

The Church of St Mary the Virgin, Great Brickhill

SUNDAY 19th FEBRUARY 2023: Sunday next before Lent

Welcome to our Family Service this morning, led by the Rector. Today's theme is the story of the Transfiguration, the account of how Jesus' face shone like the sun and his clothes became dazzling white when he took Peter, James and John up into the mountain.

Thank you to Andrew and Margretta for providing the music. We look forward to welcoming Sophia back to lead our singing in a few months' time. Please use the shakers to accompany our songs.

The reading this morning is:- Matthew 17: 1 – 9

We will also hear the story from the Old Testament "The Burning Bush" from the 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.**

Instead of the normal refreshments at the end of the service, we will be having **DRINKS & CANAPES** to celebrate the 20 years since the Rector moved into the Benefice in February 2003. There will still be the much enjoyed biscuit selection for the children!

TURKEY-SYRIA EARTHQUAKE APPEAL:

At the end of the service we are offering the opportunity to donate to the Earthquake Appeal via the church. Whilst acknowledging that individuals may already have given to the Earthquake Appeal, **we will be collecting donations in the jar on the table near the font.** Our appeal will stay open until the end of the month.

SNOWDROP WALKS:

After the disappointment of the last three years we were blessed with good weather and a large number of visitors on both days. The snowdrops looked wonderful and the church was buzzing with atmosphere as everyone enjoyed the delicious tea and cakes. Thank you to all who contributed to the total raised - on the first Sunday, an incredible £1762.40 which included a very generous donation of £150 from Drop-In, followed by £1248, giving a total for the two weeks an amazing £3000.40.

Thank you to all who helped with the teas and provided the delicious cakes. But most of all, thank you Sir David and Sally Duncombe for allowing us access to their grounds.

LENT COURSE:

This year we are following the Oxford Diocese "Come and See" course. For those who sign up, a short reflection email is sent each day during Lent, Monday to Saturday, and on Sundays there is a short video from Bishop Steven. There are separate weekly emails for children and families. To find out more, and to register for the daily e-mails, go to:- <https://oxford.anglican.org/come-and-see>

In addition, we will be holding a 5-week Lent Course, Tuesday afternoons in Stoke Hammond and a midweek evening session across the benefice, starting week commencing 27th February.

Full details can be found on the pink fliers on the bookcase, with a note of the Lent and Easter services on the reverse.

ANYONE INTERESTED IN BEING CONFIRMED?

We have some young people who would like to be confirmed. The Rector would like to hear from others who are also looking to affirm their faith through confirmation. Confirmation classes will be arranged by the Rector, please contact him if you would like to know more about it. For general information, visit the link on the CofE website:- <https://www.churchofengland.org/life-events/confirmation>

"FEED THE HUNGRY" KNITTING NEWS:

Rosie has kindly passed on news of all the wonderful knitting that has been done by friends of Great Brickhill, 179 articles in 2022 and 2765 garments over the last 7 years. Please help yourself to a separate sheet giving details of the new charity, which will be supported.

MONDAY MORNING COFFEE CLUB:

The Coffee Club starts again on Monday after the half-term break, from 9.30am – 11.30am. All are welcome to call for a coffee and chat.

SERVICES IN THE BENEFICE OVER THE NEXT TWO WEEKS:

Ash Wednesday, 22nd February:

10.30am (Stoke Hammond) Benefice Holy Communion (Said)

Next Sunday, 26th February:- there will not be a service here in Great Brickhill. Services in the Benefice will be:-

9.30 (Stoke Hammond) Holy Communion

11.00 (Little Brickhill) Family Service & Baptism

11.00 (Bow Brickhill) Mattins

The next service here is Holy Communion, 9.30am on 5th March.

Julia Turner – Warden (07714 028785)

juliaturner.jt@icloud.com

Phillipa Cook – Secretary (01525 261521)

pjcook6@gmail.com

To contact the Rector, Revd John Waller:

rector@brickhillschurches.org.uk

The address of the Benefice website:

www.brickhillschurches.org.uk