

# Church News - February 2019

## Review:

**Community Breakfast:** We had a busy breakfast again last month (as well as new seating arrangements) on the Community centre circular tables instead of the rectangular ones (apart from the one at the front!) We also had a collection box for the Food Cupboard (sponsored by MK Lions), although word hadn't got round the village!



**The Bible Course:** We've had two of the 2 hour Bible course sessions on Tuesday evenings in the Methodist Chapel now and it's going really well. We've enjoyed lively friendly discussions and are learning a lot about the big picture of the Bible storyline. If you've been thinking about coming along, please give John, Diane or Harry a call or take a look on the website to check out the course. It's always possible to join in but clearly you won't get the full course now. There's a good chance we'll be running another one in the future though, so let us know if you'd like to put your name down and request a preferred weekday:

<https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/explore-the-bible/the-bible/course/>

## Forthcoming events:

**Prayer meetings:** You don't have to be Church of England to attend our prayer meetings, all denominations welcome! There will be meetings at **8pm on Wed 13<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> Feb at The Birches, Church Rd** this month. If you'd like prayers for someone, or if you'd like to join us, please call John Bowler, as we sometimes change times and dates or the venue at the last minute.



**Community Breakfast:** We're holding our Community Breakfast again on **Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> February**, serving breakfast **from 8.30 till 10.30am**. One of our great delights is to see new faces at every breakfast (as well as the regulars of course!) So if you haven't been before, it could be your turn to be our new face! As well as a breakfast (as light or as heavy as you like) you can enjoy a chat with neighbours or if you're shy, pick up a newspaper to read until you feel relaxed enough to break the ice! We have our church noticeboard, open to all organisations to advertise (though we haven't had many takers yet!) and the Food Cupboard collection which will be a regular feature from now on, as are prayer request cards (always treated confidentially).



## Special services:

**Family service:** Our family service this month is at **11am on Sun 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb** and will be led by **Donna Broadbent-Kelly**, the Methodist minister for the Stewkley circuit. We would be delighted to see some children at the service so please come and join us!

**Visiting preacher:** On **Sun 17<sup>th</sup> Feb at 9am** we'll be having a service of Holy Communion led by **Steve Barnes**, however **Sandra Green** from Wingrave will be preaching at the service. We're looking forward to her sermon on service.

## Church Management:

**What's the electoral roll?:** It's that time of year when we review the electoral roll. This year we start from scratch and everyone who wants to stay on or join the roll has to fill in a form. The electoral roll is very important in church management, being a major element in the calculation of the parish share (the money our parish church has to contribute to Oxford Diocese for our Rector and Diocesan costs) **So the more people on our electoral roll, the more our parish has to pay.** This is a fair system as those on the electoral roll are mostly regular church attendees who contribute to church finances. Anyone living in the village can be buried in the churchyard, but the advantage of being on the electoral roll is that you'll be able to vote at the annual church meeting or stand for election to the Church Council! If you want to contribute to the parish church (regardless of whether you attend church or not) and join the electoral roll, please contact electoral roll officer John Bowler.



**What's the difference between a Rector and a Vicar?** Many people have asked this question over the years, so I thought I'd explain here. The names "Rector" and "Vicar" were coined years ago, when the church had a completely different hierarchy. A Rector had more benefit because there were glebe lands attached to the parish from which the Rector received income through farming (or renting to others for farming). A Vicar wouldn't have had that luxury. Nowadays all glebe lands are overseen by (in our case) Oxford



Diocese, but the old titles attached to each parish have been kept. Because there were once glebe lands attached to our parish, we have a Rector! It also explains why there are a number of farms in the area called Rectory Farm!

**Bible verses of the month: *John 14 v 1-3:*** *Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. <sup>2</sup>My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you?<sup>3</sup> And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.*

**What does it mean?** Jesus is talking to the disciples here. One interpretation is that he's preparing them for his death and comforting and reassuring them that they too will be joining him upon their own deaths - a sure comfort to all who have been bereaved. Read the full passage at:

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

**Church Benefice Website:** [www.brickhillchurches.org.uk](http://www.brickhillchurches.org.uk).

If you want to come to a service, all church service times are listed on the website, along with contact details for the Rector. His phone goes straight to an answerphone but he will reply as soon as he's able. The Rector's day off is Monday.

**Church news articles are available to read on the benefice website** (click on Stoke Hammond in the list and scroll down to Stoke Hammond Newsletters)

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 **Churchwardens: Harry, on 07773065271; Diane, on 270409 or Treasurer: John, on 270202.** There will be a free bottle of wine for the first person to call Diane saying that they have read this report online! **Yes, really!**