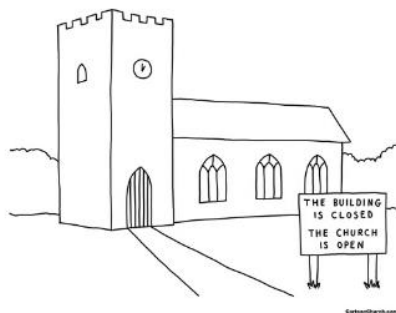


## St Mary the Virgin, Great Brickhill



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

## CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) OUTBREAK Update 22nd May 2020

Following yesterday's celebration of Ascension Day, .....



**He is Ascended! Alleluia!**

### **DIOCESAN SCHOOL ASSEMBLY:**

Today saw the first ever on-line Diocesan School Assembly featuring Bishop Steven, which every school in the Diocese was invited to take part in.

The theme of the assembly is **COURAGE**, which Bishop Steven picks up on in his talk, and the assembly starts with a time of stilling and **CONTEMPLATION**; both of these themes tie in with the vision of the Church of England in Oxford Diocese to be more **Contemplative, Compassionate and Courageous**.

The Assembly comes in both a **PRIMARY** version and a **SECONDARY** version, so please choose the appropriate link below for you and your family.

- Primary - <https://vimeo.com/420854893/bad5d893a1>
- Secondary - <https://vimeo.com/420947252/faa3d61b5b>

**Do keep schools in your prayers as teachers and students prepare to return.**

## **WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES FOR THIS SUNDAY:**

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 Seventh 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.

**IN BRIEF, .....**

### **THE RECTOR:**

Revd John Waller is available to hear from parishioners who have any concerns during this worrying time:- 01525 261062 [rector@brickhillschurches.org.uk](mailto:rector@brickhillschurches.org.uk)

### **ACTIVE E-MAIL PRAYER CHAIN:**

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

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

Phillipa Cook TEL: 01525 261521 07788 740969 [pjcook6@gmail.com](mailto: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.brickhillschurches.org.uk](http://www.brickhillschurches.org.uk)

**Despite being in the midst of the current pandemic, our prayers are still needed for those affected by the natural disasters that occur around the world. A prayer for those across India and Bangladesh affected by Cyclone Amphan:-**

*'O afflicted one, storm-tossed, and not comforted,  
Behold, I will set your stones in antimony,  
And your foundations I will lay in sapphires.'* (Isaiah 54:11)

God of refuge, protect our sisters and brothers in Bangladesh and India, tossed far from their homes by Cyclone Amphan.

Some afraid to evacuate for fear of a pandemic disease, surrounded by catastrophe and debris.

Comfort them as they journey and where they stay.

Your love knows no distance, O God be near your children in peril.

Set them on their way to safety, let them find your help.

Awaken in our hearts a love that reaches out –  
a love that shelters neighbours from the storm,  
a love that lays the foundations for recovery,  
a love that perseveres.

We pray for their protection to you,  
our God who never gives up.

In Jesus name,

Amen