

The Church of St Mary the Virgin, Great Brickhill

Sunday 18th May 2025 – The Fifth Sunday of Easter

Welcome to our Family Service today when members of Lidlington Church are joining us for the blessing of Sophia and Ollie Walmsley's daughter, Elke, sister to Oskar. Andrew & Margretta will be providing some of the music and the Lidlington band of musicians will accompany some new modern worship songs.

There is no activity for the children this morning but there are colouring sheets and toys in the Lady Chapel.

The readings this morning are:- Psalm 37: 1-9 & Mark 10: 13-16, and we will hear the story “Jesus Greets the Little Children” from The Lion Storyteller Bible.

At the end of the service, instead of the usual coffee and biscuits, Sophia and Ollie are kindly inviting everybody to join them for drinks and refreshments.

The collection plate will be passed round during the last hymn. The collection will be for **Christian Aid Week**. Please use the special Christian Aid 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**.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK, 11th to 17th MAY:

Anyone who would like to donate online to Christian Aid Week, can do so via the link:-

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/christian-aid-week>

OR ALTERNATIVELY, SUPPORT:-

The Rector's '70k in May' Challenge for Christian Aid:

For many years, the Rector has supported Christian Aid. During May, he will be celebrating a significant birthday and has decided to mark this by dedicating his regular walks, totalling at least 70 kilometres (about 44 miles) or more, to the work of Christian Aid.

A special page has been set up for donations, which will help to bring about positive change towards a world where everyone has the opportunity to live a full life, free from poverty:-

<https://fundraise.christianaid.org.uk/challenge-2025/johns-walking-challenge>

CHURCH ANNUAL MEETING:

The Annual Meeting was held on Tuesday evening. A photo presentation was shown of the various services and events, which have been held throughout the year - the slides are available, along with the full written report for the year to 31st December and the accounts at:-

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

Julia Turner stepped down as Warden, a role she has done for a total of 16 years, from March 2004 to April 2011, and then again from April 2016 to May 2025. A small presentation was given to Julia, thanking her, not just for the Warden's duties, but for the many other ways she has contributed to the life of the church. Although Julia is no longer on the PCC, she is very happy to still help out, for which we are extremely grateful. Phillipa Cook and Stuart Jones were appointed as Wardens. The remaining PCC members are continuing to serve.

TOMATO PLANTS:

Huge thanks to John Hall for his donation of **£900** from the sale of his tomato plants. What a sterling effort by John.

VISITING BELL RINGERS & ORGANISTS:

From time to time we have visitors coming to ring our bells. Anyone in the village on Thursday morning may have heard the bells being rung by a team of ringers from Lincolnshire. Yesterday morning members of the Buckinghamshire Organists Association were here to play / listen to our fine organ.

BRICKSTOCK:

We will again be doing the teas at Brickstock, **Sunday 25th May** at the Cricket Club. And so, **offers of cakes please will be most welcome. Please deliver if possible to the Cricket Club on Sunday morning.**

SERVICES TO THE END OF THE MONTH:

Next Sunday 25th May there will be no service here in Great Brickhill. The services in the Benefice are:-

11.00 (Stoke Hammond) Service in the Community Centre

11.00 (Little Brickhill) Family Service

18.00 (Bow Brickhill) Evensong

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

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