

# **The Church of St Mary the Virgin, Great Brickhill**

## **Sunday 11th January 2026 – The First Sunday of Epiphany**

Welcome to our Morning Worship service this morning, which will be led by Phillipa. Thank you to Andrew & Margretta for providing our music and to Sophia for leading our singing.

The service will have an Epiphany theme, based on one of the “Women of the Nativity” stories by author Paula Gooder. We will hear “Mariamne’s Story”, Herod the Great’s wife at the time of the birth of Jesus Christ. The reading for the story is:- Matthew 2: 1 - 12

**The collection plate will be passed** round during the final hymn. Please use the Gift Aid envelopes provided if you are able to. If you prefer to give your collection via our **debit/credit card device, please see Phillipa after the service.**

Everyone is invited to stay after the service for coffee and a chat.

### **CONFIRMATION SERVICE LAST SUNDAY:**

We were delighted that the Bishop was able to be with us last Sunday for our first service of the year and we were pleased to be able to host the confirmation within that service of our candidates from the Benefice (Jasper Smith from Great Brickhill and Evelyn Woolley & Harry Neale from Stoke Hammond). It was lovely to witness the confirmation of three young people whom the Rector had had the pleasure of baptising some years ago. **A photo presentation** of this wonderful occasion is available on the Home page of the website in the Great Brickhill “News” section.

### **CHRISTMAS SERVICES AND EVENTS:**

If anyone has not yet seen the photo presentation of all the Christmas services and events, it is available as a PDF file. If you would like a copy of it, please see Phillipa. Alternatively, it can be downloaded or viewed via the front, Home page of the website in the Great Brickhill “News” section.

### **THE LENT COURSE:**

We will be following the Oxford Diocese "Come and See" Lent Course - this year's theme is Holy Communion. There will be our usual **weekly Lent Course Groups**, an afternoon session on Tuesdays in Stoke Hammond and a midweek evening session across the benefice. These will start the week after **Ash Wednesday, which is 18th February** - full details to follow.

## **RECTOR'S BIBLE STUDY AT THE RECTORY:**

The Bible Study at The Rectory will resume after the Christmas break on **Thursday 29th January at 8pm**. All are welcome to come and discuss the readings for one of the forthcoming services. No prior knowledge of the text is required.

## **BISHOP OF OXFORD'S APPOINTMENT PROCESS:**

The announcement of Bishop Steven's pending retirement caused the Vacancy-in-See Committee to be convened. The Committee met last month with the Prime Minister's and Archbishops' Appointments Secretaries, again this week and five further meetings are scheduled, culminating in a meeting in March at which six representatives will be elected to join eight others to form the Crown Nominations Commission who will meet later this year to identify who should be recommended to the Crown to be the next Bishop of Oxford. **This is obviously a long process, but alongside this, the Diocese would like to hear from anyone living, working or worshipping in the diocese - the consultation period is now open via an online link below, until Wednesday 4th February at 5pm:-**

[https://oxford.anglican.org/consultation?utm\\_source=Diocese+of+Oxford+Mailing+Lists&utm\\_campaign=d86253e36b-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2025\\_10\\_24\\_09\\_37\\_COPY\\_01&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_-51a9aae805-339832845](https://oxford.anglican.org/consultation?utm_source=Diocese+of+Oxford+Mailing+Lists&utm_campaign=d86253e36b-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2025_10_24_09_37_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_-51a9aae805-339832845)

## **FORTHCOMING EVENTS:**

**The Snowdrop Walks** will be held on Sunday afternoons **8th & 15th February** from 2-4pm. Cakes as ever will be much appreciated.

**The 2026 Plant Fayre** will be held at the Parish Hall / Cricket Field on Sunday 12th April, from 11am to 3pm.

## **SERVICES IN THE NEXT TWO WEEKS:**

**Next Sunday, 18th January** – our monthly Family Service at 11am. Other services in the Benefice:- 9.30 (Bow Brickhill) Holy Communion & 9.30 (Stoke Hammond) Café Church.

**On Sunday 25th January** there will not be a service here. Services in the Benefice will be:- 9.30 (Stoke Hammond) Holy Communion; 11.00 (Little Brickhill) Family Service & (Bow Brickhill) Taizé Service

*Phillipa Cook - Warden/Secretary (07788 740969) [pjcook6@gmail.com](mailto:pjcook6@gmail.com)  
Stuart Jones - Warden (07779 510974) [stuart.jones54@btinternet.com](mailto:stuart.jones54@btinternet.com)*

**To contact the Rector, Revd John Waller:** [rector@brickhillschurches.org.uk](mailto:rector@brickhillschurches.org.uk)  
**The address of the Benefice website:** [www.brickhillschurches.org.uk](http://www.brickhillschurches.org.uk)