

The Church of St Mary the Virgin, Great Brickhill

SUNDAY 23rd FEBRUARY 2020: Sunday next before Lent

Welcome to our Family Service this morning led by the Rector. Thank you to Andrew who will be playing the music to accompany our singing. The theme of the service is the story of the Transfiguration. Everyone is invited to stay after the service for coffee and a chat.

The reading this morning is:- 2 Peter 1: 16 - 18.

On Wednesday evening there will be a United Benefice Service for Ash Wednesday at 7.30pm at Stoke Hammond. It will be a sung Holy Communion Service and the choir will be attending.

NEWS AND EVENTS:

The Happy Cup Coffee Club, the child-friendly drop-in coffee morning for parents and carers **is held every Monday morning in the church from 10.00am to 11.15am** during term time.

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 open on **Mondays, from 1pm to 3pm** in the small meeting room.

The Prayer Group is held at 11.00am in church on the second and fourth Mondays of each month. Do come early around 10.45am to enjoy a cup of coffee and a chat with one another and with the young families gathering in the Chapel area. **The next meetings of the Prayer Group will be held tomorrow, Monday 24th February and Monday 9th March. There is an e-mail Prayer Chain** for those who meet together. Anyone who wishes a prayer to be included at any time should contact:- Valerie Kerr (valeriejerr@hotmail.com) or Mary Maley (mary@maley.org.uk).

THE FOOD BOX:

The Food Box in the church porch is to help anyone who is in need of food either in an emergency or longer term. **Please spread the news of this initiative as widely as you can.** At present we do not need any more donations. However, we have an outlet for any surplus, items will be taken to the MK Food Cupboard

THE SNOWDROP WALKS, 9th & 16th FEBRUARY:

The strong winds and rain of Storm Ciara caused us to cancel the walk on 9th February, just when the snowdrops were at their very best. A few ventured out to enjoy some tea and cake in the church.

Fortunately, the worst of Storm Dennis had passed through in time on 16th February. Around 70 people braved the elements. A total of £516.70 was raised over the two weekends, well down understandably on previous years. A huge thank you to David and Sally Duncombe for again hosting the event and for welcoming the visitors. Thanks to all who helped with the teas, the setting up and clearing away, and especially those who baked the delicious cakes.

THE PLANT FAYRE, SATURDAY 18th APRIL, 11.00am – 4.00pm.

A plea from the organisers, John and Celia Hall “We are particularly short of helpers this year and so we are asking for more volunteers to help organise this event, as well as run it on the day. It would be wonderful if you could spare a few hours on the day and take on one of the roles listed, or even better, offer to be one of our “team leaders”. **If you are able and willing to help, please add your name to the pink list on the bookcase**, or send an e-mail or telephone Celia at celiafeetam@madasafish.com or 261075 if you would like more information before committing yourself to something.

St MARY’S YEAR BOOK 2019:

Thanks to David Marlow for another wonderful photographic record of the year. The Year Book is available on the table near the door. Phillipa has a few spare copies if anyone would like to buy one, or alternatively they can be purchased direct from the publisher Blurb via David’s website: www.davidmarlowphotography.com

LENT COURSE & EASTER SERVICES (YELLOW FLIERS):

The Lent Course starts the week beginning 2nd March, Tuesday afternoons at Stoke Hammond and an evening course across the Benefice. All the details are available on the **yellow Lent Course / Easter Service leaflets** on the bookcase, or via the “Lent Courses” section of the website – address below. On the reverse of the leaflet is the information of all the special **Lent and Easter services**, including one service when we will welcome Bishop Alan.

SERVICES ON SUNDAY, 1st MARCH:

There will be a said Holy Communion (BCP) Service at 11.00am in Great Brickhill, led by the Rector. Other Services across the Benefice:- **Bow Brickhill:-** Mattins, 11am; **Little Brickhill:-** Holy Communion, 9.30am; **Stoke Hammond:-** Family Service, 11.00am

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The address of the Benefice website:

www.brickhillschurches.org.uk