

St Mary the Virgin, Great Brickhill



The Church continues to be alive and active, but our buildings must close.

CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) OUTBREAK **Update 1st May 2020**

As we start another month under these very strange times,

MAY MADRIGALS - VIRTUAL MAY DAY MORNING:

Even the May Day Madrigals yesterday had to take place virtually. Although the usual 6am Madrigals could not take place in their normal form, the Choir of Magdalen College were determined not to let this 500-year-old Oxford tradition go unmarked. Enjoy the wonderful performance on the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CEBsmxAfGiY&app=desktop>

ALTHOUGH THE CHURCH BUILDING HAS BEEN CLOSED NOW FOR SIX WEEKS, THE CHURCH IS VERY MUCH ALIVE,

As we acclimatised to the new “normal”, it has been a steep learning curve to find out how we might do things in the virtual world. With no time to prepare, we are now all gradually getting to grips with family Zoom meetings and the like. We hope that we might be able to offer some type of video recordings in the near future, but in the meantime please bear with us.

This week we are offering resources for families with children and young people. In a separate e-mail to follow, there will be a summary of those resources along with the relevant PDF files.

There are activities and drawings on offer and we would like to invite the young to participate in whatever their parents feel appropriate, and if they wish, to send in the results of their exploits that they might like to share with us:- please send as PDF or jpeg files to:- pjcook6@gmail.com

To start things off, we have a wonderful video of the Easter message in Lego (attached) by Ed and Lily Puxley (Mary Maley’s grandchildren). Ed had the idea to make the video as an extension to his RE homework. Ed and Lily worked together as a team for a week to complete it – 665 shots were taken!

We would love to be able to share work that others have done in this lockdown period to explore the Bible stories and grow their faith. I am sure there are some imaginative children out there who would like to join in – it doesn’t have to be anything as elaborate as a video - a drawing, painting or story would be equally as good.

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES FOR THIS WEEK:

Two files accompany this e-mail giving the details of worship for this coming Sunday.

(1). The Rector has written a brief reflection and prayer.

(2). How and where to find services for this Fourth Sunday of Easter. This includes the programmes available on the BBC, both radio and television, and live-streaming services from the Oxford Diocese and the Church of England. There is information on additional items, **including resources for VE Day this coming Friday.**

THE CHURCH BELLS DURING THE CRISIS:

Many clergy are fielding requests to ring church bells in support of key workers. In response to that, the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers have produced the following:- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W2Qo1wK9yNw =>

VIRTUAL CHOIRS:

Choirs are finding initiative ways to rehearse during this period when they are unable to meet. To hear some wonderful virtual choral music, below is a link to the Royal Choral Society's performance of the Hallelujah Chorus in Isolation:-

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PQYVbd1Gwg>

The Benefice choir under Jerry Breslin's leadership is holding weekly virtual practices - they are learning new pieces of music and so we will look forward to the time that they will be able to sing in front of a live congregation.

IN BRIEF,

THE RECTOR:

Revd John Waller is available to hear from parishioners who have any concerns during this worrying time:- 01525 261062 rector@brickhillchurches.org.uk

ACTIVE E-MAIL PRAYER CHAIN:

Anyone who would like to join the group or would like to have a prayer included, contact:- Valerie Kerr (valeriejerr@hotmail.com) or Mary Maley (mary@maley.org.uk) or Roger Blofeld (rogerblo@aol.com).

THE FOOD BOX RUNNING:

Please remember to spread the news that the Food Box in the church porch is there to help anyone who is in need of food either in an emergency or longer term. The church main and porch gates are open for easy access to the Food Box at all times.

For further information about any of the above, please contact:-

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

Do please remember that the Benefice website will be the best way to receive updates about the current situation and to obtain worship information. The special "Coronavirus" section will be updated with any new information and worship details:-

www.brickhillchurches.org.uk