

## St Mary the Virgin, Great Brickhill



Candles for the Second Sunday of Advent

## CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) OUTBREAK Update 5th December 2020

### TOMORROW - SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT:

Following the end of the lock down period, churches were allowed to re-open for worship from 2nd December. This Sunday, 6th December, the service in the Benefice will be here in Great Brickhill - a service of Holy Communion at 11.00am.

#### Under the current restrictions:

- There is still no congregational singing
- Hand sanitizing is required on entry to the church
- Service books will be used as they will not be used again until January
- Seating will be in accordance with social distancing rules
- Masks are a mandatory requirement
- We ask for contact details, which we have to keep for 21 days.

**We are now required to exhibit a QR code. If you are able to, please use this code via the NHS COVID-19 App when you enter the church.**

### DECEMBER AND JANUARY SERVICES:

**See the schedule** for the other services planned across the Benefice for December at the end of the Newsletter.

Please make a note in your diaries the date of **The Village Nativity – Sunday, 20th December on the Cricket Field at 11.00am**. And the really good news is that, as it is an outside event, we can sing carols. The sheep and the “donkey” are booked and looking forward to making an appearance!

As already mentioned, it will not be possible to hold our normal Nine Lessons and Carols on Christmas Eve. The virtual Nine Lessons and Carols with pre-recorded material filmed in the church is still at the planning stage. Details will be circulated as soon as possible.

Looking forward to services in the New Year, for at least January, there will continue to be just one service in the Benefice each week.

### WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES FOR SUNDAY, 6th DECEMBER:

The Rector has written and recorded a reflection and prayer for this Second Sunday of Advent Sunday and Julia Turner has recorded this week's story, "Ruth Finds a New Home". Both were filmed near the Advent wreath by the steps of the pulpit in Great Brickhill church. The recordings can be found on the following links:

- Reflection & Prayer:- <https://youtu.be/HBqflvMmG8>
- “Ruth Finds a New Home”:- <https://youtu.be/DbWAXN-bEI0>

**Earlier week's reflections and stories 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 Second Sunday before Advent. This includes the programmes available on the BBC, both radio and television, and livestreaming services from the Oxford Diocese and the Church of England.

### **CHURCH OPENING TIMES:**

**Due to the ongoing building work the church opening times are now limited to once a week:-**

**SUNDAYS FROM 10.00am – 12 noon**

BUT, if anyone would like to visit the church for individual private prayer outside of these times please get in touch with Julia or Phillipa and arrangements will be made for you:- 261618 [juliaturner.jt@icloud.com](mailto:juliaturner.jt@icloud.com) 261521 [pjcook6@gmail.com](mailto:pjcook6@gmail.com)

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. All bibles, books etc have been removed. Please take your own bible or reading matter with you. Visitors outside of normal services are asked to sign the registration sheet in a red folder at the entrance to the church. If you are able to, please use the QR code on display as you enter the church.

### **FUNDRAISING QUIZ in aid of the New Facilities:**

We have a winner! Well done to Clive Morris for his very impressive, blemish-free answer sheet. Second place went to Trisha Bevan and third was Jeremy Hopkinson. Thank you to all who took part and to Janet Pritchard for organising it. A total of £160 was raised including the prize money that was kindly donated back to the church funds.

### **ADVENT WINDOWS:**

The trail for the Advent Windows started on Tuesday, 1st December. The map showing the dates from which each window will be lit is attached again. The windows will be lit up at night until 31st December and there will be a secret message to work out from the letters found in each window. Please pass on the map to anyone you know who will not have received it via this newsletter or the Parish on-line Newsletter.

### **THE RECTOR:**

If anyone has any concerns during this worrying time, do contact:

- The Rector, Revd John Waller:- 01525 261062 [rector@brickhillschurches.org.uk](mailto:rector@brickhillschurches.org.uk)

- Jeremy Hopkinson, LLM:- 01525 261674 [jeremysfh@gmail.com](mailto:jeremysfh@gmail.com)

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

Anyone who would like to join the group or would like to have a prayer included, contact:- 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)

[www.brickhillschurches.org.uk](http://www.brickhillschurches.org.uk)

## SERVICES PLANNED FOR THE BENEFICE IN DECEMBER 2020

<b>DATE:</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>SERVICE</b>	<b>VENUE</b>
<b>December 6th</b>	11.00	Holy Communion	<b>Great Brickhill</b>
<b>December 13th</b>	16.00	Nine Lessons with Christmas Music	<b>Stoke Hammond</b>
<b>December 20th</b>	11.00	The Village Nativity (on the Cricket Field)	<b>Great Brickhill</b>
	15.00	Carol Service	<b>Bow Brickhill</b>
	15.00	Crib Service (on the Village Green)	<b>Stoke Hammond</b>
	17.00	Carol Service	<b>Little Brickhill</b>
<b>December 24th / 25th</b>	23.30	Holy Communion <i>(Midnight Mass)</i>	<b>Stoke Hammond</b>
<b>Christmas Day</b>	9.30	Holy Communion <i>(Christmas Morning)</i>	<b>Little Brickhill</b>
	11.00	Holy Communion	<b>Great Brickhill</b>
<b>December 27th</b>		No Service	

Updated 5th December