

The Church of St Mary the Virgin, Great Brickhill

SUNDAY 12th March 2017:- The Second Sunday of Lent

Welcome to our service of Holy Communion (Common Worship) this morning led by the Rector. Thank you to Susan for playing the organ for us today.

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

The readings for the services during Lent are those for the following week's **Lent Course** (see item overleaf) - the themes will focus on particular bible stories based on journeys / pilgrimages. This is **Week 2** and the theme is "**Moses: Standing on holy ground**", focussing on the reading from **Exodus**.

This morning's readings are:-

Exodus 3: 1 - 15; Hebrews 3: 1 - 6; John 6: 25 - 35

THIS WEEK AND NEXT:-

The Happy Cup Coffee Club tomorrow, 13th March. The child-friendly drop-in coffee morning, especially welcoming parents and carers of young children is held **every Monday morning during term time in the church from 9.15am to 11.15am.**

Village Drop-In, tomorrow 13th March. Although there is no longer a Post Office, the Drop-In continues on Monday afternoons at the Parish Hall, from 1.20 - 3.20pm, so please call in for a cup of tea, slice of cake and a chat.

NEWS AND EVENTS:

THANK YOU:

- To the team who met at Rectory Farm last Saturday morning to transfer the load of newspapers from the containers onto the lorry – the second load of the year.
- Also to Chris Atkinson for dealing with the tree near the rear steps that came down in the recent storm and to Andrew Smith and Brian Wright for clearing away the debris.

SNOWDROP WALKS:

What a difference in the two weeks of the Snowdrop Walks! The cold and snowy conditions for the first walk was followed by a beautiful afternoon for the second week. How wonderful it was to see so many enjoying the walk among the snowdrops and then having a lovely time in the church. Well done to those serving the

tea and cakes for coping so well with the queues. We don't have a record of the number of people attending, but in terms of money raised, last Sunday's total of **£1034.38** surpassed all previous days. With the **£341.50** raised for the first walk the total for the two weeks was **£1375.88 plus gift aid** (£1329 in 2016).

Thank you to David for arranging for the team of bell ringers and to all those who baked the cakes and helped with the teas. But most of all, thank you to David and Sally for opening up the Manor grounds, without their support this event would not be possible. David Marlow has uploaded photos of the two weekends on his website:- www.davidmarlowphotography.com

LENT COURSE:

The Lent Course "Pilgrims: Meeting God on the Journey" continues this week. There is an afternoon group at **Stoke Hammond on Tuesdays at 2pm** and an **evening course at venues across the Benefice at 8pm** on Wednesdays 8th & 15th March, Thursdays 23rd & 30th March and Wednesday 5th April. **A Lent Course leaflet** (white) giving full details of all the dates and venues of the Lent Course is available for collection from the bookcase, or download the information from the "Lent Courses" section of the website (address below). There is also a leaflet available prior to each week's course.

ADVANCE DATE:- The annual **Plant Fayre, Saturday 8th April**, 11.00 – 4.00pm. Plants and cakes required for the stalls, plus offers of help – contact Celia Hall:- 261075 celiafeetam@madasafish.com

SUNDAY, 19th MARCH - CAFÉ CHURCH 9.30am - 11.00am

A special form of Coffee Morning including a short time for worship, to celebrate the support for the church given by many people. **Please feel free to come and join us for coffee and pastries**, for as little or as long as you would like, at this informal gathering in place of a formal service.

Services across the Benefice:-

Bow Brickhill:- [Church open, 10.00 - 11.00am]

Little Brickhill:- Family Service at 11.00am

Stoke Hammond:- Holy Communion at 9.00am

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To contact the Rector by e-mail:

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The address of the Benefice website:

www.brickhillschurches.org.uk