

The Church of St Mary the Virgin, Great Brickhill

SUNDAY 8th OCTOBER 2023: 18th Sunday after Trinity

Welcome to our Benefice Service, which today will be a Family Service with Holy Communion. We had hoped that some children from Malawi would be with us but they have been unable to get their visas – it is hoped that they will be able to visit us at a later date.

Our music today will be a combination of Jerry playing the organ and Andrew & Margretta on the piano and guitar with Sophia leading our singing. Please use the shakers as much as you like!

The readings this morning are:- Isaiah 5: 1-7; Matthew 21: 33-41

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

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

CHURCH WEBSITE:

A major revamp of the Benefice website has taken place. The website providers have completely rewritten all of the public facing part of the website, i.e. the Home page. Please take a look at the site. There is a different way of navigating through the various sections - to allow better access via mobile phones, there is no facility to have any icons for the sections on the left-hand side. The content of the sections remains unchanged, only the Home page is affected.

Please pass on any comments on the new layout to Phillipa.

www.brickhillchurches.org.uk

DEFECTS WORK ON NEW FACILITIES:

The internal work to rectify the defects in the new extension and refreshment area is proceeding well. We are making sure that there will be minimum disruption during this period.

NATIONAL CHURCHES TRUST GRANT:

We have received two grants for our re-roofing project via the National Churches Trust (£5,000 from the Wolfson Foundation and £6,500 from the Headley Trust). The National Churches Trust sent out a press release this week and the MK Citizen publicized an online article, which totally misquoted the figures. We have not received £473,750 as stated in the article - that is the total shared nationally between 33 churches. The article has since been amended.

All the lead was stolen from both aisles of the church. This was particularly frustrating as we had done a full restoration of the roof costing £350k only ten years prior. Since 2016 we have had a temporary covering of felt on the roof, which is now failing and has to be replaced with a permanent covering of terne coated steel. This work will cost in the region of £128k, the exact amount being dependent upon the extent of the damage to the roof timbers and ceiling panels.

We are extremely grateful to the National Churches Trust for facilitating the two grants. We have also been successful in being awarded grants from The Benefact Trust, Bucks Historic Churches Trust, the Francis Coales Charitable Foundation and the Archdeacon's Fund, with two further grant applications to be determined. We are hopeful that by the end of the year we should have the funding in place to go ahead with the urgent repair to the church roof. As the quote in the Press Release states, it will be wonderful not to have to put out buckets each time it rains!"

DATE FOR CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING:

Please make a note of the date of the Christmas Coffee Morning:-

Saturday, 25th November in the church from 10.00am - 1.00pm.

More details later but please contact Phillipa if you would like to have a table at the Coffee Morning, or if you can help with any of the stalls.

MONDAY MORNING COFFEE CLUB:

The Coffee Club is held in the church every Monday during term time from 9.30am – 11.30am. There was another bumper crowd last Monday. Call in for a coffee and a chat, any age most welcome!

SERVICES NEXT SUNDAY:

Great Brickhill:- 11am Harvest Family Service at Rectory Farm

We will be collecting items for the MK Food Bank. Please bring your contribution to the service. After the service there will be a Bring & Share Lunch - bring a plate of food to share with others.

Other services in the Benefice will be:-

9.30 (Bow Brickhill) Holy Communion

9.30 (Stoke Hammond) Morning Worship

Julia Turner – Warden (07714 028785)

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Phillipa Cook – Secretary (01525 261521)

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To contact the Rector, Revd John Waller:

rector@brickhillschurches.org.uk

The address of the Benefice website:

www.brickhillschurches.org.uk