

## The Church of St Mary the Virgin, Great Brickhill

### SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING

**Sunday 13th October 2024**

Welcome to our Service of Thanksgiving, an opportunity for us to give thanks for the completion of our re-roofing project. We are delighted that the Archdeacon of Buckingham, the Venerable Guy Elsmore will be joining us for our service, which will be followed by refreshments.

Thank you to those who have prepared the church for this morning's service. The church looks lovely with the wonderful flower arrangements. And thank you also to those who have contributed to today's refreshments.

We would like to acknowledge and thank all those who have contributed in any way to the project, in particular: -

- All those involved in the restoration of the north and south aisle roofs completed in 2008. During the recent work, the timbers exposed all seemed to be in a good state of repair. The boards that were signed by villagers in 2005 had to be uncovered – it was not envisaged that they would be seen again quite so soon!
- Our architects Adrian Ringrose and Russell Christison (Stimpson Walton Bond) for their excellent advice and expertise, from the design and planning stage through to completion.
- The contractors, Darren Guess and his team from The Leadworks & Hard Metal Roofing Contractors, and Steve Milne (ESK, Decorating Contractors).
- The team of people who, despite the challenge, worked tirelessly during the work to clean and prepare the church so that all the services could continue, even when the church was filled with scaffolding.

It was quite a journey from the start of the re-roofing work on 12th February, but we now have a water-tight roof, repaired ceiling panels and a freshly painted church. With the recent addition of the new facilities, we now look forward to making much better use of our lovely church – with no buckets in place!

We would also like to thank all those who have contributed to our St Mary's fundraising. The work however could not have completed without the award of some very generous grants, from:-

The Archdeacon's Fund

The Benefact Trust

Bucks Historic Churches Trust

Francis Coales Charitable Foundation

Garfield Weston Foundation

National Churches Trust:-

Headley Trust & Wolfson Foundation

Plus, The Last Chance Churches Appeal

Without the additional support from the Last Chance Churches Appeal, we would not have been able to do all the work at the same time. Phasing the work would have meant even more disruption and it would not have been as cost efficient.

The Chief Executive of the National Churches Trust, Claire Walker, has sent her apologies for not being able to come today and she has sent the following message:-

*"The UK's 41,000 churches, chapels and meeting houses are at the heart of communities in cities, towns and villages and are a treasure trove of architecture, history and faith.*

*The National Churches Trust is proud to have supported St Mary's Church with a grant to help fund the repair project. We hope that the completed works will allow your church to thrive and to remain a vital part of the local community for many years to come.*

*Since 1953, when we were founded as the Historic Churches Preservation Trust, we have given over 12,000 grants and loans to help places of worship of all the main Christian denominations in the United Kingdom. We do not receive regular funding from the government or church authorities and we rely on voluntary income to undertake our work. If you are not already, please do consider supporting our work by becoming a Friend of the National Churches Trust. Full details are available on our website at <http://www.nationalchurchestrust.org/friends> And for regular news, information and a full range of support materials encourage your community to visit our website."*

**Services in the Benefice next Sunday, 20th October:-**

9.30 Holy Communion at Bow Brickhill & Stoke Hammond

11.00 Family Service at Great Brickhill