

Church News - October 2018

Review:

Afternoon teas: Our September afternoon tea was the last of the year. It had been a rainy day, so there were just a stalwart few, but we did put the world to rights! The next Afternoon tea will be May 2019!

Ride and Stride: Our churchwarden, Harry took part in the Ride and Stride again last month, visiting 34 churches!...Wow! He's collecting sponsorship money as we speak. Funds will be divided between the Bucks Historic Churches Trust and St Luke's Church in the village. Harry offers his thanks to everyone for your support.

Village Show: The church held a bric-a-brac tombola stall with many prizes at the village show. and raised a total of £117 for which we are most grateful!

Community Breakfast: Last month's community breakfast was later in the month than usual, but just as busy. Owing to Dave being unwell, the cooking was done by Diane, who coped admirably despite a rush on sausages and fried eggs! Dave will be back next month.



Forthcoming events:

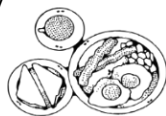
What a busy month we have coming up...and it's not even Christmas yet!

Prayer meetings: Our prayer meetings will take place this month at **8pm** on **Wed 10th** and **24th October** 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 sometimes change times and dates last minute.

Community Breakfast: We will be holding our Community Breakfast again on **Saturday 13th October** (back to our usual 2nd Saturday) and serving breakfast from **8.30am**.

St Luke's Day - Gift Day: St Luke's day is 18th October and as he's our patron saint, we are proud to celebrate this anniversary by holding a Gift Day on **Saturday 20th October**. St Luke's symbol is a winged ox. The symbol was developed over centuries, but fully expressed as we know it now, by Rabanus Maurus - a medieval German archbishop - and represents sacrifice, service and strength - qualities Christians aspire to. In the next couple of weeks, every house in the village

will receive a letter inviting you to give a donation in the envelope provided. Envelopes can then be left at the places listed in the letter or brought to the church gift day. Donations are used specifically for restoration and project work (our next project is the improvement of our heating system). If you wish, you may specify where you'd prefer your donation to go. We'll be serving **teas and coffees from 10 to 12** and **soup and rolls from 12 till 2** for donations. We'd love to see you so come on down!



Special services:

Harvest festival & lunch: Harvest is a special time in church and given the unusual weather we've had, this year will be particularly significant. Our harvest festival gives us a chance to thank God for providing for us. Come and join us to thank Him for His bounty. Our **Harvest festival** is at **11am** on **Sunday 7th October**.

We're looking for people to help us decorate the church. We'd be especially pleased



if you could help with **flower arranging**. If you're particularly experienced or keen, you could make an arrangement for one of our windows. We can offer a contribution towards the cost of flowers and we have plenty of gardens with greenery. Contact Diane for details. If you have any produce you'd like to offer - from your own garden or something you've bought, fresh or packaged, feel free to bring it to the

service where you will be able to lay it at the altar. All donations are given to a local food bank after the service. We'll be having our **Harvest Lunch** (buffet with pudding!) at **1 for 1.30pm** on the same day. **Please contact Harry, John or Diane by 3rd October if you'd like a ticket.** Tickets are **£6** for adults (**£3** for children) and include a free glass of wine (not for the children!) **No tickets on the door.**

St Luke's Day - patronal festival: We'll be holding a special service of thanks for the life of St Luke with Holy Communion on **Sunday 21st October** at **9am**. Do come and join us!

Café church: On **Sunday 28th October**, we'll be holding another **Café church** service. This is a different style of interactive service we have been offering on an ad hoc basis for the last few years and is more accessible to complete newcomers to church. In fact the "service" lasts only about **15 to 20 minutes**. Your choice of simple breakfast is served from **9.30am** on. There are newspapers, games and toys for the children and there's the opportunity to chat! There's no charge, but donations are taken in place of a collection. At about 10.15, the leader will ask for your attention and the "service" begins. There may be a song or a reading, but there are usually some prayers and thought-provoking comment on life, linked with how God fits into our lives in the modern world. If you don't have much experience of worshipping in a formal church service, but want to try church, this is the service for you!



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)

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 **Churchwardens: Harry, on 07773065271; Diane, on 270409** or **Treasurer: John, on 270202.**