

The Church of St Mary the Virgin, Great Brickhill

Sunday 18th February 2024: The First Sunday of Lent

Welcome to our Family Service today which will be led by the Rector. We are hoping that there will be at least a couple of children from High Ash school at the service, primed and ready to talk about their recent school visit. The music for our songs will be via the CDs and Sophia will be leading our singing. Please use the shakers as much as you like during the worship songs.

There is no activity for the children this morning but there are colouring sheets available in the Children's corner.

Everyone is invited to stay after the service for coffee and a chat.

This morning's Bible reading is:- Mark 1: 9-15. We will also hear the story version of Moses and the people in the wilderness: A Long Journey from the Lion Storyteller Bible,

The collection plate will be passed round during the final hymn. Please use the Gift Aid envelopes provided if you are able to. If you prefer to give your collection via our **debit/credit card device**, please see **Phillipa after the service**.

We have received the news that Bishop Alan suffered a serious heart attack yesterday morning and, very sadly, has died. Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife and children.

START OF CHURCH ROOF WORK:

The re-roofing work started on Monday. There is a short length of scaffolding on both the north and south sides. It is lit up at night and so please don't think that a light has been left on inside the church. The scaffolding is fitted with an alarm, please get in touch with Julia or Phillipa if you have any concerns.

During the work, due to health and safety concerns, the church will remain generally closed **BUT all services and the bell ringing & choir practices will continue as normal**, although large areas of the church will be cordoned off. For the duration of the work:-

The Monday Morning Coffee Club will be held in the **meeting room at the Parish Hall**, usual time 9.30am – 11.30am during term time.

The Food Box in the church porch will only be accessible outside of working hours at the weekend, or weekdays after 4.30pm.

If anyone would like **access to the church** when the contractors are not here, please contact either Julia or Phillipa.

LENT COURSE:

We are again following the Oxford Diocese "Come and See" Lent Course. The 6-week course for the Benefice starts this week, an **afternoon session on Tuesdays** in Stoke Hammond and a midweek evening session – the first session will be:-

This Thursday 22nd February, 8.00pm at **Bow Brickhill Church Community Hall**. Full details are on the pink flyers on the bookcase, and also on the website in the Lent Course section.

SNOWDROP WALKS:

What a great two weeks we had for the Snowdrop Walks. Despite the forecast for last Sunday, we were blessed again with good weather, and we had even more visitors. We don't know how many cakes arrived, but it was an awful lot! For the latecomers for the tea, there was still a good selection to choose from.

Last week's total came to exactly **£1701**, which is something of a record. Added to the previous week, plus donations including a very generous **£50 from Drop-In**, the total for the two weeks is **£3033**. (Last year's record amount was £3000.40, which in itself was £1200 more than ever before).

Thank you to all who helped with the setting up and clearing away, with the teas and providing the delicious cakes. But most of all, thank you to David and Sally Duncombe for allowing us access to their wonderful grounds.

PLANT FAYRE:

The Plant Fayre will be at the Parish Hall / Cricket Field from 11am to 3pm. **Lots of help** will be required please. There will be a **church plant stall and so please think about what plants etc you may be able to provide for that**.

SERVICES IN THE NEXT TWO WEEKS:

Next week, Sunday 25th February, there will be no service here. Services in the Benefice will be:-

9.30 (Stoke Hammond) Holy Communion

11.00 (Little Brickhill) Family Service

11.00 (Bow Brickhill) Mattins

The next service here will be Holy Communion on Sunday 3rd March at 9.30am.

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To contact the Rector, Revd John Waller:

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The address of the Benefice website:

www.brickhillschurches.org.uk