

St Mary-the-Virgin Church

Great Brickhill

Annual Church Meeting

Tuesday 9th April 2024

Wi-Fi access:- Gigaclear A5D1

Password:- dj02tsnu6m

The 2023 Church Annual Report and the Minutes of the 2023 Annual Meeting are available on the website:-

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

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 16th May 2023,
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 2024

DEANERY SYNOD REPRESENTATIVE

Position has been vacant since 1/10/20

***Nomination - Jeremy Hopkinson
(Jeremy is Acting Deanery Synod Treasurer)***

NOMINATIONS FOR THE PCC

Current members:-

Phillipa Cook

Clare Hankins-Lewis

Stuart Jones

Sophia Walmsley

Diana Williams

Joy Wilson

Thanks to retiring PCC member:-

Joy Wilson

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 16th May 2023:- 36]

Current Number on Electoral Roll

9th April 2024:- 37

(7 not resident in the parish)

SAD LOSS DURING 2023:

Lady Rachel Duncombe

Janet Blake

Sheila McLoughlin

Bernard Clark

Carol Turner

Julian Wolfendale

Mary Masterton

Otto Pincott

Colin Benjamin

Barry Thorne

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

Services, activities, events etc

SERVICES:

There was no change to the service pattern.

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 = 18, much higher for special services

SPECIAL SERVICES

1 wedding, 1 blessing, 8 funerals

2 Thanksgiving services,

Remembrance,

Nine Lessons & Carols

PLUS the following:-

THE CORONATION



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

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



OUTDOOR BENEFICE SERVICE IN THE CHURCHYARD, SUNDAY 30th JULY



..... with visitors from as far afield as Australia



The music provided by Andrew & Margretta



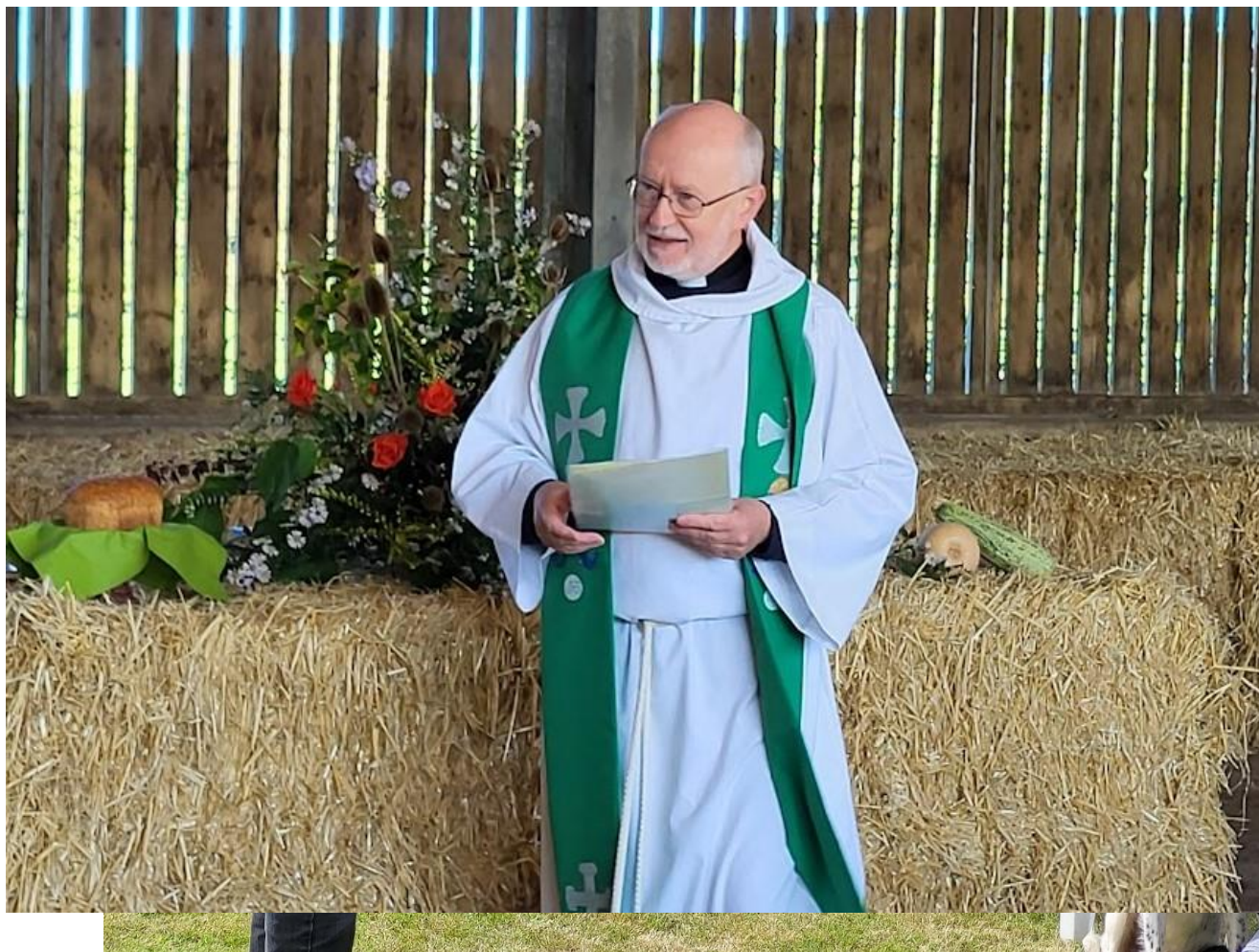
The Rector explains the Treasure Hunt, clues inside and outside the church



The Altar for the Harvest Festival at Rectory Farm on 15th October



The Rector leads the service



The cattle and geese look on from the next door barn



The Harvest Song



THE VILLAGE NATIVITY AT THE CRICKET CLUB
Sunday 17th December
Stephen starts the proceedings with the bagpipes



THE NATIVITY

The crowd await the arrival of the characters



The family arrive with donkey at the stable and the angel appears



THE SHEHERDS



THE KINGS



THE FINAL SCENE



NINE LESSONS & CAROLS – CHRISTMAS EVE



**Sophia joins the choir for:-
“Mary did you know”**



SOLOIST - JAMES



The children are encouraged to join in
with two of the carols



The choir singing the recessional carol on Christmas Day



HIGH ASH SERVICES:

Services are held for:-

Key Stage 1 & Foundation

Key Stage 2 pupils

Leavers' service

Harvest

Christingle / Carol Service

Easter

HIGH ASH VISIT:

Pupils from years 1 & 2 came to visit the church on 31st January. They had a tour of the church, looking at the special places, did some sketching outside and had an interesting Q&A session.

Some of the children joined us for the next Family Service to tell us about their visit.

CHURCH ACTIVITIES:

**6-week Lent course led by the Rector
based on the Diocesan “Come and See” course**

**The monthly midweek Bible Group at The Rectory
continues**

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

**Food Box in the church porch. Thank you to those who
contribute and to Janet Pritchard for looking after it.**

CHURCH ACTIVITIES (cont):

Workdays:-

Two workdays were held, on Saturdays 12th August & 2nd September, an industrious morning followed by a relaxed lunch

Thermal Survey:-

Andrew Smith has carried out a thermal survey of the church. Work is in progress to reduce the heat loss and make the church more energy efficient

CHURCH ACTIVITIES (cont):

A New Notice Board:

Marcus Feinhols of Fine Home Properties kindly sponsored the new board by the church gates. The new notice board houses all the main notices and the old notice board has the large service boards, easily visible from a distance.

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

FUNDRAISING & OTHER EVENTS

BRICKSTOCK TEAS, SUNDAY 28th MAY



CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING

SATURDAY 25th NOVEMBER



THE CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING

RAISED £1,030



THE CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING



THE CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING



A big choice, coffee or mulled wine with the mince pie?



CAROL SINGING:

Carol singing around the village on two evenings. £693 was collected.

THE ADVENT WINDOWS

A new window opening from 1st - 24th December



THE FINAL “WINDOW”



EVENTS HELD IN 2024

The Snowdrop Walks

There was good weather on both days. The first Sunday raised £1701, a record for any one day and the second was almost as good, giving an amazing total of £3033.

Thank you to those who helped with the teas and provided the delicious cakes. And a huge thank you to David and Sally Duncombe for allowing us access to their grounds

THE SNOWDROP WALKS, SUNDAYS 5th & 12th FEBRUARY



THE SNOWDROP WALKS.

A tough choice, which cake to have?!



Palm Sunday Procession and Service



The procession from the The Old Red Lion to the church following the bagpipes and the “donkey”

The procession halts to sing a song



The procession approaches the church



EASTER SUNDAY SERVICE



The choir singing the anthem “In Christ Alone”



POLICY DOCUMENTS

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

Safeguarding – a subject to be taken very seriously:

Annual review of Safeguarding Policy was held in November. A Domestic Abuse Policy was also approved.

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 £763
- Large increase in receipts , mainly due to increase in funeral fees and two successful fundraising events
- Despite higher gas prices, lower costs for Heating, Lighting etc due to new programmable thermostat, and high end of contract charge last year.

PARISH SHARE PAYMENT TO DIOCESE

Payment due for 2023 was £21,433

Parish Share paid:- £14,000

(65% of amount due)

(Parish Share paid in 2022:- £8,000)

WARDENS' REPORT ON FABRIC OF THE CHURCH

(Julia Turner)

DEANERY SYNOD

Synod representative position – vacant in 2023

Gavin Merrylees retired as Lay Chair. Dr Annie Cooper is now Lay Chair. Revd Val Plumb is due to step down as Rural Dean.

Gavin Merrylees was Acting Secretary until Malcolm Oliver took on the role at the end of the year. Jeremy Hopkinson has been trying to find a replacement as Treasurer.

DEANERY SYNOD (cont.)

The main point of discussion was the Diocesan Review of C&YP (children & young persons). This topic was discussed by the PCC at a special meeting convened in October.

NEW FACILITIES & ROOF REPAIR

A new contractor carried out the snagging issues in the refreshment area and toilet extension. The architect is negotiating with the original builder to see if there is any outstanding payment due to the builer.

THE ROOF REPAIR:

Successful grant applications from:

Benefact Trust £3,250

Garfield Weston Foundation £10,000

Bucks Historic Churches Trust £9,000

NCT Wolfson Foundation £5,000

NCT Headley Trust £6,500

Francis Coales £10,000

Archdeacon's Fund £1,000

TOTAL = £44,750 PLUS

THE ROOF REPAIR (cont.)

PLUS NCT “Last Chance Churches” £????

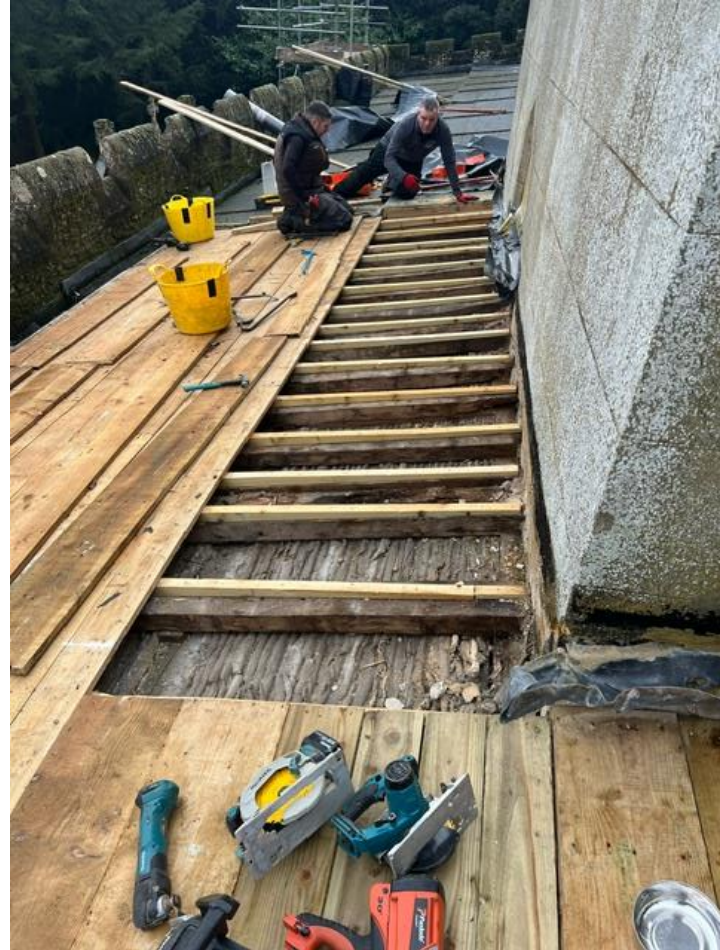
This is a special match-funding appeal of £500,000 via the National Churches Trust. 18 churches across the country have been selected to be a recipient of funds from this appeal. The first amount was sent to us in December and a second sum has been awarded to us. A national press release will be released at any time saying how much we have been awarded, until then we can only say £????

THE ROOF REPAIR (cont.)

The projected cost of the work incl fees and VAT was £140k but the total will depend on how much additional work is required due to damage from the water ingress.

The work started on 12th February. The work on both sides of the roof is almost complete. There was minimal damage to the timbers in the south side but a big problem was found on the north side. Additional work has been done costing an additional £10k.

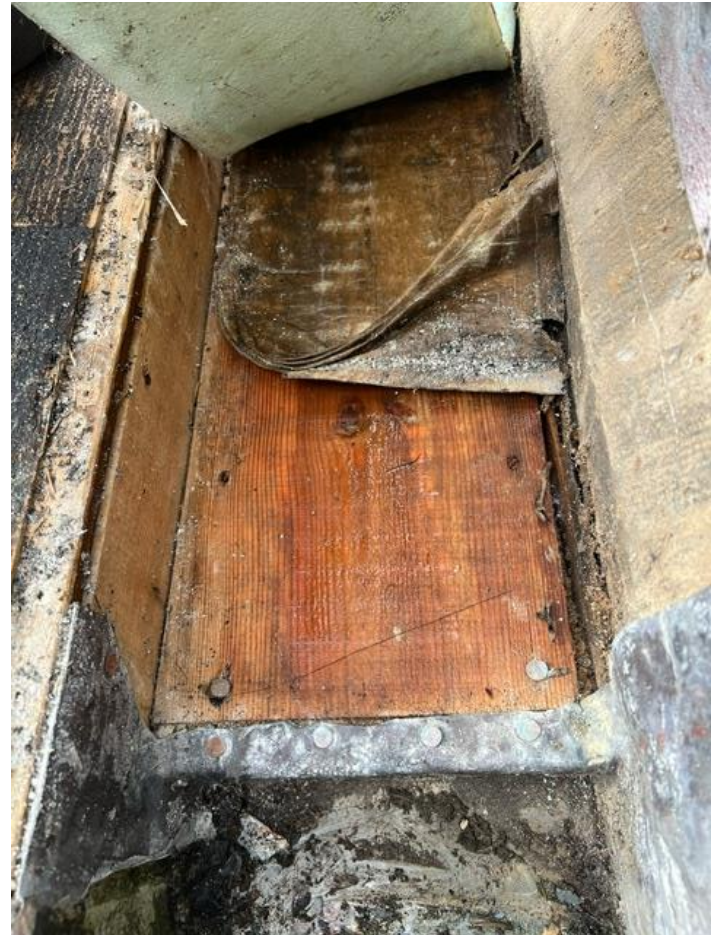
The work on the roof – south aisle



Terne coated steel on the south aisle



The work on the roof – north aisle



Problem on the north aisle, plastic sheeting found



The north aisle – water collected on the plastic sheets



Progress on the north aisle



THE ROOF REPAIR (cont.)

Scaffolding will be erected in the south aisle tomorrow in preparation for work on the ceiling panels. More panels are damaged on this side than on the north side.

Painting of the walls will follow but it may be that has to wait until the walls have dried out later in the summer.

THE RECTOR:

“Sabbath Rest”

**[The Rector starts his 3-month sabbatical
leave on Saturday 13th April to 1st July]**

THANK YOU TO

**Everyone who helps with various tasks
around the church and churchyard
but offers of help are always welcome!**

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

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