

St Mary the Virgin, Great Brickhill

PCC NEWSLETTER, 21st OCTOBER 2021



The flowers in the church porch to welcome those attending the Service of Thanksgiving

Welcome to this Newsletter and I am pleased to say that that, unlike in recent months, there is much to report! Please take a few moments to look through all that has happened and that which is going to happen, all very positive – a real plus after so many things have had to be cancelled.

We have to start with the wonderful,

SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING:

Before the service an enormous amount of work was done by so many people in preparation for the Service. Thank you so much to the willing band of volunteers who offered their help on 2nd October to give the church a really good high-level clean. A sterling effort, especially by those who ventured up the ladders! The many cobwebs and the builders' dust were removed and the brass was thoroughly cleaned.

The day before saw a hive of activity by the flower arrangers. A wonderful display of floral decorations in perfect colours for Harvest adorned every window, altar, font, porch and even the two new toilets! Photos appear throughout this Newsletter but the flowers are still in situ and so do call in and have a look if you haven't already done so.

The Service of Thanksgiving on 10th October was a joyous occasion and Bishop Alan treated us to an uplifting sermon. As you will know we had been waiting for this moment for many years and it was a very fitting way to mark this milestone in our history.



It was wonderful to see, especially after the last 18 months we have all endured, the church really come to life, beautifully decorated and full of people who were so obviously pleased to be celebrating with us.

A recording of Bishop Alan's sermon has been uploaded to You Tube:-

<https://youtu.be/Qh07Zfb3QfU>



We took the opportunity to invite those who have given either professional or financial help, to thank them for their support. A "Thank You" sheet was handed out acknowledging and thanking those who have contributed in any way to the project. This has been uploaded to the website and is attached to this Newsletter,

As part of the project, our toilet extension has been twinned with a latrine in Honduras via the scheme "toilet twinning" - 1 in 4 people around the world don't have a toilet. The certificate is on display in both toilets – see photo below.



As with all current building work, we are still waiting for a few things to be completed due to supply issues etc - the rendering and resin for the top surface for the path still have to be done. But with the facilities now in place, we are now looking at how we can make best use of the church.



SERVICES TO THE END OF NOVEMBER:

The services across the Benefice to the end of November are:-

Sunday 31st October

18.00 (Little Brickhill) All Souls Service Benefice Service Revd J Waller

[This is the annual service in which we remember with thanksgiving all those we know who have died in recent times, those who lived local to us and those who lived further away.]

Sunday 7th November

9.30 (Gt. Br.) Holy Communion Revd J Waller
 11.00 (Bw. Br.) Family Service All Saints theme Revd J Waller
 9.30 (St. H.) Café Church Lay Leader tbc

Sunday 14th November Remembrance

10.45 (St. H.) Remembrance Service Revd J Waller
 10.50 (Gt. Br.) Remembrance Service Jeremy Hopkinson
 10.50 (Lt. Br.) Remembrance Service Stuart Leeming
 15.00 (Bw. Br.) Remembrance Service Revd J Waller
at the war memorial

Sunday 21st November

10.00 (Bw. Br.) Holy Communion Benefice Service Revd J Waller

Sunday 28th November Advent Sunday

9.30 (St. H.) Holy Communion Revd J Waller
 11.00 (Lt. Br.) Family Service Revd J Waller
 16.00 (Bw. Br.) Advent Carols Leader tbc
 10.00 (Gt. Br.) Advent Family Service Lay Leader tbc

COVID RECOMMENDATIONS:

Most of the Covid recommendations have been relaxed. The situation is reviewed each month. For the Covid information for all the churches in the Benefice, see the "Update 19th July" item on the "Coronavirus General Updates" page on the website:-

<https://brickhillchurches.org.uk/coronavirus/general-information-updates/>

FAMILY SERVICES:

We have been very encouraged with the increasing number of young families attending our Family Services. Earlier this month Sophia Walmsley joined Andrew and Margretta Smith to lead our worship songs. They would very much like others to join them and so get in touch if you are interested. We would also love to hear from anyone with thoughts as to how we can develop these services - all ideas welcome! Please contact Julia or Phillipa.

THE VILLAGE NATIVITY & CHRISTMAS SERVICES:

Provided that there are no further Covid restrictions, the Village Nativity will take place on Sunday, 19th December at 11am - an enactment of the Christmas Story with carols & readings on the Cricket Field. We are planning for our Christmas Eve Carol Service and Christmas Day service to go ahead as in previous years. Claire Pincott has kindly volunteered to co-ordinate the characters and costumes.

CHURCH OPENING:

A reminder that the church is now open daily from 10am to 4pm. In the porch is a full colour copy of the Parish Newsletters for people to sit and read at their leisure. Do please let anyone know who does not have access to the Newsletter via the internet.

THE FOOD BOX:

As we approach the winter months, a reminder that the Food Box is available in the church porch. A few basic items, tea, coffee, milk, soup, beans will be kept in the box, just enough for a meal or two. Please help yourself if you, or someone you know, is in need of any of the items.

MOTHERS & TODDLERS' COFFEE CLUB FROM 1st NOVEMBER:

We are delighted that the Coffee Club for mothers and toddlers (and anyone else who would like to come) will be starting up again after half term:-

Monday mornings in the church during term time, 9.30am to 11.30am

Thank you to Debbie Jones and Diana Williams who have kindly agreed to start this popular activity again.



REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY, 14th NOVEMBER 2021



100 Years of the Poppy and Remembrance

Since it was first worn as an act of Remembrance just over 100 years ago the poppy has become an enduring symbol of support for our Armed Forces, past and present, and every poppy counts. For 100 years, Remembrance has been part of the fabric of society, reminding us of our shared history and today it continues to unite people across all backgrounds, communities, and generations. Throughout history the British Armed Forces have defended freedom and democracy; join us in our 100th year to remember their service and sacrifice.

Volunteers from the village will be conducting the annual **poppy appeal collection** between **Saturday 30th October and Saturday 13th November**.

This year supporters can text Poppy2, Poppy5 or Poppy10 to **70545** to donate £2, £5, or £10. Texts cost £2, £5, £10 plus one standard network rate message.

Supporters can also donate by visiting the Royal British Legion website:
www.britishlegion.org.uk

Thank you once again for your support.

Great Brickhill Ex-Servicemen - Book Published by St Mary's Church

The book entitled "Great Brickhill Ex-Servicemen: A Compendium of Résumés" has been created from documents and personal memories about Servicemen who have lived in or have an association with Great Brickhill. Edited by Ex-Serviceman David Marlow, the book is published on KDP Amazon in 3 formats:

- Kindle £7.50
- Paperback £10
- Hardback £25

More details about the book can be found in the separate flyer attached.

To purchase the book, go to:-

https://www.amazon.co.uk/s?k=Great+Brickhill+Ex-Servicemen&ref=nb_sb_noss

The Remembrance Day Service, 10.50am Sunday 14th November

The Remembrance Sunday service returns to its usual format this year, a service in the church at 10.50am with a two-minute silence at 11.00am where we remember those from this village who have served and given their life for their country, followed by a procession to the war memorial for the laying of the wreaths.

This is a quieter, more reflective and formal service than our usual services. We will be pleased to welcome all who would like the opportunity to come and pay their respects to members of our armed forces who have died in the line of duty.

SISTER HAZEL AWARDED THE TITLE OF HONORARY FREEMAN OF BERWICK



Sister Hazel having been presented with her scroll

Sister Hazel has been awarded the title of Freeman of Berwick-upon-Tweed, an age-old tradition still being passed on through Freeman families. Following the ceremony, she has sent the following account of the ceremony, with a note of thanks to Rosie Dawson to whom she is indebted for giving up her time, and driving her to Berwick:-

“ A FREEMAN IN EXILE: This was the title of an exhibition in 1993 of much of my father’s memorabilia. When the Curator saw that he had kept everything, he realised that this was the record of a twentieth century man, therefore of interest.

There are more than 100 cities or towns that were at one time burghs, royal boroughs. Berwick dates back to before the 1066 Charter, receiving a Royal charter from King David (Scotland), a further Charter from Henry V in 1417, and received a Royal charter from James I, King of England, Scotland, France and Ireland when the Scottish and English Crowns were united on 1604.

In 1492 the right of Freedom had been confirmed to men who were called Free, as opposed to being serfs. The Freeman formed into guilds, each one having a trade and so a Freeman was qualified in that trade. The Freeman were also burgesses, entitled to hold land which passed to them from the Crown. Berwick was recognised as being in a unique position in 1835 and a new council appointed to govern the county/city. The Freedom and all related to it was confirmed in this settlement in 1835.

The Freedom was first passed by apprenticeship of a son to his father, then it became the inherited right of the eldest son, then to all sons, and finally to women as well. The inherited Freedom came to me once women were admitted in 2009.

In Berwick, the most important burgh in age and history, the Guild were formed, and the Freeman were responsible for the governing of their lands. The governance of Berwick is now shared between the Borough council and the Guild of Freeman. In 1926 the rights of Freeman were clearly stated, in spite of attempts by local councils to acquire the lands of the Freeman. The Freedom is acquired either through inheritance, or apprenticeship to a Freeman.

As a claimant I had to submit evidence of my claim to be “the only daughter of Thomas Warnock Smith”, my birth and his marriage certificates.

The ceremony requires a solemn oath to the Queen's Majesty and also to the Guild, before the Clerk, the Mayor and the Sheriff. These three are essential, and without any of them the Ceremony cannot be performed.

After the swearing of the Oath and confirmation of my application, with my cousin swearing with her hand on my shoulder that I truly was Sister Hazel Ferguson Waide Smith, I signed the Roll of Freemen as my father had done before on 30th April 1930 (records go back 500 years) and was greeted by the Mayor and received my Roll.

A sense of history, of privilege, and an acknowledgement of my father."



Quite a feat to put this above the West door, through to the extension

HIGH ASH SCHOOL:

Years 3 & 4 came to the church for their Harvest service. It was almost two years since these children had been able to come to the church. Some of the pupils at the school wrote some Harvest prayers and the cards are on view on the bookcase just inside the church.

CHRISTMAS FAIR, SATURDAY 4th DECEMBER:

The Christmas Fair will be held in the church on Saturday, 4th December from 10am - 1pm:

- Coffee / mulled wine and mince pies
- Christmas cake raffle
- Christmas hamper raffle
- Tombola
- Christmas gifts stalls
- Cake stall
- and more!

If anyone would like to hire a table for a stall, please contact:-

Phillipa Cook 01525 261521 pjcook6@gmail.com

GREAT BRICKHILL'S DROP IN IS BACK!

The village's Drop In will start **from Monday, 1st November, from 2.00 pm to 3.30 pm**, at The Parish Hall. We are looking forward to meeting you for a cup of tea/coffee and a piece of cake. Everyone is welcome.

THE RECTOR:

If anyone has any concerns, please contact:

- The Rector, Revd John Waller:- 01525 261062 rector@brickhillschurches.org.uk
- Jeremy Hopkinson, LLM:- 01525 261674 jeremysfh@gmail.com

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 obtain information and updates on any of the services:-

www.brickhillschurches.org.uk