

The Church of St Mary the Virgin, Great Brickhill

Sunday 2nd March 2025 – The Sunday next before Lent

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:-

Exodus 34: 29-35; 2 Corinthians 3: 12 - 4: 2; Luke 9: 28b-36

The collection plate will be passed round during the third/offertory 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.**

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

RECTOR'S MARCH MESSAGE:

Giving up – and taking up

Dear friends,

We sometimes think or talk about 'giving something up for Lent', often something quite trivial or even selfish. The better reasons for giving something up are either as part of a spiritual discipline, with the object of clearing space in our lives so that we can be more aware of God, or so that we are better able to share and to help others.

So the better question to consider may not be 'What are you giving up for Lent?', but rather 'What are you taking up for Lent?'. What are you going to do?

If we want to become more aware of how God is at work in our lives, we can make time to pray, reflect or read the Bible, or we can talk with someone who can help and guide us, or we can come and join in the worship of the church.

If we want to do something to help others, there are no end of things that we could do, but even if we decide to do just one small thing, that can make some difference to the world around us. To do something, however small, is better than doing nothing.

So, what could you take up for Lent this year?

Revd John Waller

LENT COURSE – “WOMEN OF HOLY WEEK”:

The full details of the six-week Lent Course for the Benefice can be found in the green/blue leaflets on the bookcase. The course will be

based on stories of six women mentioned in the Gospels from the book by Paula Gooder, "Women of Holy Week". There will be two groups each week, **an afternoon group at Stoke Hammond and a midweek evening sessions across the Benefice at 8pm**. All will be welcome to join in any of the groups at any of the venues.

Diocesan Lent Course 2025: it is not too late to sign up for the Oxford Diocese Lent Course "Come and See", which this year is looking at Baptism. To find out more, and to register for the daily e-mails, go to:- <https://oxford.anglican.org/come-and-see>

WARDEN VACANCY:

Julia will be stepping down as Warden at the Annual Meeting in May after 9 years as a single Warden. We are looking for two Wardens to replace Julia who has done a huge amount of work, but much of that does not have to be done by a formal "Warden". **Please have a think to see whether you might consider taking on this role, or you might know someone else who might.** Please get in touch with either Julia or John to find out more about the role. Julia is not going anywhere, and will always be available to help out. And there are lots of willing volunteers to take on the duties that can be delegated.

PLANT FAYRE, SUNDAY 13th APRIL, FROM:

Our next fundraiser is the Plant Fayre at the Parish Hall / Cricket Field from 11am to 3pm. Lots of help will be needed please. As well as the stalls from the professional nurserymen, there will be a church plant stall and so please think about what plants etc you may be able to provide for that, and also the preserves / cake stall. There will be the usual raffle, and refreshments will be available.

SERVICES IN THE NEXT TWO WEEKS:

Ash Wednesday, 5th March – one service in the Benefice:-

10.30 (Great Brickhill) Holy Communion *Benefice* (Said)

Next Sunday, 9th March, the service here:- 11am Family Service with Baptism. Also in the Benefice:-

9.30 (St Hammond) Family Service

On Sunday, 16th March there will be one service in the Benefice, a joint service for everyone in the four villages of the Brickhills & Stoke Hammond:- **10.00 (Bow Brickhill) Benefice Holy Communion**

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The address of the Benefice website:

www.brickhillschurches.org.uk