

The Church of St Mary the Virgin, Great Brickhill

Sunday 3rd February 2024: The Second Sunday 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 this morning are:-

Proverbs 8: 1, 22-31; Colossians 1: 15-20; John 1: 1 – 14

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

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**.

FIRST SNOWDROP WALK THIS AFTERNOON:

The first of the two Snowdrop Walks is this afternoon, from 2pm – 4pm. Starting at the church, come and enjoy a walk among the snowdrops and then back into the church for tea and delicious home-made cakes. The forecast is for good weather and so we are expecting many visitors. And so, offers of cakes please would be most welcome. Please invite friends and family to come along - if you can't make it today, then we will be doing the same again next Sunday. No need for cash - credit card payments will be accepted.

START OF CHURCH ROOF WORK:

The re-roofing work will start on Monday 12th February. The work is scheduled to take 12 weeks, which will take us into May. **Due to safety and security concerns, it will be necessary for us to keep the church mainly closed whilst the work is being done.** The services will not be affected and bell ringing and choir practices will also continue as normal. We will monitor the situation and open the church out of working hours if we are able to. If anyone would like access to the church out of working hours, please get in touch with Julia or me, and we will do our best to make arrangements for you.

LENT COURSE:

A reminder that we are again following the Oxford Diocese "Come and See" Lent Course. We will be holding weekly Lent Groups, an afternoon session on Tuesdays in Stoke Hammond and a midweek evening session across the benefice, starting week beginning 19th February. Full details will be on flyers which will be available from the bookcase, or on the website in the Lent Course section.

HIGH ASH VISIT:

We were delighted this week to welcome pupils from High Ash Years 1 & 2. They are focusing this term on sharing Good News and they came to share some of that with the Rector. They had a tour of the church, looking at all the special places, did some sketching outside and entered into an interesting Q&A session. Thank you to Natalie Barrasford for arranging and planning the visit. The children were really well behaved and seemed to enjoy themselves. We are hoping that some of them might come to the Family Service and talk to us about what they learnt.

PLANT FAYRE:

The Plant Fayre will be on **Sunday 14th April, from 11am – 3pm**, at the Parish Hall and Cricket Field.

FOOD BOX:

Demand for produce from the Food Box has been high in recent weeks. If anyone would like to contribute to the stocked goods, we would be very grateful. All contributions can be placed inside the box or next to it - please note that no more pasta is required.

During the re-roofing work from 12th February, access to the Food Box in the church porch will be possible, but only at the weekend, or weekdays after 4.30pm.

MONDAY MORNING COFFEE CLUB:

The Coffee Club is normally held every Monday in the church during term time from 9.30am – 11.30am. All are welcome. **There will be no Coffee Club at half-term, on Monday 12th February. After that, during the re-roofing work, it will not be possible to hold the Monday Morning Coffee Club in the church. Alternative venues are being considered, details available soon.**

SERVICES IN THE NEXT TWO WEEKS:

Next week, Sunday 11th February, there will be just one service in the Benefice:- 10.00 Benefice Holy Communion at Little Brickhill.

Ash Wednesday 14th February:- 10.30am Benefice Holy Communion at Stoke Hammond.

The next service here will be on Sunday 18th February, a Family Service at 11.00am.

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www.brickhillschurches.org.uk