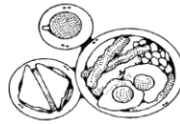


Church News – March 2019

Review:

Community Breakfast: The circular tables proved popular at another successful Community breakfast. Regular customers invited their weekend guests to join us in a steady flow though the morning. Several people supplied food items for the Food Cupboard – many thanks for your support and thanks also to our helpers Sue, Valerie, Margaret and Liz.



The Bible Course: Our Bible Course has now finished and those who attended really enjoyed it. In fact it was so worthwhile we're considering running another course in the future so if you're interested, please let us know and we'll put you on the waiting list! More information can be

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

Forthcoming events:

Community Breakfast: We'll be holding our Community Breakfast again on **Saturday 9th March**, serving breakfast **from 8.30 till 10.30am**. A few people have said they don't eat cooked breakfast.



We also have cereals, toast and pastries available, or just have a drink! It's not just about the food, it's about meeting your neighbours too! We've started a regular collection for the **food bank**, so please bring your donations with you. Prayer request cards will be also available and are always treated confidentially.

Prayer meetings: Our prayer meetings are open to all denominations so please join us if you wish! There'll be meetings at **8pm** on **Wed 13th and 27th March** at **The Birches, Church Rd** this month. If you'd like to come to a prayer meeting, but are worried about praying, you needn't be – it's perfectly OK to come and listen and just pray silently with us if you wish! If you'd like to join us or if you'd like prayers for someone, please call John Bowler, as we sometimes change times, dates or location.



Lent group: We've held a Lent course in the village for many years now. The course usually lasts 5 weeks and looks at Bible chapters or specific themes. Last year we studied the Beatitudes (Matt5 v 1-12). We haven't decided this year's subject, but the course will run on Tuesday afternoons. (There's often a parallel course run on Wednesday evenings for those who can't make the daytime course). We usually start with a soup lunch then a short prayer, read a passage and discuss it. If you're interested, please contact a church member. Further details will follow next month.



Special services:

Mothering Sunday service: This year our service will be held on **Sunday 31st March at 10am** and will be led by Valerie Kerr. Families are particularly welcome and there will be a gift for all Mothers.

Dates for your diary:

Shrove Tuesday (Pancake day): Tuesday 5th March – don't forget your lemons!

Palm Sunday: 14th April (6pm Holy Communion followed by AGM at 6.30pm)

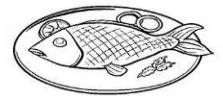
Good Friday: 19th April (Church open from 12 to 3 for quiet reflection)

Easter Day: 21st April (9am Holy Communion service led by Rev John Waller)

Plant Sale: 27th April on the village green

What traditions are associated with the Easter season?:

February 2018's Church News covered traditions associated with **Lent**, including **fasting** (you can read the report on the **Church Benefice Website** URL below). Traditionally, no meat could be eaten during Lent (except on Sundays which don't count as part of Lent because they're feast days: every Sunday celebrates Easter Sunday, when we were all redeemed by Jesus' death). Fish are cold blooded so could be eaten, but in Tudor times, wealthy individuals (like Henry VIII) got fed up of eating fish and stretched the rules to include "fish" like porpoises and seals!



The subject of **Mothering Sunday** was covered in last March's Church News (also on the website). One of the traditions of Mothering Sunday was that domestic servants visiting their mothers, took a **simnel cake**. Simnel cake, known since medieval times, is a light fruit cake eaten during the Easter season. It has two layers of marzipan, one in the middle and one on top. The top layer has a circle of "eggs" also made of marzipan. The eggs represent the apostles either 11 (without Judas) or 12. There are many ideas of where they got their name. One is that a mythical couple, Simon and Nelly, fell out over making a Simnel. One wanted to boil it, one to bake it and, after



beating each other with household implements, they compromised by using both cooking techniques! Another idea is that the word simnel could come from the Latin word *simila*, meaning fine wheat flour.

Bible verses of the month: Matthew 7 v 1-2: *Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.*

What does it mean? These verses caution the reader to avoid judging others: we rarely know all the full circumstances. The reader is also warned that they will be judged by the same criteria they use on others and as we all know, we're not perfect and make mistakes from time to time, so be generous with your mercy and it will be returned to you - Shakespeare's "Measure for measure" was based on verse 2!

Church Benefice Website: www.brickhillschurches.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!**