

The Church of St Mary the Virgin, Great Brickhill

Sunday 18th January 2026 – The Second Sunday of Epiphany

Welcome to our first Family Service of the year, led by the Rector. Thank you to Andrew and Margretta for providing the music, and to Sophia who will be leading our singing this morning.

The theme for the service will be “Learning to follow Jesus”. We will hear the Bible reading: John 1: 35 - 42 when Andrew and Simon start to follow Jesus. We will also hear an Old Testament story from 1 Samuel chapter 3, “Samuel Hears a Voice” from the Storyteller Bible.

The collection plate will be passed round during the final hymn. 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.

THE SNOWDROP WALKS:

The dates for the **Snowdrop Walks** have been confirmed as **Sundays 8th & 15th February**, from 2pm – 4pm, starting at the church and ending with the usual teas. **Offers of cakes please** would be most welcome - we are hoping for good weather and lots of visitors again, and so there will be great demand for the home-made cakes! Please invite friends and family to come along.

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

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 at venues 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.

FOOD BOX:

Thank you to those who have kindly been contributing items to the Food Box. Over the last few weeks there has been significant use of the Food Box and so, especially during this cold weather, these additional items are much appreciated.

For anyone in need, there is access to the Food Box in the church porch at any time of day.

DATE FOR THE DIARY:

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 25th January there will not be a service here at Great Brickhill. Services in the Benefice will be:-

9.30 (Stoke Hammond) Holy Communion

11.00 (Bow Brickhill) Taizé Service

N.B. The Family Service in Little Brickhill has been cancelled due to a problem with the church heating.

The next service here will be Holy Communion on Sunday 1st February at 9.30am. Other services in the Benefice will be:-

11.00 (Stoke Hammond) Family Service

11.00 (Bow Brickhill) Family Service in the Hall

Phillipa Cook - Warden/Secretary (07788 740969) pjcook6@gmail.com

Stuart Jones - Warden (07779 510974) stuart.jones54@btinternet.com

To contact the Rector, Revd John Waller: rector@brickhillschurches.org.uk

The address of the Benefice website: www.brickhillschurches.org.uk