

St Mary the Virgin, Great Brickhill



CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) OUTBREAK Update 25th July 2020

Further to the Prime Minister's announcement that places of worship may re-open for worship from 4th July, it has been agreed that live services across the Benefice will resume in August. There will also be virtual services to cater for those who do not yet feel able to venture out to church.

With regard to live services there will be one service per day at one of the churches on the first four Sundays in August at 11.00am. Although there cannot be any singing, the organ will be played at various points. 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. By the middle of August, we will have more of an idea as to what people might like and will be in a position to plan for services in September and beyond.

The schedule of Services for August is at the end of this Newsletter.

VIRTUAL SERVICE OF EVENSONG THIS MONDAY 27th JULY AT 7.00pm.

Following the successful virtual Evensong service on 5th July, Jerry Breslin is arranging an Evensong service via Zoom this Monday 27th July when the choir would normally be holding their weekly practice session. The invitation to join in this service is being extended to all those who would like to participate.

If anyone is interested in joining in this virtual service via Zoom please let me know and I will send you the log-in details:- pjcook6@gmail.com

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY:

The Rector's reflection and prayer is being recorded each week at different locations across the Benefice and these are available on You Tube. This week there is also a recording of the Rector reading the story of the Precious Pearl, filmed inside the church at Great Brickhill - 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/Z9zmg3ZYCQM>
"The Precious Pearl" <https://youtu.be/ypSfx6DXhfE>

If you missed the recordings of any of the earlier week's reflections and stories, these can be found on the website in the section "Coronavirus You Tube Recordings".

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 Seventh Sunday after Trinity. This includes the programmes available on the BBC, both radio and television, and livestreaming services from the Oxford Diocese and the Church of England.

The Rector will continue to offer his weekly reflection and prayer and we will continue to share information about the weekly virtual worship opportunities that are being either televised or live streamed from around the country. The information is posted each week at the church and is also uploaded onto the website in the dedicated Coronavirus section.

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.it@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.

PATHWAYS, THE DIOCESAN MAGAZINE:

The Summer issue of Pathways, the Diocesan magazine is now available – there will be no printed copies this time. It can be viewed online and downloaded as a pdf file via the following link: <https://www.oxford.anglican.org/pathways-pdf-version/>

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 eighteen 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

SERVICES ACROSS THE BENEFICE IN JULY / AUGUST 2020

DATE:	VENUE	SERVICE
Monday, 27th July	Virtual via Zoom	7.00pm. Evensong
Sunday, 2nd August	Stoke Hammond	11.00am. Holy Communion
Sunday, 9th August	Great Brickhill	11.00am. Holy Communion
Sunday, 16th August	Little Brickhill	11.00am. Family Service
Sunday, 23rd August	Bow Brickhill	11.00am. Holy Communion
Sunday, 30th August	Virtual via Zoom	11.00am. Service details tbc