

# St Mary the Virgin Church Great Brickhill



**Farewell Service Revd John Waller**  
***(Rector February 2003 – April 2026)***  
**Sunday 26th April 2026**

**The Farewell Service for the Rector was a service of Holy Communion for the Benefice, followed by refreshments.**

**Around 180 people including some of John's friends and family and local clergy, joined us for this celebration.**

# The Rector welcomes the congregation including good friend, Revd Steve Barnes



# The start of the service with the choir and organist ready for the first hymn



# The Great Brickhill worship group led the singing of the second hymn



**John  
delivers his  
last sermon**



## Passing the peace, .....



**The collection was for the Archdeacon of Buckingham's Clergy Charity, which John and Pauline benefitted from in the past.**

**For over 150 years the charity has supported local clergy and their families who are in financial need, hardship or distress.**

**The collection raised £774 for the charity.**

# The choir singing the recessional anthem, “In Christ Alone”



# The recruitment process is explained to the congregation ahead of the formal goodbyes to John



**Stephen plays the bagpipes as .....**



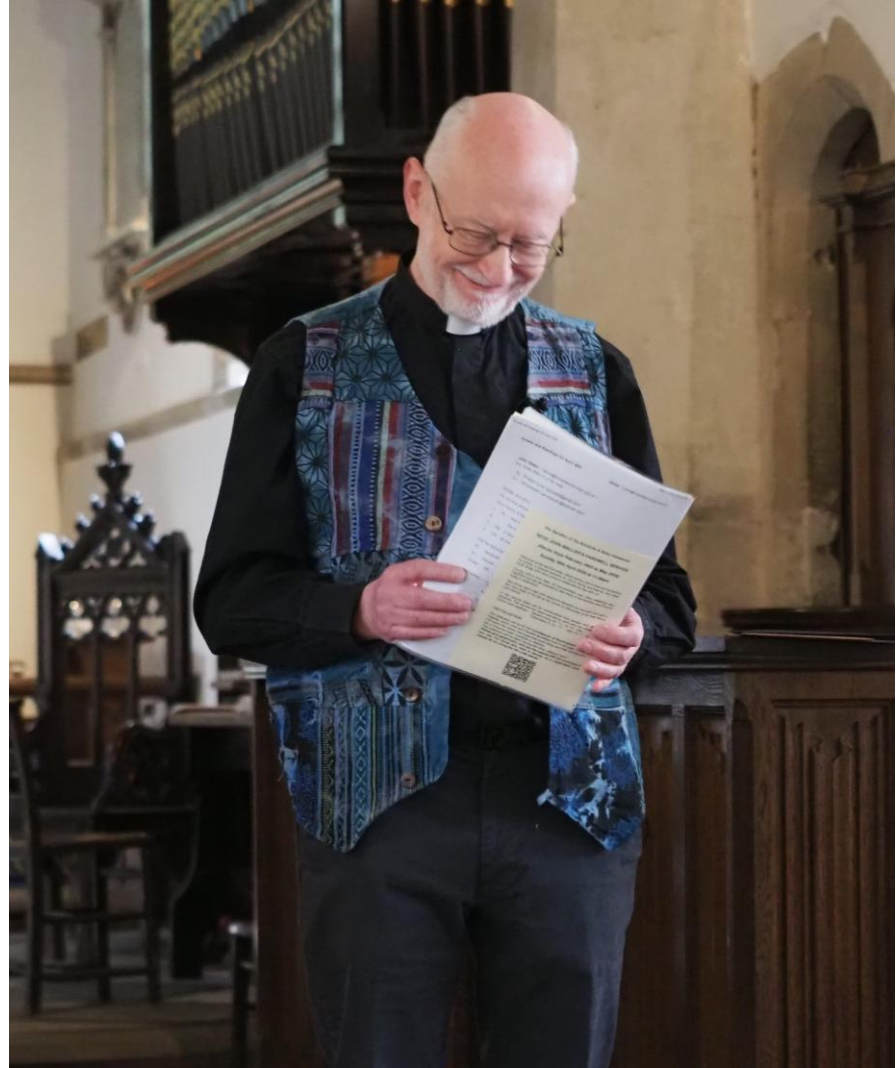
## ..... John re-appears from the vestry



**Jerry reads his re-wording of “Dear Lord and Father of Mankind”, with letters aptly “straying” to describe John on his retirement**



**A presentation is made to John who then replies with his farewell thoughts**



# The gifts that were presented to John:-

A Morgan Gift Voucher for a one hour drive and factory tour



A gift voucher for Worcestershire Cricket Club



A year's subscription to the National Trust

A voucher for Manchester City Football Club



A cheque for the balance of the collection, to put towards a holiday or days out with the family

# The bells are rung as a final tribute to John



# The bell ringing team who rang before and after the service



# Time for the refreshments to be handed round



# The ukulele group that John has been playing with on Monday evenings, entertains us



**Thank you to those from all four parishes  
who contributed to the service, and to  
everyone who made this such a successful  
and joyous occasion:-**

**John for planning the service, the sidesmen, readers  
and intercessions, Holy Communion assistants, Jerry,  
the choir, worship group, bell ringers, ukulele group,  
David for taking the photos, those who provided and  
handed round the food and the wine, and Julia for  
coordinating the refreshments**