

The Church of St Mary the Virgin, Great Brickhill

Sunday 7th March – The Third Sunday in Lent

Welcome to **Holy Communion** this morning, led by the Father Colin. We are particularly grateful to Father Colin for agreeing to come and lead the service at very short notice. Sister Hazel, who was to be with us, is unwell and hopes to be with us again on the first Sunday in May. (The first Sunday in April is Easter Sunday – it can't be possible – where has the time gone since Christmas?)

The reading this morning is: **James 1 vs. 19 – 27**. This reading is linked with the third session of study of the Lent Course, to be held on Thursday 11th March.

THE (SECOND) SNOWDROP WALK WILL BE HELD THIS AFTERNOON WITH TEAS IN THE CHURCH (2 – 4 pm)

The first snowdrop walk, last weekend, was a very jolly occasion but the number of visitors was down because of the atrocious weather during the morning. Nevertheless, we raised a creditable £444 (with £250 coming from the sale of the teas – a great attraction after such a cold and damp walk!) When Gift Aid is taken into account the final sum will be just over £500. However, we decided to repeat the walk and the teas this afternoon now that the weather has improved. Please tell your friends and neighbours and encourage them to come because the snowdrops are fully out and looking particularly beautiful this year. One visitor told me that they had been all the way to Anglesey Abbey last Saturday and the snowdrops weren't a patch on those here!

THIS WEEK

On **Tuesday 9th March at 8pm**, there will be a **Planning meeting** at the Rectory for the next Family Service to be held here on Palm Sunday, 28th March. Everyone is welcome.

The Lent Course continues on Thursday 11th March.

Everyone is welcome even if you were unable to come to the first two sessions. The third Thursday afternoon session will be held on **11th March** and will be hosted at Old Farm, Ivy Lane, with a light lunch from 12.30pm and the course commencing at 2.00 o'clock. Please let Clare know if you would like lunch. The remaining course dates are:- 18th March at Church Close, Church Lane and the final session on 25th March at Green Farm, Stoke Lane.

Last Sunday, Eva Muirhead was Baptised here, and was joined by many friends and relatives, so we had a very joyful service.

AN INVITATION TO VISIT OUR BELLHANGERS

On the morning of Saturday 13th March, the village and friends of the village bells have been invited to visit the workshops of Whites of Appleton in Oxfordshire to see our eight bells and the old 1681 Sanctus bell assembled in the new bell frame on the workshop floor before being installed back in our church tower. At 10.30am, there will be a tour of the workshops to see how the wooden bell wheels and the fittings are made, and there is a mini ring of bells, which we can ring.

If enough people wish to join the bell ringers on this tour, we will arrange a coach to leave at 9.00am, for which there will be a charge to cover the cost, and there will be a small contribution to the Bell Fund. On the return journey, we may arrange to have lunch in a village pub, arriving back home about 4.00pm. If you would like to visit the Appleton workshop, please call or e-mail David Middleton on 261024 or at DMiddleton@themail.co.uk as soon as possible, giving your name and phone number and leaving a message indicating if you would like transport to Appleton and if you would wish to stop for a pub lunch.

THE BENEFICE MAUNDY THURSDAY SUPPER, 1ST APRIL 7PM.

It is Great Brickhill's turn in the Benefice to host the supper this year. The format will be the same as in previous years but we will be holding it in the Church this year because the Parish Hall is already booked for a regular class. Please keep the evening free and everyone is welcome to come to a simple meal around which a communion service is held. Families with children are particularly welcome.

MUSIC IN THE BRICKHILLS

The Spring Concert will be held on **Sunday 9th May**. Full details of the programme will follow soon but for more information go to the "Events in Great Brickhill" section on the website.

Next Sunday, 14th March, there will be **Morning Worship here at 9.30am**, led by Phillipa and **Evensong at 6pm**, led by the Rector.

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