

The Church of St Mary the Virgin, Great Brickhill

Sunday 9th March 2025 – The First Sunday of Lent

Welcome to our Family Service today which will be led by the Rector. We welcome friends and family of Arran and Amye Aris for the baptism of their son Louis. Andrew and Margretta will be providing the music. Please use the shakers as much as you like during the modern worship songs.

There is no activity for the children this morning but there are colouring sheets available in the Children's corner.

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

This morning's reading will be:-

The Baptism of Christ - Luke 3: 21-22

The collection plate will be passed round during the final 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.

NEW ELECTORAL ROLL:

This year a new electoral roll is required instead of the usual revision process (this occurs every six years). **This means that everyone that wishes to remain on the electoral roll will need to reapply.**

The relevant form for 2025 is available on the bookcase just inside the main door, or it can be downloaded from the website in both Word and PDF format. The completed form should be returned to the Electoral Roll Officer, Jeremy Hopkinson. Electronic signatures are permitted on application forms - it is sufficient for application forms to have a typed name where a signature is required if sending the form back from a personal email address.

Anyone who wishes to vote on any matter at **the Annual Meeting, which will be held on Tuesday 13th May**, is required to be registered on the Electoral Roll.

LENT COURSE – “WOMEN OF HOLY WEEK”:

The full details of the six-week Lent Course for the Benefice can be found in the green/blue leaflets on the bookcase. The course will be based on stories of six women mentioned in the Gospels from the book by Paula Gooder, “Women of Holy Week”. There will be two groups each week, **an afternoon group at Stoke Hammond and a**

midweek evening sessions across the Benefice at 8pm. All will be welcome to join in any of the groups at any of the venues.

This coming week will be **Week 1 of the course:-**

Miriam's story - "Hosanna" Psalm 118 & Mark 11: 1-11

- Tuesday 11th March

- Wednesday 12th March, at The Rectory

Diocesan Lent Course 2025:- it is not too late to sign up for the Oxford Diocese Lent Course "Come and See", which this year is looking at Baptism. To find out more, and to register for the daily e-mails, go to:- <https://oxford.anglican.org/come-and-see>

WARDEN VACANCY:

Julia will be stepping down as Warden at the Annual Meeting in May after 9 years as a single Warden. We are looking for two Wardens to replace Julia who has done a huge amount of work, but much of that does not have to be done by a formal "Warden". **Please have a think to see whether you might consider taking on this role, or you might know someone else who might.** Please get in touch with either Julia or John to find out more about the role. Julia is not going anywhere, and will always be available to help out. And there are lots of willing volunteers to take on the duties that can be delegated.

PLANT FAYRE, SUNDAY 13th APRIL, FROM:

Our next fundraiser is the Plant Fayre at the Parish Hall / Cricket Field from 11am to 3pm. Lots of help will be needed please. As well as the stalls from the professional nurserymen, there will be a church plant stall and so please think about what plants etc you may be able to provide for that, and also the preserves / cake stall. There will be the usual raffle, and refreshments will be available.

SERVICES IN THE NEXT TWO WEEKS:

Next Sunday, 16th March there will be one service in the Benefice, a joint service for everyone in the four villages of the Brickhills & Stoke Hammond:-

10.00 (Bow Brickhill) Benefice Holy Communion

The next service here will be a Family Service on Mothering Sunday, 30th March at 11.00am.

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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