

St Mary the Virgin, Great Brickhill

PCC NEWSLETTER, 25th JUNE 2019



The Altar Decorated for Whit Sunday

Firstly, a review of events for the first half of the year,

FEBRUARY SNOWDROP WALKS:

This year's Snowdrop Walks broke records in every respect, with the largest ever number of attendees and the most amount of money raised. The rain relented just in time on the first afternoon and the mild weather on the second afternoon saw over **260 people** take the opportunity to walk among the wonderful snowdrops. The amount raised easily surpassed the previous record, the total for the two weeks was **£1854.05**. A huge thank you to David and Sally Duncombe for again hosting the event and for welcoming the visitors. Well done to the team behind the counter doing such a great job in serving the endless queue of people waiting to buy the tea and cakes. Also, thanks go to those who provided the delicious cakes.

APRIL PLANT FAYRE:

Well done to all those who helped to make the Plant Fayre such a success. The total of the amount raised was **£3207** (£2694 last year) with **448 people** through the gate (381 in 2018). Thanks to all who helped to make the day such a success, especially John and Celia Hall who masterminded the event.

MAY FASHION SHOW:

The Ladies Fashion Show at the Parish Hall was a great success. **76 ladies** enjoyed the evening, which raised **£831.50**. Thank you to Val Baldwin and Gill Wilson for organising the event.

MAY BRICKSTOCK:

Thank you to the organisers of Brickstock for making it possible for the May Family Service to be held in one of the marquees at the cricket club on the morning of Brickstock. And for the opportunity for the St Mary's Café to serve tea and cakes in the Parish Hall during the afternoon. Thanks to those who provided the cakes and served the teas, **£296** was raised.

JUNE ART EXHIBITION:

Gill Wilson and Anne Marlow held an exhibition of their art in the church and they have kindly donated 10% of their proceeds to the church. It was lovely to see so many people come into the church on the Saturday and Sunday afternoon to enjoy the exhibition and the cream teas that were available on both days. **£192** was raised for the church from the teas.

MONTHLY AND ONGOING EVENTS:

The Ladies Who Lunch events are held each month. They not only provide a good source of regular income but offer a wonderful social occasion for those who are able to attend. Thank you to all who host the lunches.

“Save a Penny to Spend a Penny!”

This initiative has been well supported – a steady stream of jars has been delivered to the Church Treasurer. Most of the jars have been returned with no name on them and so it has been difficult to let people know how much is in the jars. To date, a total of **£233.93** has been banked. If you would like to help, or continue helping, with this scheme, please take an empty jar that you will find in the church porch and return it when full to Phillipa. To “coin” the well-known phrase, “every little helps”!

GENERAL CHUCH NEWS:

ANNUAL MEETING, 30th APRIL:

At the Annual Church Meeting the Warden and PCC members were elected to serve another year. The Annual Report and Accounts were adopted. A photographic review of the year was shown. Julia presented the Wardens’ report summarising the work undertaken on the fabric. The Rector gave some reflections on how we can let God be at work with us, in and through challenging times, so that they may become times of growth and hope. The Annual Meeting concluded with Compline.

The Annual Report, the presentation of slides from the Annual Meeting and the Wardens’ Report are available to download from the “Annual Meeting 2019” page of the Great Brickhill section of the website.

Unfortunately, the photo presentation is too large a file to upload to the website, which is a shame as it gave a wonderful snapshot of events throughout the year, ranging from choir activities to fund raising events.

BELL RINGING NEWS:

Bell Ringing Peals:

On Saturday 2nd March the bell ringers scored (succeeded) a peal in celebration of the beginning of the Bell project ten years ago. They rang a peal of 5040 changes of Ullesthorpe Surprise Major, rung in 3.00 hours dead. It was the first peal rung since the re-hanging of the bells in 2010, and the first peal rung on 8 bells in the village. The last peal was rung in 1992, which, of course, was rung on six bells.

More recently a quarter peal was rung to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of D Day. Thank you to our Tower Captain, David Middleton, for organising these.

Bell Ringing Competition:

On Bank Holiday Monday 6th May, from 4.00pm until 7.00pm, the Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bellringers held their eight-bell ringing competition on our bells. The winners of that competition go on to compete in the National 8-bell Competition.

WALL SAFE:

Unfortunately, the wall safe to the right of the church door has been targeted again. Following the damage sustained last year, the wall safe was repaired but someone has again recently tried to forcibly open it and the lock has totally seized. Until a more secure system is installed, please do not place any money in the safe - if anyone wishes to make a donation, please hand it to either Phillipa or Julia.

CONTACTLESS PAYMENTS:

We now have a contactless payment system that can accept payments by credit and debit cards - 'tap and go' payments of up to £30, or larger amounts by inserting a card and entering a PIN. This will become more and more useful as cash is used less and less. It could be used at services if people wished to give in this way.

And now for news of forthcoming activities,

CHARITY SONGS OF PRAISE, SUNDAY 21st JULY AT 10.00am:

This year our Charity Songs of Praise will be on Sunday 21st July at 10.00am. Revd. Robert Wright will be leading the service and his wife Vicky will be here to talk about her work with **our chosen charity, the RNLI**. We are asking for your choice of hymns and readings – please send any suggestions you have, and possibly a note to say why you have chosen them, to Phillipa **by Friday 12th July** either by:

- Returning the Form in the attached Word file
- Sending all the info on the Form within the body of an e-mail
- Completing one of the blue slips of paper on the bookcase just inside the church

ULTRA MARATHON MAN:

Roger Blofeld is doing a sponsored run to raise funds for the proposed toilet extension at the church. He is attempting to **run 105 miles in the Lakeland 100 Ultra Marathon** at the end of July within the cut off time of 40 hours. Included in the distance is an **ascent/descent of 6270m**, which is equivalent to going **up and down Ben Nevis nearly 5 times**. Any sponsorship that you can give will be a huge encouragement for Roger – either via our envelope scheme or by:-

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/run-to-spend-a-penny>

BUCKS HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST RIDE & STRIDE, 14th SEPTEMBER:

This an annual event is for those who walk, ride or cycle to as many churches as they are able between 10am and 6pm. Sponsorship money collected is divided equally, half to BHCT and the other to the church of your choice. If any cyclist, horse rider or walker is interested, please contact Phillipa for more details.

RE-SCHEDULED “SWEET MUSIC” CONCERT:

The concert postponed from 6th October last year will now be held on Saturday, 12th October 2019. Those who purchased tickets for the earlier concert will shortly be contacted and given first choice for tickets for the re-scheduled date.

And news from across the Benefice,

STOKE HAMMOND:-

The regular Newsletters are available on the website, giving reports of past events and news forthcoming events:-

<https://brickhillschurches.org.uk/stoke-hammond/stoke-hammond-newsletters/>

LITTLE BRICKHILL:-

Attached is a poster for their **Open Gardens Weekend on 6th & 7th July**. There will be 10 lovely gardens open from 2 - 6.00pm, refreshments, train rides, a quiz for children and a Plant Stall. **On Sunday at 1.30pm there will be a special service in the church in celebration of gardens.**

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For further information please contact:-

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Do please remember that all the information about Church events or services can be found on the Benefice website:- www.brickhillschurches.org.uk