

# Church News - June/July 2019

## Review:

**+Community Breakfast:** Last month we donated all our profits to Christian Aid for Christian Aid Week 12<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> May. In addition to our breakfast donations, there was an extra fundraiser for Christian Aid – a quiz prize breakfast hamper (complete with croissants and jam) was won by Ben Harris of Phoebe's Orchard. Answers to the quiz are available on the Benefice Website with the SH news reports. There was also a colouring competition for the children, which was won by Holly. Many thanks to all who came and joined us – we raised over £300 for Christian Aid, most of which was gift aided.

**Afternoon teas:** As we go to press, we have not yet enjoyed our afternoon tea, however, I'm sure you'll have received a warm welcome and a delicious tea!

## Forthcoming events:

**A Garden party and BBQ:**...will take place on **1st June** from **1-4pm** at **The Birches, Church Rd.** There will be burgers & hot dogs, (with vegetarian options) and wine, beer or a soft drink will also be available. We've been praying for good weather, so come and join us, enjoy playing free garden games: quoits or skittles; buy a raffle ticket, guess the number of sweets in the jar or just take the weight off your feet and chill as you relax in this beautiful garden with your friends and neighbours. Everyone's welcome!



**Prayer meetings:** Prayer meetings are open to all denominations so please join us if you want to! There'll be meetings at **8pm** on **Wed 12<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> June** and **Wed 10<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> July** at **The Birches, Church Rd.** If you'd like to join us or would like prayers for someone, please call Diane, (we sometimes change times and dates). **Prayer request cards** are available at the Community breakfast or from the church. Prayers are kept confidential, but if you'd prefer to drop an anonymous prayer into The Birches, that's OK too! However large or small, we'd be delighted to include your prayers and you'll know that someone cares.



**Community Breakfasts:** Community Breakfasts will be held on **Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> June** and **13<sup>th</sup> July.** Breakfast can be ordered **from 8.30 till 10.30am.** We've been delighted at the success of our breakfasts over the past few years. If you've been meaning to come, but keep forgetting, why not join our email list and receive a prompt during the week before. Contact Dave Webber on the village Facebook, or Diane (see below). There is no charge but if you'd like to make a donation, feel free to pay what you think the breakfast is worth or what you can afford.



**Afternoon teas:** We just love a cup of tea (or coffee) and are holding our next afternoon teas again on **Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> June and Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> July from 3-5pm** in the church. There's no charge, but you can make a donation if you'd like to (some people don't like having something for nothing!) Come and join us for a home-made cream scone or home-made cake and a cuppa (squash for the children) and a chat – everyone's welcome and we'd love to meet you!



**Church Fete:** It's that time of year again – as if we weren't already rushed off our feet! It's a good job we can ask God to refresh us (see Matthew 11 v 28-30!) otherwise we'd be exhausted! The fete will be held on **June 15<sup>th</sup> at St Luke's Church** (at the top of Church Rd) from **1-4pm.** We'll have the usual stalls: refreshments, tombola and bric-a-brac, cake stall, raffle, plant and container/ hanging basket stall and more as well as traditional games – Splat the rat, Roll a penny, Bung hole, Shuffleboard, Spinning Jenny, Stand-a-can etc. As usual, **we'll be collecting bric-a-brac** (the sort of thing you'd give to a charity shop – ornaments, crockery, books, DVDs, etc, but **not clothes**) and **tombola** (bottles, tins and packets of in-code food and wine (or toiletries) for our tombola stall) **during the week before the fete.** Please look out for our leaflet! We like to think that you can have a great afternoon's entertainment for a very small price, so do come and join us!

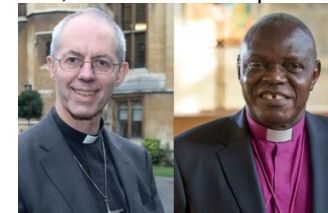


**Barn Dance:** We're holding a Barn Dance this summer on **Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> July** at the Stoke Hammond Community Centre (with marquee). There's a tiered ticket sale structure, with tickets sold by 15<sup>th</sup> June (the church fete) sold at a discount and prices rising after that. Tickets are selling fast, so book yours now! For details of this humdinger of a hoe-down, see our full page advert elsewhere in the SH news!



## Special events:

**"Thy kingdom come":** Thy Kingdom Come started in 2016, when Archbishop Justin Welby and Archbishop John Sentamu invited every parish in the Church of England to pray between Ascension and Pentecost (this year, that's **Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> May to Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> June**) for people they know to come to know the love of Jesus Christ. Since then it has been an annual event for other Christian denominations as well. If you're a Christian, why not take up the challenge. Who would you pray for??!



**Buckinghamshire Historic Churches Trust Ride and Stride:** This is an annual event that our Churchwarden Harry takes part in every year. Participants are sponsored to walk or ride (usually a bike, but horses as well!) around as many churches as they can between **10am and 6pm** on the second Saturday in September, which is **14<sup>th</sup> September** this year. Sponsorship money collected is divided equally by BHCT, half the



proceeds going to the trust and the other half going to a church of your choice (in Harry's case, St Luke's). If you're a cyclist or a (horse) rider, and you think you'd like to take part, please contact Harry (details below) or go online to:

<https://bucks-historic-churches.org/ride-stride/>

#### **Dates for your diary:**

**Pentecost (Whit Sunday or Whitsun) : 9<sup>th</sup> June**

**Fathers' Day: 16<sup>th</sup> June** (Not actually a religious festival, but don't forget your Dad!)

#### **Future Fundraising events:**

**An evening with local author Jack Sheffield: 14<sup>th</sup> September (SHCC)**

**Christmas Fayre: 30<sup>th</sup> November**

**Bible verse of the month: *Matthew 11 v 28 – 30:*** <sup>28</sup> "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup> Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup> For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." (NIV)

**What does it mean?** One interpretation is that Jesus knows what life is like with its many burdens and anxieties. He invites us to share ours, whatever they may be, with Him. He offers us mercy, guidance, gentleness, warmth, and understanding. Jesus is not boasting in what He says in v 29. He is showing the real nature of a loving and caring God, who is not like a policeman or a severe taskmaster. Read the background at:

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+11&version=NIV>

**Finally, we'd like to send our best wishes to villagers Andy and Vicky who will be marrying at St Luke's in June. Congratulations to you both!**

**Church Benefice Website: [www.brickhillchurches.org.uk](http://www.brickhillchurches.org.uk).**



St Luke's offers Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals and other services according to your needs (thanksgiving for the birth of a child, blessing of a wedding, etc.) Please contact the Rector or a Churchwarden if you'd like to discuss your situation.

The church is located at the top of Church Rd, off Newton Rd.

If you'd like to come to a service, church service times are listed on the website, with the Rector's contact details. His phone goes straight to an answerphone but he'll reply as soon as he's able, or contact a Churchwarden. The Rector's day off is Monday.

**Church news articles are available to read on the benefice website** (click on Stoke Hammond in the list and scroll down to Stoke Hammond Newsletters) **I will be continuing to put up a Stoke Hammond Church news report on the Benefice website and hope to continue issuing it monthly, as the SH News printed copy is only bi-monthly. Unfortunately, church events are not always scheduled 2 months in advance, so please do check the website report for updates.**

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.**

