

# The Church of St Mary the Virgin, Great Brickhill

## Sunday 5th April 2026 – Easter Sunday

Happy Easter to you all and welcome to our service of Holy Communion, when we welcome back Revd Steve Barnes to lead the service. Thank you to Rosemary for providing our music today. Thanks also to Julia and the team of ladies who helped to decorate the Church so beautifully for our Easter celebrations.

Everyone is invited to stay after the service for refreshments and a chat. There will also be an **Easter egg hunt for the young in the Churchyard – only after the conclusion of the service!**

The readings this morning are:-

Acts 10: 34-43; Colossians 3: 1-4; Matthew 28: 1-10

**The collection plate will be passed** round during the third, offertory 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**.

### CHURCH HEATING:

Apologies if you find it a bit cold in the church but due to the problem with the boiler, we will not have any heating now until the autumn.

### RECTOR'S FAREWELL PIGRIMAGE, SATURDAY 11th APRIL:

The Rector will be walking between our four churches, and pausing for prayer at each church, next Saturday. Below is a timetable for the walk. Some maps are available on the bookcase. You are welcome to join in any part of the walk, and the times of prayer.

**8am** Prayer in Stoke Hammond church **8.15am** Walkers leave for ...  
**8.30am** Community breakfast in Stoke Hammond Community Centre,  
**9.30am** Walkers leave for ... **10.30am** Prayer in Great Brickhill church,  
**11am** Walkers leave for ... **12pm** Prayer in Little Brickhill church,  
**12.30pm** Walkers leave for ... **1.30pm** Prayer in Bow Brickhill church,  
**2pm** Walkers leave for ... Refreshments in Bow Brickhill Community Hall

### RECTOR'S APRIL MESSAGE:

**Dear Friends, Hope Through Confusion**

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 also 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.

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

The Rector's final Bible Study will be at The Rectory on Thursday 16th April at 8pm. All are welcome to come and discuss the passages from the bible, which will be used at some of the Sunday services. No prior knowledge of the text is required.

### **PLANT FAYRE, NEXT SUNDAY 12th APRIL:**

Plants and home-made cakes are required please for the St Mary's stalls. Please look to see what plants you might be able to contribute to the stall. Plants and cakes can either be delivered to the Hall on Sunday morning from 10am, or during the week, plants can be left near the entrance to the church. The Plant Fayre is from 11am to 3pm. As well as the above, there will be stalls from the professional nurserymen, and also the usual raffle and refreshments.

### **BABY & TODDLER GROUP:**

A new Baby & Toddler Group will be meeting in the church during term time on Mondays, 10am - 12 noon from 20th April. All babies and toddlers are welcome to bring along their parents, grandparents, carers, child-minders, to meet up and enjoy coffee and a chat.

### **FORTHCOMING SERVICES:**

#### **Next Sunday, 12th April, just one service in the Benefice:-**

Stoke Hammond:- 11am Family Service with Holy Communion

#### **The Rector's Farewell Service, Sunday 26th April:-**

This will be a Holy Communion service for the Benefice here in Great Brickhill at 11am, followed by refreshments in the church

**During the Vacancy:** Clergy cover has been arranged, and all services will be held as normal.

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**The address of the Benefice website:** [www.brickhillschurches.org.uk](http://www.brickhillschurches.org.uk)