

The Church of St Mary the Virgin, Great Brickhill

Sunday 31st March 2024: Easter Sunday

Happy Easter to you all and welcome to our service of Holy Communion, and we welcome back Revd Steve Barnes to lead our service. Thank you to Jerry and the choir for the music this morning. Thanks also to Julia and the team of ladies who helped to decorate the Church so beautifully for our Easter celebrations.

Everyone is invited to stay after the service for refreshments and a chat. There will also be an **Easter egg hunt for the young in the Churchyard – only after the conclusion of the service!**

The readings this morning are:-

Isaiah 25: 6-9; Acts 10: 34-43; Mark 16: 1 -8

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**.

SAD NEWS:

We have heard the sad news that Alan Poynter passed away on Thursday. Until recently he and his late wife Jean were stalwart supporters of St Mary's. The funeral will be held here in the church.

THE PALM SUNDAY PROCESSION:

There was a good attendance last Sunday for the Palm Sunday procession and service. Many thanks to all who contributed, special thanks to Leonie for bringing her "donkey" and Stephen for coming to play the bagpipes. We have received some fantastic feedback and would welcome thoughts/suggestions on how we might build on this format in the future.

HIGH ASH EASTER SERVICE:

To minimise delay to work on the roof, on Wednesday we welcomed the whole of High Ash School for their Easter Service. It was quite a squeeze to get all the pupils seated and unfortunately, there was no room for any parents. It was wonderful to see the church so full and to hear the readings and songs.

WORK ON THE ROOF:

Work on the north aisle roof has progressed well this week. With the heavy rain, we have had water coming into the north aisle and so we will be pleased when all the steel is in place. **THANK YOU** to the team of people who have worked hard this week to clean and prepare

the church for all the services - it has been a busy week with the contractors working here between the services.

A reminder that, due to health and safety concerns, the church remains generally closed. If anyone would like access to the church, please contact either Julia or me.

CHURCH ANNUAL MEETING, TUESDAY 9th APRIL:

The Annual Meeting will be in the church at 7.30pm, refreshments from 7.15pm. A photo presentation will be given showing the various events held throughout the year. All formal notices and forms are on display in the church porch and on the website:-

<https://brickhillschurches.org.uk/great-brickhill/annual-church-meeting/>

We would welcome new members to join the PCC and also someone to assist with the role of Warden.

If anyone would like to add their name to the Electoral Roll, application forms are in the porch and available on the website.

PLANT FAYRE, SUNDAY 14th APRIL:

This is our second big fundraiser of the year, at the Parish Hall and cricket field from 11am - 3pm. Offers of cakes will be gratefully received, as well as plants from your garden for the village stalls - please contact Julia or Phillipa if collection is easier for you. If not ready on the day, orders will be taken for John Hall's tomato plants.

MONDAY MORNING COFFEE CLUB:

During the re-roofing work, the Coffee Club is being held in the Parish Hall Meeting Room, from 9.30am - 11.30am. There will be no Coffee Club on Mondays 1st & 8th April due to the Easter holidays.

FOOD BOX:

During the re-roofing work, access to the Food Box in the porch is only possible at the weekend, or weekdays after 4.30pm.

SERVICES IN THE BENEFICE NEXT WEEK, 7th APRIL:

The service in Great Brickhill will be:- Holy Communion at 9.30am

Other services in the Benefice will be:

11.00 (Bow Brickhill) Family Service in the Hall

18.00 (Stoke Hammond) Compline Said, followed by Annual Meeting

Please note this will be the last Sunday before the Rector starts his sabbatical leave, from 13th April to 1st July.

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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