

The Church of St Mary the Virgin, Great Brickhill

SUNDAY 6th DECEMBER 2020: Second Sunday of Advent

It is good to be back!! Welcome to this first service after the end of the second lock down. Thank you to the team who helped with cleaning the church yesterday, quite a task due to the dust from the building work. This morning's Holy Communion service will be led by the Rector. We are very pleased that Jerry Breslin will again be here to play the organ at various points throughout the service.

The readings for this morning are:-

Isaiah 40: 1-11; 2 Peter 3: 8-15a; Mark 1: 1-8

As for previous services, hand sanitizing will be required on entry to the church. Our normal red books will be used as they have not been in use for many months and will not be required again until January at least. The collection/envelopes should be placed in the plate on the table in the cross aisle before the start of the service. Seating will be in accordance with social distancing rules. Masks are a mandatory requirement and contact details of all those attending will be kept for 21 days. We are now required to exhibit a QR code - please use this code via the NHS COVID-19 App when you enter the church.

CHURCH BUILDING WORK & OPENING TIMES:

Work on the foundations for the WC extension has been slower than expected due to unforeseen circumstances. However, you will see that the builders have laid the slabs on the floor in the designated refreshment area. To assist the builders, the church is only open once a week: **Sundays from 10.00am – 4.00pm. BUT**, if anyone would like to visit the church for private prayer outside of these times please get in touch with Julia or Phillipa and arrangements will be made for you.

ACTIVE E-MAIL PRAYER CHAIN:

Anyone who would like to join the group or would like to have a prayer included, contact:- Roger Blofeld (rogerblo@aol.com).

ADVENT WINDOWS:

The trail for the Advent Windows started on Tuesday, 1st December. The map showing the dates from which each window will start is on display on the Notice Board and in the porch. The windows will be lit up at night until 31st December and there will be a secret message to work out from the letters found in each window.

FUNDRAISING QUIZ IN AID OF THE NEW FACILITIES:

We have a winner! Well done to Clive Morris for his very impressive, blemish-free answer sheet. Second place went to Trisha Bevan and third was Jeremy Hopkinson. Thank you to all who took part and to Janet Pritchard for organizing it. A total of £160 was raised including the prize money that was kindly donated back to the church funds.

SERVICES IN DECEMBER:

Great Brickhill:

The Village Nativity on Sunday 20th December on the Cricket Field at 11.00am. And the really good news is that, as it is an outside event, we can sing carols. The sheep and the “donkey” are booked and looking forward to making an appearance!

Christmas Day:- Holy Communion here at 11.00am

Elsewhere in the Benefice:

Sunday 13th December:

- Carol Service, Stoke Hammond, 4pm

Sunday 20th December:

- Carol Service, Bow Brickhill, 3pm
- Crib Service, Stoke Hammond on the Village Green, 3pm
- Carol Service, Little Brickhill, 5pm

Christmas Eve:

- Midnight Holy Communion, Stoke Hammond 11.30pm

Christmas Day:

- Holy Communion, Little Brickhill, 9.30am

N.B. Sunday 27th December:

- There will not be a service in the Benefice

Virtual Nine Lessons and Carols:

As it will not be possible to hold our normal Carol Service on Christmas Eve, we plan to have a virtual Nine Lessons and Carols with pre-recorded material filmed in the church. This is still at the planning stage - details will be circulated as soon as possible.

In January the current pattern of services will continue, one service each week in one of the parishes. The Rector will also be writing his reflection and prayer for each week and these will also be available on You Tube.

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The address of the Benefice website:

www.brickhillschurches.org.uk