

St Mary-the-Virgin Church

Great Brickhill

Annual Church Meeting

Tuesday 16th May 2023

The 2022 Church Annual Report and the Minutes of the 2021 Annual Meeting are available on the website:-

<https://brickhillschurches.org.uk/great-brickhill/annual-church-meeting/annual-meeting-202/>

The Annual Vestry Meeting

The Election of the Church Wardens

Julia Turner

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting

- 1. Apologies for Absence**
- 2. Minutes of the Meeting held on 19th May 2022,
available in advance
(No requirement to adopt the Minutes)**
- 4. Elections:-**
 - a). Deanery Synod Representative (one)**
 - b). Members of the PCC (max 6)**
 - b). Appointment of Independent Examiner 2023**

DEANERY SYNOD REPRESENTATIVE

Position has been vacant since 1/10/20

*Jeremy Hopkinson serves on the
Deanery Synod as Treasurer*

NOMINATIONS FOR THE PCC

Current members:-

Phillipa Cook

Clare Hankins-Lewis

Diana Williams

Joy Wilson

New nominations:-

Stuart Jones

Sophia Walmsley

APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

David Beatty has fulfilled the role of Independent Examiner for the last few years. He is willing to continue in that role.

ELECTORAL ROLL

[No. on Roll at 19th May 2022:- 37]

Current Number on Electoral Roll

16th May 2023:- 36

(3 not resident in the parish)

2022 ANNUAL REPORT

Services, activities, events etc

Covid-19 Restrictions

All restrictions were relaxed

Church Opening

The church was open for a longer period during the days of the July heatwave with refreshments available

SERVICES:

The new service pattern was reviewed in September. It was agreed that the pattern continue.

The services are publicised widely – website, Pew Sheet, Parish Newsletter, weekly e-mail, village WhatsApp

THANKS TO:

- The Rector, Jeremy Hopkinson, the visiting clergy and all those who lead our services
- Jerry Breslin (Organist and Choirmaster) and Rosemary for playing the organ for us
- The Benefice choir
- Andrew & Margretta Smith and Sophia Walmsley for the music at the Family Services

ATTENDANCE:

Average attendance for normal Sunday service = 15, much higher for special services

SPECIAL SERVICES

**1 wedding, 5 baptisms, 7 funerals
3 midweek contemporary services
Annual Harvest, Remembrance etc
Plus, the following:-**

OUTDOOR BENEFICE SERVICE IN THE CHURCHYARD, SUNDAY 31st JULY



THE VILLAGE NATIVITY AT THE CRICKET CLUB

Sunday 18th December

The snow made it very scenic, a wonderful enactment of the Nativity showing the real meaning of Christmas



THE NATIVITY

The children were encouraged to come forward to sing the first verse of one of the carols



..... and the same at the
NINE LESSONS & CAROLS – CHRISTMAS EVE



HIGH ASH SERVICES:

Services are held for:-

Key Stage 1 & Foundation

Key Stage 2 pupils

Leavers' service

Harvest

Christingle / Carol Service

Easter

HIGH ASH EASTER SERVICE TABLE



High Ash – Easter Gardens and Easter Cards



HIGH ASH HEADTEACHER:

Mrs Sara Boyce left at the end of the year. Deputy Head, Mrs Kate Goodger was Acting Head from 1st January.

Mrs Ruth Lewin was appointed Headteacher from Easter.

THE JUBILEE WEEKEND:

Photographic exhibition in the church

PHOTOGRAPHS AROUND THE VILLAGE

DATING BACK TO THE 1850s



ARTEFACTS FROM RECTORY FARM



WATCHING DIGITALISED CINE FOOTAGE OF THE SILVER JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS IN GREAT BRICKHILL 1977



CREAM TEAS ON JUBILEE SUNDAY



THE JUBILEE ANTHEM

The anthem was sung by the choir in the church and recorded. It was then played at the lighting of the village beacon

THE PASSING OF THE QUEEN

The church was open for longer times in the day during the period of Royal Mourning for people to visit to pay their respects and have a quiet time of reflection and prayer

SINGLE TENOR BELL UNMUFFLED FOR THE QUEEN

Midday, 9th September



THANKSGIVING SERVICE FOR THE QUEEN ON THE EVE OF HER FUNERAL, 18th SEPTEMBER



CHURCH ACTIVITIES:

**5-week Lent course led by the Rector
based on the Psalms of Ascent**

**Starting in June a new monthly midweek Bible
Group at The Rectory**

**“Link to Hope” shoebox appeal – sent to
Romania, Moldova, Ukraine and Bulgaria**

“Feed the Hungry” knitting

CHURCH ACTIVITIES (cont):

Occasional Saturday Coffee Mornings incl one in May in aid of Christian Aid Week. No “House to House collection, online giving for Christian Aid encouraged

Monday Morning Coffee Club during term time from 9.30am to 11.30am

Food Box in the church porch. The demand has increased in recent months

CHURCH ACTIVITIES (cont):

Communications:-

Website, Pew Sheet for every service, Parish Newsletter, weekly e-mail, village WhatsApp

Parish Newsletter:-

Scaled down version with news items is printed and delivered each month to those known to be unable to receive the Newsletter online

ADDITIONAL EVENTS HELD IN THE LATTER PART OF 2022

OPEN GARDENS:

**Teas were provided at the church and ice creams on sale on the afternoon of the Open Gardens organised by the Gardening Club on 3rd July.
£462 was raised.**

CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING SATURDAY 3rd DECEMBER



CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING

SATURDAY 3rd DECEMBER



CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING SATURDAY 3rd DECEMBER



THE CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING

RAISED £1,108



CAROL SINGING:

Carol singing around the village on two evenings. £724 was collected.

THE ADVENT WINDOWS

A new window opening from 1st - 24th December



THE FINAL “WINDOW”



POLICY DOCUMENTS

All documents are on display in the church porch and in the Great Brickhill section of the website

Safeguarding:

Annual review of Safeguarding Policy in November. No safeguarding incidents have been reported.

Treasurer's Report including adoption of the Annual Report

- Accounts prepared on Receipts and Payments basis
- Deficit for the year of £1,159
- The Covid pandemic again had an impact on income (services and fundraising activities)
- A change in gas supplier at the end of the contract resulted in a very large heating bill
- Two Credit/debit card devices for receipts at services and fund raising activities

PARISH SHARE PAYMENT TO DIOCESE

Payment due for 2022 was £21,025

Parish Share paid:- £8,000

(38% of amount due)

(Parish Share paid in 2021:- £16,000)

WARDENS' REPORT ON FABRIC OF THE CHURCH

(Julia Turner)

DEANERY SYNOD

Synod representative position – vacant

There is no secretary and Jeremy has been trying to find a replacement as Treasurer

Gavin Merrylees is retiring as Lay Chair and Revd Val Plumb is due to step down as Rural Dean

DEANERY SYNOD (cont.)

**Two Synod meetings held via Zoom
(March & November) and an in-person
meeting at Great Brickhill in June**

**The Bishop of Oxford, Bishop Steven,
visited all 30 Deaneries. He spent the day
in Mursley Deanery on 23rd June**

OTHER MATTERS OF INTEREST

NEW FACILITIES & ROOF REPAIR

EVENTS HELD IN 2023

THE NEW FACILITIES

Work on the rendering on the new extension and the bonded gravel path was done in June.

There were a significant number of snagging issues. The builder remedied some of those but is not able to complete the outstanding list of defects.

A third-party building contractor will start completing the work under the direction of the architect in June.

THE ROOF REPAIR

All the relevant permissions to replace the temporary felt covering with terne coated steel have been granted.

The cost of the work incl fees and VAT is £127k. The work will start as soon as funding is in place. We have secured funding of £82k. Multiple grant applications have been made.

Buckets have to be put out whenever the rain comes in. The work needs to be done urgently due to the state of the ceiling panels and walls.

EVENTS HELD IN 2023

**Snowdrop Walks
Drinks & Canapes
Coffee Morning and Talk
Easter
Plant Fayre
The Coronation**

THE SNOWDROP WALKS, SUNDAYS 5th & 12th FEBRUARY

**With thanks to Sir David and Lady Sally Duncombe
for allowing us access to their grounds.**



The queue for tea was very long!



..... but the tea was worth waiting for!



A great atmosphere in the church



The Snowdrop Walks

After the disappointment of the last three years we were blessed with good weather and a large number of visitors on both days. On the first Sunday, an incredible £1762.40 was raised, which included a very generous donation of £150 from Drop-In, followed by £1248, giving a total for the two weeks an amazing £3000.40.

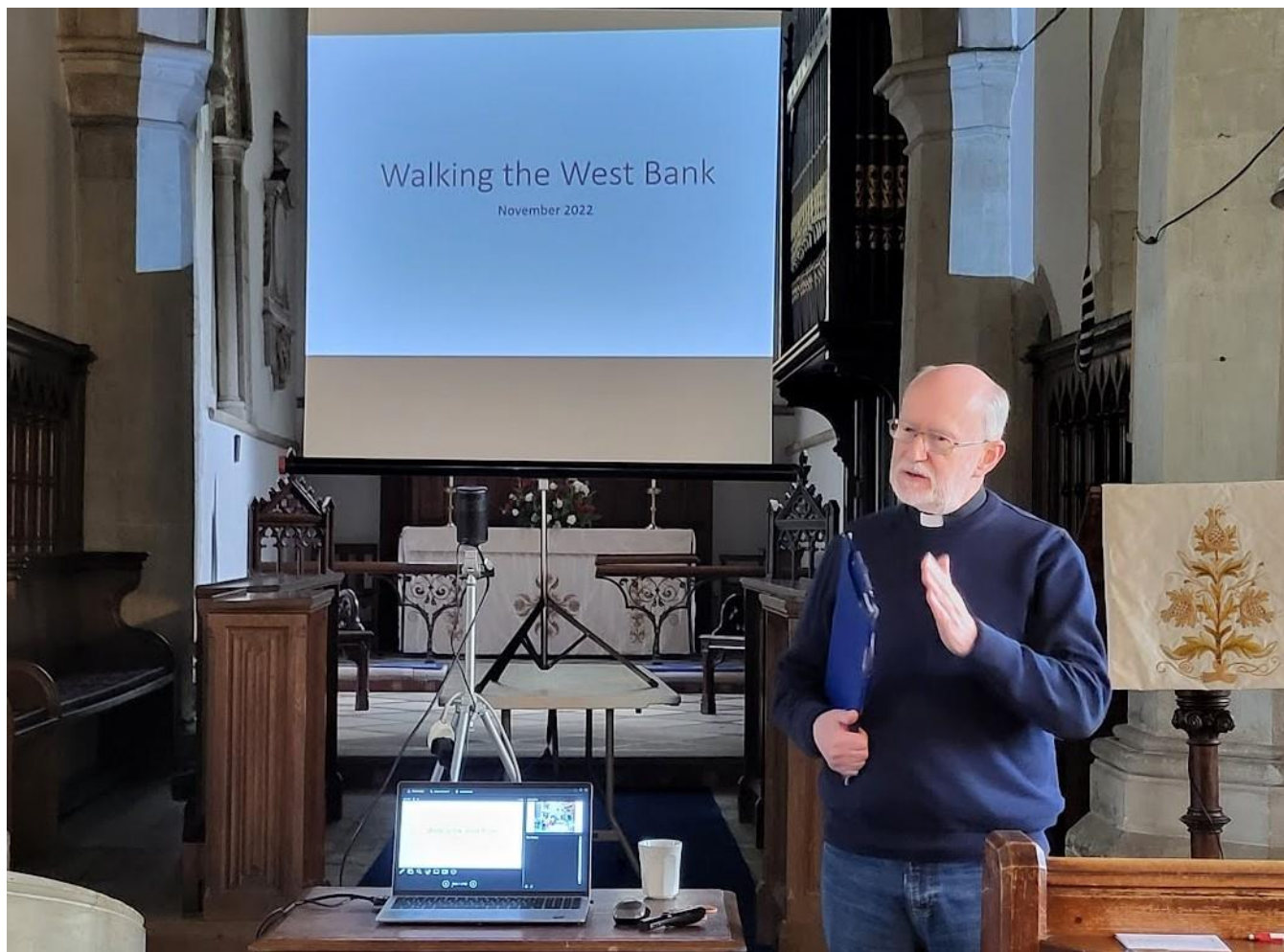
Thank you to those who helped with the teas and provided the delicious cakes.

Revd John Waller

**Arrived in the Benefice in February 2003.
To celebrate his 20 years here, drinks and
canapes were provided after the Family Service
on Sunday 19th February**

On 13th May he went on a trip to Israel

On 13th May the Rector showed photos he had taken on his trip to Israel in November 2022



**..... a walking trek over rough terrain
amongst the Palestinian people**



EASTER SUNDAY SERVICE



The church was decorated beautifully for the Easter service. Jerry Breslin and the choir led the singing and concluded the service with a wonderful anthem.

Then came the Easter Egg hunt for the young children in the churchyard in glorious sunshine.

Renewal of the Baptismal vows at the font



The choir singing the anthem “In Christ Alone”



THE PLANT FAYRE

After a three-year break due to Covid, it was wonderful to be able to hold the event again at our normal venue. There were fewer nurserymen but, together with the village plant stall, there were plenty of plants to buy. An amazing £2472 was raised. 315 people came through “the door” and the event was clearly enjoyed by all those who attended.

Thank you to the Cricket Club and to all those who helped with the event.

The Plant Fayre, back at its usual location at the cricket field



..... and inside the Parish Hall



The Church Plant Stall



The weather was superb, warm enough to enjoy the refreshments outside



The children enjoyed the occasion – I wonder why!



THE CORONATION



**A special Benefice service of Holy Communion
was held on Sunday 7th May**

Bell Ringing for the Coronation

David Middleton, out Tower Captain organised a team of ringers for the afternoon of the Coronation to “ring in the new King” and for a quarter peal to be rung the following day.

David had been training some new bell ringers and arranged for filming of some of our ringers to be filmed for BBC South Today on Thursday 2nd May.

The team of ringers who “rang in the new King” on the day of the Coronation, Saturday 6th May



THE RECTOR

Bible Verses:

Colossians 3: 15, 17 (NIV)

15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.

17 And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

THANK YOU TO

**Everyone who helps with various tasks
around the church and churchyard
but we are always looking
for more people to help!**

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

**The meeting will conclude with Compline,
a short service of evening prayer**