

The Church of St Mary the Virgin, Great Brickhill

Sunday 4th January 2026 – Celebrating Epiphany

We are delighted to welcome the Rt Revd Dave Bull who is making his maiden visit to the Benefice for our service here this morning. The Bishop of Buckingham will be presiding over our Benefice Holy Communion service during which our three candidates (Jasper Smith from Great Brickhill and Evelyn Woolley & Harry Neale from Stoke Hammond) will be confirmed.

Thank you to Jerry for playing the organ for us this morning. Members of the Benefice choir will be here to lead our singing. The music for our second hymn will be provided by our music group, with Andrew & Margretta providing the music and Sophia leading the singing.

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

We will be using special Mursley Deanery Confirmation Service booklets. The readings for today will be read by the confirmation candidates:- Isaiah 60: 1 - 6; Ephesians 3: 1 - 12; Matthew 2: 1 - 12

There will be a **special collection for the Bishop's Outreach Fund**, which is dedicated to supporting the mission of the Church nationally and internationally. **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 make an online donation, this can be done via the QR code below:-**



RECTOR'S JANUARY MESSAGE:

Knowing What We Need

Dear Friends,

As you look ahead to the New Year, do you expect that you will deal with all its challenges alone, or do you expect that you will need help from others? How do you feel about the idea of needing help, and not being able to cope with everything on your own?

Much in our culture encourages us to appear as if we are self-sufficient, and that we can cope with everything on our own. But that is not the reality, because we actually live by what is sometimes called *mutual interdependence*.

In other words, we accept the responsibilities that we have, and try to deal with them to the best of our ability. We help and support others when we can, while also understanding that we will need help from others at times, and it is alright to accept help when we need it. The Christian life includes this acceptance that God has made us to need each other, and that we are called to work together for the good of all. And that above all we need God's help, in every part of our lives. One of the well-known sayings of Jesus from the Sermon on the Mount is "Blessed are the pure in heart", but one Bible translation puts it in a different way:

Happy are those who know their need of God

Revd. John Waller

JANUARY ROTA:

The various rotas for January to April were circulated this week. If you are one of the many volunteers who help with the various tasks at the church, please check the rotas and let Phillipa know if you are unable to do any of the tasks listed.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES AND EVENTS:

We had a very busy December with all the Christmas services and events. A PDF file with a photo presentation showing the various ways that we hope to have spread the message of Christmas, was circulated yesterday. For anyone not on the data base, the presentation can be viewed from the home page of the website.

SERVICES IN THE NEXT TWO WEEKS:

Next Sunday, 11th January, the service here is:-

10am Morning Worship. This will be a lay led service with modern worship songs, suitable for all ages.

Also in the Benefice:- 11.00 (Stoke Hammond) Family Service.

On Sunday, 18th January – our monthly Family Service at 11am.

Other services in the Benefice:- 9.30 (Bow Brickhill) Holy Communion & 9.30 (Stoke Hammond) Café Church

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