

Church News

Review:

Community Breakfast: Community breakfast was a little quieter than usual this month, which gave us a great opportunity to enjoy having a chat with everyone. Donations were still very good so thank you to all who attended. Thank you also to our team of helpers: Val, Sylvia and Liz for making the washing up disappear like magic!



Sponsored walk: Fortunately our prayers were answered as the walk took place on a lovely day and after our bacon butties, we enjoyed a pleasant walk with a delicious lunch at The Globe and a leisurely return followed by a celebratory and much welcome cup of tea at the finish! Many thanks to all involved, including walkers, sponsors and hostesses! Sponsor money - going towards church funds -



is being collected now.

Plant Sale: The annual Plant Sale was on Saturday 28th April, but as we go to press, it hasn't yet taken place! More information on how it went in next month's report.



Bible Course: The 1st session of the Bible course was well attended and easily accessible to all. Further sessions will follow and we're hoping to run another course (this time in Stoke Hammond) later in the year, so keep your eyes peeled!

Forthcoming events:

Community Breakfast: Join us again for our Community breakfast on **Saturday 12th May** at the Stoke Hammond Community Centre. Net contributions from this month's breakfast will be donated to Christian Aid. We're hoping that our new noticeboard will be in place, so if you have any events taking place in the village that you'd like to advertise, please bring a poster or leaflet no bigger than A4 and ask a church member to put it up.

Christian Aid coffee morning: During Christian Aid week we'll be holding a **Bring and Buy*** coffee morning jointly with the Stoke Hammond Methodists. It will be held at the **Methodist Chapel**, Newton Rd from **10.30 to 11.30am** on **Wednesday 16th May**. Please join us to raise money for Christian aid (see <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/christian-aid-week> for more info about their work)

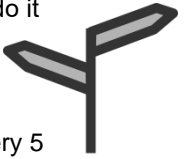


Prayer group and prayer walk: Following a long hiatus, the church prayer group is restarting this month and will meet fortnightly. If you have any prayer requests contact a Church warden or John Bowler. There will be also a prayer walk around the village on **Saturday 2nd June** starting at the church



***Bring and Buy** : you bring unwanted gifts, home bakes, good condition bric-a-brac (jewellery, books, kitchen/dining items etc) and buy whatever others have brought and the proceeds go to the charity.

at **10am** and stopping to pray at various locations. Let us know if you'd like to join us. Although we try to cover as much of the village as possible, we can't do it in one morning! If you'd like special prayers in your road, let us know. Feel free to stop us on our way if you see us! (Of course your prayer requests are treated in strictest confidence).



Quinquennial inspection: What on earth does that mean?! Well, every 5 years ("quinqu" = 5, "ennial" = year) the church building has to have an architect inspect it. The report that's produced outlines all the work that needs doing to keep the church in good condition. It usually means a hefty bill for urgent work (if we can afford it) and appeals for help to pay for work that's not quite so urgent. Sometimes issues arise that have to be dealt with urgently anyway outside of the report recommendations – for example the chunk of the main oak beam in the rafters that fell down last year! (Now repaired thankfully) Unfortunately, these things happen to eight hundred year old buildings! We will be having our inspection later this year and will let you know how it goes.



Special services:

Ascension day - Thursday 10th May: There will be a short said Holy Communion service at St Luke's Church at 9.30am. All are welcome.

Pentecost - Sunday 20th May: There will be a Holy Communion Service at **9am** at St Luke's church. After the service, at about **10.15am**, those who wish to are invited to a **Benefice Pentecost walk** with the Rector to St Mary's Great Brickhill where there will be contemplative quiet prayer starting at about 11.15am then at about 11.45am, a further walk to St Mary's Little Brickhill for an all age "Messy Prayer" workshop at about 12.30pm, followed at 1pm by a bring and share picnic lunch before walking on to Bow Brickhill at 1.45pm for concluding prayers at about 2.30pm. Feel free to join us for some or all the above events! (See below for an explanation of Ascension day and Pentecost).

Looking further ahead:

Afternoon teas: Will be starting again on **Sunday 10th June** and the first one of this year will follow a service of **Songs of Praise** at **3pm**. You're welcome to join us at the church just for tea at **4pm** if you prefer, but we'd love to hear you singing your favourites beforehand! If you can't make it then, write these other "teas" dates in your diary: **29th July, 19th August and 23rd September**.



Open gardens: Following the phenomenal success of last year's Open Gardens, we've decided to hold the Open Gardens again. This time we've changed the date to the weekend of **16th & 17th June**, so that people can show a different flowering period in their gardens. There'll be between 10 and 13 gardens (details aren't finalised yet), some as last year, others new for the first time. More details will follow next month.

Church fete: The church fete will take place on **Saturday 21st July** at St Luke's church. If you've never been inside, this is the ideal time!

The wider church:

Mission Action Plan (MAP): Our Deanery - Mursley (the next administrative level up after our Benefice) have been asked to prepare a MAP for the Diocese.

To help with this, they've asked every Parish to prepare their own MAP...but what is it? Well, our "mission" is to share the Good News of our saviour with our neighbours. How we go about it is our choice. Do you have any ideas you'd like to offer? Contact a churchwarden if so!



Archbishops' call to prayer: The Archbishops of Canterbury and York have asked the whole Christian community to join together in a prayer initiative called "**Thy kingdom come**" between **10th and 20th May**.

Christians are asked to pray that their friends and family come to faith. This is the 3rd year of the initiative and it has been growing every year. Read more at:

<https://www.archbishopofcanterbury.org/news/latest-news/archbishops-launch-thy-kingdom-come-2018>

What is Ascension day?

Ascension Day celebrates the day Jesus ascended to heaven after he was resurrected on Easter Day. You can read about it in the Gateway online Bible here in Luke 24 v 50 - 53:

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+24&version=NIV>

and here in Acts 1 v 9 – 10:

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts+1&version=NIV>



What is Pentecost?

Pentecost (aka Whitsun) is the festival when Christians celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit 50 days after Easter (the name comes from the Greek pentekoste, "fiftieth"). When the Holy Spirit came down upon the apostles, it fulfilled the promise that Jesus made to them before his death and empowered them to continue his work with the Holy Spirit as their guide. This is the third most important Christian festival after Easter and Christmas. You can read about it in John 14 v 25 – 26:

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+14&version=NIV>

and in Acts 2 v 1 – 13:

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts+2&version=NIV>

Church Benefice Website: www.brickhillchurches.org.uk.

If you'd like to come to a service, all service times are listed on the website, along with the Rector's contact details. **Church News articles are now available on the benefice website (click on Stoke Hammond and scroll down to Stoke Hammond Newsletters)** - handy if you want to click on a web address instead of typing it out! (Pictures are different due to copyright laws).

If you would like to come to church but have mobility problems please ring John (see below) regarding transport. If you would like to volunteer to help, have a prayer request or enquiry, please ring **Harry: Churchwarden, on 07773065271, Diane: Churchwarden on 270409 or John: Treasurer, on 270202.**