

St Mary the Virgin, Great Brickhill

CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) OUTBREAK **Update 15th May 2021**



Celia Hall in thoughtful conversation with the Rector

SAD NEWS:

We were so very sad to hear the news that Celia Hall had passed away on Tuesday following her recent illness. Our thoughts and prayers are with John and all her family and friends at this most difficult time.

Celia's support for the church has been immense, from baking cakes for the Snowdrop Walks, to painting a lovely watercolour of the church itself. Her table at the Christmas Fair was a delight, full of beautifully sewn crafts, bags, bow ties, hair bands, and children's dresses.

Celia's keen interest and knowledge of plants came to the fore when she and John took over the organisation and running of the annual Plant Fayre from 2013, a hugely successful and enjoyable event.

Celia had a great ability to listen - her thoughtfulness and kindness will not be forgotten. She will be deeply missed by her many friends at St Mary's and in the wider community.

SERVICES IN MAY:

TOMORROW: Sunday after Ascension Day, The Seventh Sunday of Easter:

The service will be a Family Service at Little Brickhill, at 10.00am

NEXT SUNDAY, 23rd MAY – WHIT SUNDAY, PENTECOST:

The service in the Benefice will be a service of Holy Communion at Stoke Hammond at 10.00am. Due to social distancing requirements, anyone wanting to attend service is asked to please contact Diane Webber to reserve a place:-

01525 270409 dianejwebber@gmail.com

SUNDAY, 30th MAY – TRINITY SUNDAY:

The service will be here at Great Brickhill – Holy Communion at 10.00am

SERVICES IN JUNE:

The recent pattern of services will continue, with one service each Sunday at one of the four churches in the Benefice. The schedule of services for June can be found at the end of this Newsletter. We appreciate that for some it might still be too soon to return to church

and there is no pressure for anyone to attend if they are not ready to, but we are pleased to welcome all those who do come to any of the services. The weekly reflections and stories will continue.

SERVICES IN JULY & AUGUST:

The July and August services will be planned on a month-by-month basis.

LONGER TERM SERVICE PLAN:

Initial discussions have been held amongst the Wardens of the four churches with a view to refreshing the monthly service pattern; any long-term changes will be from September at the earliest. Each of the PCCs would welcome suggestions from anyone in their village who has any thoughts about future services – please contact either Phillipa or Julia if you have ideas that you would like to be considered during this review period.

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES SUNDAY, 16th MAY:

The Rector has written a brief reflection and prayer for this Sunday. There is a recording of the Rector reading this reflection, plus Alison Packer reading the story, "Down through the Roof". These were filmed inside Little Brickhill church. The recordings can be found on the following links:

- Reflection & Prayer:- <https://youtu.be/R3BDZGv05rU>
- "Down through the Roof":- https://youtu.be/gD8xNS_SFJ4

Earlier week's reflections and stories can be found on the website in the section "Coronavirus You Tube Recordings".

The following files accompany this e-mail for worship for this coming Sunday:-

- (1). The Rector's written brief reflection and prayer.
- (2). How and where to find this week's online services. This includes the programmes available on the BBC, both radio and television, and livestreaming services from the Oxford Diocese and the Church of England.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK, 10th – 16th MAY:

A prayer for the end of this year's Christian Aid Week:-

God of love, melt my indifferent heart of stone,
open my eyes to your children's suffering
and lift my head to see your perfect love again.
Work a miracle in my life, that through your Spirit
and my softened heart's obedience
I might give my very self to keep hope alive,
and to be the change you require. Amen.

We are unable to do our normal House to House Collection but a special Online Giving Page has been set up for donations from people in the Brickhills:-

<https://giving.tapsimple.org/online/christian-aid/brickhills-christian-aid-week-2021>

CHURCH OPENING TIMES:

During the ongoing building work, the church is currently only open for private prayer on:-

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 261521 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. Visitors outside of normal services are asked to sign the registration sheet in a red folder at the entrance.

A REMINDER OF THE OPEN GARDENS, SUNDAY 4th JULY:

We were delighted to hear that the Great Brickhill Gardening Club will be holding an Open Gardens afternoon on Sunday 4th July in aid of our church funds. Afternoon teas will be available at the church, hopefully outside if the weather permits.

The Gardening Club are looking for gardeners in Great Brickhill who will be willing to open their gardens to the public. Gardens can be any size and do not need to be in perfect condition! If you would like your garden to be included, or would like any further information, please contact Rosemary Howell:- rosehowell50@hotmail.com

THE RECTOR:

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

- The Rector, Revd John Waller:- 01525 261062 rector@brickhillschurches.org.uk

- Jeremy Hopkinson, LLM:- 01525 261674 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).

For further information about any of the above, please contact:

Phillipa Cook TEL: 01525 261521 07788 740969 pjcook6@gmail.com

www.brickhillschurches.org.uk

SERVICES ACROSS THE BENEFICE IN JUNE 2021

DATE:	TIME:	SERVICE:	VENUE:
June 6th	10.00	Family Service	Stoke Hammond
June 13th	10.00	Holy Communion	Bow Brickhill
June 20th	**11.00**	Family Service with Holy Communion	Little Brickhill
June 27th	10.00	Holy Communion	Great Brickhill

As at 9th May

Please go to the website for information and updates on any of the services:-
<https://brickhillschurches.org.uk/coronavirus/live-services/>