

St Mary the Virgin, Great Brickhill



CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) OUTBREAK

Update 11th July 2020

As you will know places of worship were allowed to re-open for worship from 4th July. All the guidance urges caution before any church opens. We are aware that there are many who have been shielding or in vulnerable groups who do not yet feel comfortable in going to public places.

We hope to be able to give information as to when services across the Benefice will resume for those who feel comfortable to come. When services do resume, whatever pattern of worship is offered, we will continue to share information on the virtual worship opportunities that are available.

LAST SUNDAY'S VIRTUAL SERVICE OF EVENSONG:

As our first virtual service, this worked very well with thanks to Jerry Breslin for setting it up via Zoom. Parishioners from across the Benefice joined the service. Thank you to the Rector for leading the service, to those doing the readings and prayers and to all who sourced the music which was played throughout the service.

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY:

The Rector's weekly reflection and prayer has again been recorded and is available on You Tube. There is also a recording of the Rector reading the story of the Parable of the Sower, filmed on location at Rectory Farm - please make this available to the younger members of your family if appropriate. The two You Tube clips can be found following the links below:-

Reflection & Prayer <https://youtu.be/f52treHbskl>

Parable of the Sower <https://youtu.be/qiQM2zrQLJg>

We will endeavour to provide a video recording each week, from different locations across the Benefice.

Two files accompany this e-mail giving the details of worship for this coming Sunday:-
(1). The Rector's written brief reflection and prayer.

(2). How and where to find this week's services for the Third Sunday after Trinity. 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.

END OF YEAR DIOCESAN SECONDARY SCHOOL ASSEMBLY:

A virtual End of Year Diocesan Secondary School Assembly on HOPE has been produced. For those particularly of school age, it is available to view on You Tube:-
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TeSDoUoDM0Y&feature=youtu.be>

CHURCH OPEN:

A reminder that the church is currently open for just two sessions per week in order that the building can be closed for 72 hours between opening times to minimise risk of infection. The church is open on:

Sundays:- 10.00am – 2.00pm

Wednesdays:- 2.00pm – 5.00pm

We will increase the opening times as soon as we feel it is safe to do so following the guidelines provided to us. Any change to the opening times and other updates will be notified on our website:- www.brickhillschurches.org.uk

There is hand sanitizer available at the entrance and we ask that you read the guidance provided on the blue notice board as you enter the church. Much of the church has been cordoned off and all bibles, books etc have been removed. Please take your own bible or reading matter with you. There are chairs available near the altar should you wish to sit and say a prayer, or merely enjoy the wonderful space.

We would remind for those in vulnerable groups to check the current government guidelines. We will welcome all those to visit the church who feel comfortable to do so. If anyone exhibits symptoms of coronavirus within a week of your visit to the church, please contact: Julia Turner: 01525 261618 juliaturner.jt@icloud.com or Phillipa Cook: 01525 261521 pjcook6@gmail.com. The church will then be closed for a while for special cleaning to be done.

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

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) or Roger Blofeld (rogerblo@aol.com).

THE FOOD BOX:

Thank you to those who have supported the Food Box located in the church porch. There have been very few items taken from the box and so the amount of goods kept there has been reduced - a few basic items, tea, coffee, milk, soup, beans are in the box, just enough for a meal or two. The excess supplies have been taken to the MK Food Bank where there is a genuine ongoing need for supplies.

IN NEED OF A FRIENDLY CHAT:

We have been living in these strange times for over fourteen weeks now and, although the lockdown restrictions are being slowly eased, we are aware that there will be many who are in self isolation or generally finding life difficult at the moment. If you feel in need of a friendly chat, Julia will be very happy to receive a call from you:- 01525, 261618 or 07714 028785

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.brickhillschurches.org.uk