

The Church of St Mary the Virgin, Great Brickhill

Sunday 30th March 2025 – Mothering Sunday

Welcome to our Family Service for Mothering Sunday, which will be led by the Rector. Andrew and Margretta will be providing our music today. Do join in with the singing and use the shakers as much as you like! Thank you to Julia for making the posies for all the ladies here this morning.

With thanks to Margretta and Imogen, there will be an activity for the children in the Lady Chapel, and colouring sheets for Mothering Sunday in the children's corner.

The two Bible readings are:- Colossians 3: 12-17; Luke 10: 38-42

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

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.**

At the end of each section of the prayers there will be a pause and then, accompanied by Andrew on the piano, we will sing a simple but moving Taizé chant. The words we will sing are:-

***O Lord hear my prayer, O Lord hear my prayer:
when I call answer me.***

***O Lord hear my prayer, O Lord hear my prayer.
Come and listen to me.***

RECTOR'S APRIL MESSAGE: Hope through Confusion

Dear friends,

It is often easier to see the shape and pattern of events when we look back. Situations that feel muddled and confused at the time can seem easier to accept and understand with hindsight.

When we hear the Easter story, we already know how it will conclude, and we can overlook the turmoil that the disciples went through. As we follow that story, through the arrest, trial and crucifixion of Jesus, to the first resurrection appearances, we can see the disciples struggle with their reactions of shock, grief, panic and fear, before they begin to understand what has really been happening, and what it means.

When we are shocked by things that happen to us, when we are weighed down with grief and sorrow, or when we feel lost in fear and confusion, we can remember the Easter story and the experience of

the disciples, and be encouraged to trust that God is with us in the midst of the turmoil, and may be at work in ways that we cannot see at the time. And we can be encouraged by the promise that:

"in all things God works for the good of those who love him".
(Romans 8. 28)

Wishing you all an Easter filled with joy and hope.

Revd John Waller

NEW ELECTORAL ROLL:

This year a new electoral roll is required instead of the usual revision process (this occurs every six years) and so everyone that wishes to remain on the electoral roll will need to reapply.

Forms are available on the bookcase, or on the website.

LENT COURSE – “WOMEN OF HOLY WEEK”:

The full details of the six-week Lent Course for the Benefice based on the book by Paula Gooder, “Women of Holy Week” can be found in the green/blue leaflets on the bookcase. There are two groups each week, **an afternoon group at Stoke Hammond and a midweek evening sessions across the Benefice at 8pm.**

This coming week will be **Week 4 of the course:-**

Susanah’s story: “Offering” Mark 14: 3-9

Tuesday 1st April & Thursday 3rd April at The Rectory

VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED:

We are looking for volunteers to go on the rotas for the various tasks that have to be done (reading, sidesmen, cleaning, coffee etc). We are also looking for a new Warden. Please see Julia or Phillipa if you can help with any of these.

PLANT FAYRE, SUNDAY 13th APRIL, 11am TO 3pm:

There will be a church plant stall and a preserves/cake stall. John Hall's very popular tomato plans will also be on sale. There will be the usual raffle and refreshments will be available.

Lots of cakes, preserves and plants etc will be needed please.

SERVICES NEXT WEEK:

Next Sunday 6th April the service here:- 9.30am Holy Communion

Other services in the Benefice will be: 9.30 (Stoke Hammond) Cafe Church; 11.00 (Bow Brickhill) Family Service in the Hall

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The address of the Benefice website:

www.brickhillschurches.org.uk