

The Church of St Mary the Virgin, Great Brickhill

Sunday 5th January 2025 – Celebrating the Epiphany

Firstly, a very warm welcome to the youngest member of our church community, Elke Walmsley. Congratulations to Ollie and Sophia on the birth of their second child, on 23rd December, a sister for Oskar.

This morning's service is the monthly Benefice Holy Communion. There are no other services in the Benefice today and so we welcome friends from all four parishes. Thank you to Jerry for playing the organ for us and we hope that there will be a small choir.

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

We will be taking the Epiphany theme and readings for the coming of the wise men. The readings for this morning are:-

Isaiah 60: 1-6; Ephesians 3: 1-12; Matthew 2: 1-12

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**.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES AND EVENTS:

We had a very busy December with all the Christmas services and events. A photo presentation is available as a PDF file, to give a flavour of what you attended, or what you missed! If you have not received an e-mail with this attachment, and would like a copy of it, please see Phillipa. Alternatively, it can be downloaded from the front, Home page of the website in the Great Brickhill "News" section.

RECTOR'S BIBLE STUDY AT THE RECTORY:

The next Bible Study at The Rectory is on **Thursday 16th January at 8.00pm**. All are welcome to come and discuss the passages from the bible from one of our forthcoming services. No prior knowledge of the text is required.

MONDAY MORNING COFFEE CLUB:

A reminder that, sadly, due to declining numbers, the Coffee Club is taking an extended break and will not return this term. If we hear of young mothers who would like us to re-start the Coffee Club, we will be happy to consider doing that, just get in touch with us.

LINK TO HOPE SHOEBOX APPEAL 2024:

Thank you to Rosie Dawson for continuing to organise this great initiative. Thank you also to those who contributed to the Shoebox Appeal. The shoeboxes will have been delivered directly to the homes of the very poor in eastern Europe, in time for Christmas. They will have brought smiles to the faces of people in extreme difficulty. If anyone would like to know more about the charity, go to its website:- <https://linktohope.co.uk/shoebox-appeal-2024/> or contact Rosie, 01525 261425.

“INTRODUCTION TO CHRISTIANITY,” STOKE HAMMOND:

A basic “Introduction to Christianity” course is being held at the Community Centre in Stoke Hammond at 6pm on six Tuesday evenings from 9th January. The course is open to anyone who would like to find out what it means to follow Jesus. Each session lasts 2 hours including a hot meal to start with. For more details, pick up a copy of the flyer on the bookcase, or download the flyer from the front Home page of the website in the Stoke Hammond “News” section. For catering purposes, if you are intending to attend, contact the Stoke Hammond Wardens:-

Diane Webber 01525 270409 or Harry Davies 07773 065271

FOOD BOX:

A reminder that, for those in need over these winter months, there is access to the Food Box in the church porch at any time of day.

SERVICES IN THE NEXT TWO WEEKS:

Next Sunday, 12th January, the service here is:- 10am Morning Worship. This will be a lay led service celebrating the Baptism of Christ with modern worship songs, suitable for all ages.

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

On Sunday, 19th January – our monthly Family Service at 11am.

Other services in the Benefice:-

9.30 (Bow Brickhill) Holy Communion

9.30 (Stoke Hammond) Morning Worship

Julia Turner – Warden (07714 028785)

juliaturner.it@icloud.com

Phillipa Cook – Secretary (01525 261521)

pjcook6@gmail.com

To contact the Rector, Revd John Waller:

rector@brickhillschurches.org.uk

The address of the Benefice website:

www.brickhillschurches.org.uk