

The Church of St Mary the Virgin, Great Brickhill

Sunday 1st February 2026 – The Fourth Sunday of Epiphany

Welcome to our service of Holy Communion, which will be led by the Rector. Thank you to Jerry for playing the organ for us this morning.

The readings for today are:-

1 Kings 17: 8-16; 1 Corinthians 1: 18-31; John 2: 1-11

The collection plate will be passed round during the third/offertory hymn. Please use the Gift Aid envelopes provided if you are able to and see Phillipa if you prefer to use the **debit/credit card device**.

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

VACANCY / RECRUITMENT OF NEW RECTOR:

Due to legal reasons, the formal recruitment process for a new Rector can only commence on Monday 11th May, the day after John Waller officially retires. A team of representatives from across the Benefice will be drawing up the Parish Profile and working hard to ensure that everything is in order to advertise the vacancy at the earliest opportunity. If the post is filled from the first round of applications, a realistic time for the new Rector to start would be October. John Waller's final service will be Benefice Holy Communion at Great Brickhill on Sunday 26th April at 11am followed by a Bring and Share lunch in the church.

RECTOR'S FEBRUARY MESSAGE:

Come and See

Dear Friends,

This year Easter is quite early, on April 5th, so the season of Lent will also begin early, after Ash Wednesday on February 18th.

One of the customs of Lent, along with the traditional discipline of giving up something we usually enjoy, is to take time to pause and reflect on our faith and God's calling to us.

Each year our diocese produces a Lent course, under the title 'Come and See'. This year the course will focus on our service of Holy Communion, and there will be two ways of taking part in it.

Firstly, anyone who is interested can register to receive an email every day, offering some brief reflections and prayers. If you would like to try this, you can register on our diocesan website here:

<https://www.oxford.anglican.org/come-and-see/>

Secondly, we will be holding some weekly discussion groups during Lent, to discuss the course material together. Full details will be available soon, and you would be welcome to join one of the groups, as we seek to renew and deepen our faith.

Revd John Waller

CHURCH ANNUAL MEETING:

Due to the Rector's retirement, the Annual Meeting will be held much earlier, **on Tuesday 17th March**. There will be a photo review of the year showing from 7pm with refreshments, and the **formal meeting will commence at 7.30pm. Following that, the Rector will depart and there will be an open discussion** for people to give their thoughts/comments on where they would like the parish and benefice to be in say two years' time. **This is the opportunity for everyone to "have their say" during this recruitment process.**

NEXT SUNDAY FIRST SNOWDROP WALK:

The Snowdrop Walks are being held on **Sundays 8th & 15th February**, from 2pm – 4pm, starting at the church and ending with the usual teas. **Offers of cakes please** would be most welcome - please deliver them to the church in the morning. We are hoping for good weather and many visitors, and so we will need a lot of cakes!

LENT COURSE:

The Lent Course will follow the Oxford Diocese "**Come and See**" Lent Course - this year's theme is Holy Communion. Those who sign up to the Diocese course will receive a short daily email reflection, and on Sundays a short video from Bishop Steven. These will start after **Ash Wednesday, which is 18th February**. To register and for more details, go to:- <https://oxford.anglican.org/come-and-see>

We will be having our usual **weekly Lent Course Groups**, an afternoon session on Tuesdays in Stoke Hammond and a midweek evening session across the benefice.

A Lent Course flyer with all the details is available on the bookcase, including a list of all the Easter and Holy Week services.

SERVICES IN THE NEXT TWO WEEKS:

Next Sunday 8th February, there will be just one service in the Benefice:- 10.00 Benefice Holy Communion at Stoke Hammond (please note the change of venue due to a heating problem at Little Brickhill).

The next service here will be a Family Service, 11am on Sunday 15th February.

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To contact the Rector, Revd John Waller: rector@brickhillschurches.org.uk

The address of the Benefice website: www.brickhillschurches.org.uk