

The Church of St Mary the Virgin, Great Brickhill

SUNDAY 11th February 2018:- The Sunday next before Lent

Welcome to our service of Holy Communion (Common Worship) this morning when we will welcome back Reverend Robert Wright. 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 this morning are:-

2 Kings 2: 1 - 12; 2 Corinthians 4: 3 - 6; Mark 9: 2 - 9

THE SNOWDROP WALKS:

The first fundraising event of the year is the annual **Snowdrop Walks**, which will take place **this afternoon and next Sunday afternoon, 18th February** between 2.00pm and 4.00pm. Please wrap up warm and come along to this very popular event, and bring your friends with you. As usual there will be homemade cakes and teas in the church. **If anyone could help with the teas or baking some cakes for next week**, please contact Julia (261213 juliaturner.jt@icloud.com), or Betty Kinsey (261836).

ASH WEDNESDAY:

On Ash Wednesday, **this week 14th February**, there will be one service in the four parishes, a United Benefice service of **Holy Communion at Stoke Hammond at 10.30am**.

Over the last few weeks you will have seen that some of the pews have been relocated from behind the font to give space to house the coffee station. The area in front of the vestry can now be kept clear for the choir and clergy; there is a small notice board for information re mission and ministry. Some of the chairs in the Children's Area and the Lady Chapel have been replaced. This is all part of the work in progress to make best use of the whole area we have available within the church. The vestry has also been tidied to give more space.

THIS WEEK AND NEXT:-

The Happy Cup Coffee Club, the child-friendly drop-in coffee morning for parents and carers **is held every Monday morning during term time, in the church from 9.15am to 11.15am. There will be no Coffee Club tomorrow, Monday 12th February as it is half term week.**

The Village Drop-In is held on Monday afternoons at the Parish Hall, from **1.30 - 3.30pm**, so please call in for a cup of tea, slice of cake and a chat. **The Post Office in the Parish Hall is now open on Mondays, from 1pm to 3pm** in the small meeting room.

NEWS AND EVENTS:

“FEED THE HUNGRY” & “LINK TO HOPE” APPEALS:

Rosie has kindly written a report for these two appeals, giving details of how the schemes operate and news of the good work that they achieved in 2017. **Please take one of the pink sheets available on the bookcase.** Thank you to Rosie and all who contribute to these appeals.

PRAYER GROUP:

There will be a weekly Prayer Group on Thursday mornings starting on 1st March. Meeting at **10.30am** for tea and coffee it will be an informal gathering in the Lady Chapel with an opportunity for quiet, private and open prayer. All will be welcome on any Thursday.

LENT COURSES & BUCKINGHAM AREA DAY CONFERENCE:

As in previous years there will be a **weekly Lent Course** at Stoke Hammond on Tuesday afternoons and a midweek evening course held at venues across the Benefice. The course will follow the Bishop of Oxford's initiative "Called to be Christ-like: contemplative, compassionate and courageous". Full details will be available shortly. On a similar theme there is a **Buckingham Area Day Conference with the Bishop of Oxford, Saturday 24th March**, Sir Henry Floyd Grammar School, 10 - 4.30pm. See the poster on the notice boards near the vestry and in the porch for details.

SERVICES ON SUNDAY, 18th FEBRUARY:

There will be a **Morning Worship service at 9.30am in Great Brickhill**, led by Phillipa - young families will be particularly welcome. Other 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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