

Little Brickhill Church – August 2020

As you know, there have been some initiatives during the 'lockdown' period which, we believe, has kept the church at the centre of our village community:

Village Support Group: Back in March, at the beginning of this crisis, an appeal for people to offer help with shopping and other essential errands for vulnerable and isolated people drew responses from over 30 kind people. This was communicated to the village via the email Contacts Group, the village Facebook page and through a house-to-house mail drop. The take-up of requests for help was quite limited, but there were several people who requested and received regular help. Our hope is that others are being well supported by family, friends and neighbours.

Swap Drop: The initiative to share books, games, puzzles and toys during the time of inactivity has been widely welcomed and well used. We'll keep this open through the school summer holidays, but as things open up and people start to return to normal life, we'll need to consider the point at which we close it – as well as what to do with the remaining items! We'd welcome any feedback on this.

Food Box: Also housed in the church porch we've had a box of food which has been very generously supplied following an appeal to the village. With the easing of access to shops and people beginning to return to work, this will soon be removed and the excess food items will be donated to the MK Food Bank. However, if you feel strongly that this service should be continued, please do let me know.

Village and Church Email Contact Lists

Emails via these two contact lists, along with the village Facebook page, have helped to keep village residents up to date with regular village, local and MK notices and news. If you'd like to be included in either or both of these lists please contact me at alison.packer@outlook.com.

Church opening

Like all places of worship our lovely church has been closed for the months of the virus outbreak, but this has now been eased slightly and we're allowed to be open for private prayer. At the beginning of July the required safety precautions were put in place and we invited people to ask for key if they wished to go into the church. If you'd like to borrow a key to visit the church, please contact me on 261569 or Sarah Lawless on 261721.

Church Services

Some services have now been arranged for all the benefice churches and I'm pleased to be able to tell you that there will be a **Family Service in our church at 11am on Sunday 16th August**. Although, at present, no singing is allowed in churches, there will be something for people of all ages, with activities for the children as before. Everyone will be very welcome and we're looking forward to seeing the church occupied again.

If you'd like to visit any of the other benefice churches, you'll be assured of a welcome at any of these services:

SERVICES ACROSS THE BENEFICE IN AUGUST 2020

DATE:	VENUE	SERVICE
Sunday, 9th August	Great Brickhill	11.00am. Holy Communion
Sunday, 16th August	Little Brickhill	11.00am. Family Service
Sunday, 23rd August	Bow Brickhill	11.00am. Holy Communion
Sunday, 30th August	Virtual via Zoom	Details tbc

Fund Raising

Obviously, like all churches, with no services our income has dropped significantly for the past months, and this is likely to continue for some time to come. We're very grateful for the continuing generous donations of regular givers. Of course, we still have to maintain and insure this historic building and fund raising for this is a constant challenge. We were unable to hold a Summer Fayre this year and the **Christmas Fayre** in the Village Hall is looking doubtful but, forever optimistic, we've booked the Hall for **Sunday 29th November, 12.30 – 2pm**. Do make a note of this and we'll let you know what's happening nearer the time.

Annual Church Meeting

You may recall that each year we have to hold an Annual Church Meeting when we report on the activities of the previous year, the state of the building and the church's finances. This meeting is usually held in March but, for obvious reasons, it was cancelled this year. We're now required to reschedule this meeting, so it will happen in church at 12 noon on Sunday 20th September, following the Family Service. Everyone is most welcome to attend and anyone who is on the church's Electoral Roll is able to vote on any proposals. If you'd like to know more about being on the Electoral Roll, do get in touch with me.

Weed and Feed Day Sunday 2nd August

A huge thankyou to the 14 hardy souls who very generously gave several hours of their time to tackle the weeds in the churchyard (as a change from the weeds in their own gardens!) It was lovely to see so many people after such a long period of not being able to mix freely. Their work has made such a huge difference to how the churchyard looks and it now feels much more loved and cared for. Several people noticed that it's looking better year on year, so each year's work is having a lasting effect which is great!

Alison Packer
Church Warden

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