

St Mary the Virgin, Great Brickhill



Our

resume

CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) OUTBREAK

Update 1st August 2020

As reported last week, it has been agreed that live services across the Benefice will resume in August. 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. There will be occasional virtual services to cater for those who do not yet feel able to venture out to church and we will continue to share information on the virtual worship opportunities that are available each week both on radio and television, and livestreaming services

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. We will be keeping a close eye on any changes to the guidelines and restrictions which may be issued by the government.

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

Tomorrow's service is at Stoke Hammond at 11.00am. Due to the social distancing rules there is a restriction on numbers, only 20 can attend. Anyone wishing to go to the service should check with Diane Webber to see if there are spaces as it is first come first served:- 01525 270409 dianejwebber@gmail.com

NEXT SUNDAY'S SERVICE on 9th August is here in Great Brickhill, Holy Communion at 11.00am. Whilst there will be no problem with the numbers attending, there will be certain changes which have to be made. We will have to take the contact details for our records of all those attending.

VIRTUAL SERVICES VIA ZOOM:-

Thank you to Jerry Breslin for organising the virtual Evensong service via Zoom on Monday evening. We hope to have a morning virtual service on the Bank Holiday weekend, Sunday 30th August. Details to follow.

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE EIGHTH 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 story of the Feeding of the Five Thousand, read by Andrew Smith and filmed at the Cricket Club in 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/79e1FvNR1MM>

"Feeding of the five thousand" <https://youtu.be/rweGCsEVM8Q>

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, but just for 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.brickhillchurches.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.

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).

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
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