

## St Mary the Virgin, Great Brickhill



The Advent wreath at the candle-lit 2019 Carol Service

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

### NEWS OF SERVICES:

You will know that we regrettably had to cancel the Village Nativity that we were all looking forward to. Another casualty to the pandemic is tomorrow's Crib service at Stoke Hammond, which has also been cancelled.

The services which are taking place tomorrow are:-

#### **3.00pm Carol Service at Bow Brickhill:**

No congregational singing is allowed but members of the choir will be there. Will those wishing to attend this service please let Stuart Leeming know in advance so that seating can be arranged to ensure social distancing:- [stuleeming@aol.com](mailto:stuleeming@aol.com)

#### **5.00pm Carol Service at Little Brickhill:**

No congregational singing is allowed but members of the choir will be there. Due to the need to limit the seating capacity, please book places for you and your families in advance by emailing [alison.packer@outlook.com](mailto:alison.packer@outlook.com) or by calling Alison on 01525 261569.

### **SERVICES FOR CHRISTMAS EVE / CHRISTMAS DAY:**

Christmas Eve Midnight Holy Communion:- 11.30pm at Stoke Hammond

Christmas Morning Holy Communion:- 9.30am at Little Brickhill & 11am at Great Brickhill

We look forward to welcoming you on Christmas day. The restrictions for services in church remain the same even though we are now in Tier 3:- There will be no congregational singing - Hand sanitizing will be required on entry to the church – Our usual Christmas service sheets will be used as they will not be required again for many months - Seating will be in accordance with social distancing rules - Masks are a mandatory requirement - We will ask for contact details, which we have to keep for 21 days.

Although we are unable to sing, our organist Jerry will be there to provide music at various points through the service.

**We plan to record the Rector's Christmas sermon plus a children's story for Christmas. The link to these will be made available on Boxing Day.**

### **SCHEDULE OF SERVICES:**

A schedule of all the services planned across the Benefice to the end of January can be found at the end of this Newsletter. For at least January, there will continue to be just one service in the Benefice each week.

## **THE NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS:**

The You Tube link for the recording of the Nine Lessons and Carols service in the church on Wednesday will be circulated shortly. Thank you to the team of people that made this possible – organist and choirmaster, Jerry Breslin, members of the choir and those who decorated the church.

## **WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES FOR SUNDAY, 20th DECEMBER:**

The Rector has written and recorded a reflection and prayer for this Fourth Sunday of Advent and Diane Alison Packer has recorded this week's story, "Mary and the Angel". They were filmed near the Advent wreath and by the crib set at Little Brickhill in church. The recordings can be found on the following links:

- Reflection & Prayer:- <https://youtu.be/lwR32Tm5aaM>
- "Mary and the Angel":- [https://youtu.be/Dy0\\_11GvQSI](https://youtu.be/Dy0_11GvQSI)

**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 Third Sunday of 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**

**Due to the cancellation of The Village Nativity, the church will be open tomorrow.**

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.

## **ADVENT WINDOWS:**

There is already an amazing display of festive windows in the village. The final one to be lit will be at the church on Christmas Eve – the secret message should then be revealed from the letters found in each of the 24 windows. The map showing the dates from which each window will be lit has already been circulated. There is also a copy in the church porch and on the notice board.

## **THE RECTOR:**

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

- The Rector, Revd John Waller:- 01525 261062 [rector@brickhillchurches.org.uk](mailto:rector@brickhillchurches.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 ACROSS THE BENEFICE TO THE END OF DECEMBER

DATE:	TIME	SERVICE	VENUE
<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	

## SERVICES ACROSS THE BENEFICE IN JANUARY 2021

DATE:	TIME:	SERVICE:	VENUE:
<b>January 3rd</b>	10.00	Holy Communion	<b>Stoke Hammond</b>
<b>January 10th</b>	10.00	Holy Communion	<b>Bow Brickhill</b>
<b>January 17th</b>	10.00	Family All-age Service	<b>Little Brickhill</b>
<b>January 24th</b>	10.00	Holy Communion	<b>Great Brickhill</b>
<b>January 31st</b> [ <i>Candlemas</i> ]	16.00	Family All-age Service	<b>Virtual by Zoom</b>