesday at St Andrew's Church, Bebington in the Wirral. A number of people will be meeting here at the church at the time of Valerie's funeral, 10.30am, a chance to remember all that Valerie contributed to the life of this church over many years.

We were sorry to hear earlier this week that John Walduck has died. His funeral service at Crownhill Crematorium (Oak Chapel) will be at 2.45pm on Wednesday 9th May.

Our thoughts and prayers are with both families as they prepare for the funerals.

THE BIBLE COURSE:

This is the second week of the **seven follow-on sessions** for the Bible Course, which explores the world's bestseller, discovering how the key events, books and characters of the Bible all fit together. It is not essential to have attended the introductory session. This week's sessions:- **Tuesday 24th April**, 1.30pm at The Rectory and **Thursday, 26th April** at 7.30pm in the small meeting room of the Parish Hall. Full details are on **the blue flyers** near the bookcase.

NEWS AND EVENTS:

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 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 open on Mondays, from 1pm to 3pm** in the small meeting room.

The weekly Prayer Group meets on **Thursday mornings** for tea and coffee **at 10.30am** - an informal gathering in the Lady Chapel with an opportunity for quiet, private and open prayer.

THE PLANT FAYRE:

Well done to all those who helped to make last week's Plant Fayre such a success. **The current total** of the amount raised is **£2694** (£2730 last year) with 381 people through the gate (405 in 2017) – a full analysis of the provisional results is on display in the porch. Thanks to all who helped to make the day such a success, especially John and Celia Hall who masterminded the event.

ANNUAL MEETING, 17th APRIL:

Fifteen parishioners attended the Annual Church Meeting. Elections were held for the positions of Warden and PCC members. All positions remain unchanged. The Annual Report and Accounts were adopted. A photographic review of the year was shown. Julia presented the Wardens' report summarising the work etc. undertaken during the year. The Rector presented his report with some thoughts on the Bishop of Oxford's book "Abundant Life," reflections on the raising of Lazarus. The Annual Meeting concluded with Compline. The Annual Report, the presentation of slides from the Annual Meeting, the Wardens' Report and a report from the Tower Captain will soon be available to download from the "Annual Meeting 2018" page of the Great Brickhill section of the website.

NEXT SUNDAY, 29th APRIL there will be a United Benefice Service of Holy Communion at Little Brickhill at 11.00am, led by the Rector. The service will reflect on the Lent Course, "Exploring the Beatitudes", the Bishop of Oxford's initiative calling for Christians to be contemplative, compassionate and courageous.

SERVICES ON SUNDAY, 6th MAY:

There will be a said Holy Communion (BCP) Service at 11.00am in Great Brickhill, led by the Rector.

Other Services across the Benefice:-

Bow Brickhill:- Evensong at 6.00pm

Little Brickhill:- Holy Communion at 9.30am

Stoke Hammond:- Family Service at 11am, Methodist Church

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