

The Church of St Mary the Virgin, Great Brickhill

SUNDAY 28th January 2018

Welcome to our **Family Service** this morning led by the Rector. Thank you to Andrew and Margretta for playing the music to accompany our songs. Today's theme is a departure from the Lectionary – we will be looking back at the Epiphany, the story of the wise men and reflecting on the gifts they brought and what they signify. We will have another chance to sing some carols.

Following the trial in the summer the projector and screen are being used and so no sheets or books are required.

There will be activities for the children in the Lady Chapel.

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

The bible reading this morning is:- **Romans 12: 1 - 2**

Those of you here last week will have seen that some of the pews have been relocated from behind the font to give space to house the coffee station, allowing the area in front of the vestry to be kept clear for the choir and clergy. This week some of the chairs in the Children's Area and the Lady Chapel have been replaced. This is all part of the work in progress to make best use of the whole area we have available within the church. The vestry has also been tidied to give more space.

THIS WEEK AND NEXT:-

The Happy Cup Coffee Club, the child-friendly drop-in coffee morning for parents and carers **is held every Monday morning during term time, in the church from 9.15am to 11.15am.**

The Village Drop-In is held on Monday afternoons at the Parish Hall, from **1.30 - 3.30pm**, so please call in for a cup of tea, slice of cake and a chat. **The Post Office in the Parish Hall is now open on Mondays, from 1pm to 3pm** in the small meeting room.

NEWS AND EVENTS:

THE SNOWDROP WALKS:

The first fundraising event of the year will be the annual Snowdrop Walks, which will take place on **SUNDAYS, 11th and 18th February** between 2.00pm and 4.00pm. Please spread the word and bring your friends with you. There are some flyers available near the entrance.

As usual there will be homemade cakes and teas in the church – **if anyone could help with the teas or bake some cakes**, please contact Julia (261213 juliaturner.jt@icloud.com) or Betty (261836).

“FEED THE HUNGRY” & “LINK TO HOPE” APPEALS:

Rosie has kindly written a report for these two appeals, giving details of how the schemes operate and news of the good work that they achieved in 2017. **Please take one of the pink sheets available on the bookcase.** Thank you to Rosie and all who contribute to these appeals.

PRAYER GROUP:

There will be a weekly Prayer Group on a Thursday morning starting on 1st March. Meeting at **10.30am** for tea and coffee it will be an informal gathering in the Lady Chapel with an opportunity for quiet, private and open prayer. All will be welcome on any Thursday.

LENT COURSES & BUCKINGHAM AREA DAY CONFERENCE:

As in previous years there will be a **weekly Lent Course** at Stoke Hammond on Tuesday afternoons and a midweek evening course held at venues across the Benefice. The course will follow the Bishop of Oxford’s initiative “Called to be Christ-like: contemplative, compassionate and courageous”. Full details will be available shortly. On a similar theme there is a **Buckingham Area Day Conference with the Bishop of Oxford, Saturday 24th March**, Sir Henry Floyd Grammar School, 10 - 4.30pm. See the poster in the porch for details.

ASH WEDNESDAY:

On Ash Wednesday **14th February** there will be one service in the four parishes, a United Benefice service of **Holy Communion at Stoke Hammond at 10.30am.**

SERVICES ON SUNDAY, 4th FEBRUARY:

There will be a Holy Communion (BCP) Service at 11.00am in Great Brickhill, led by the Revd Norman Thorp.

Other Services across the Benefice:-

Bow Brickhill:- Mattins at 11.00am

Little Brickhill:- Holy Communion at 9.30am

Stoke Hammond:- Family Service at 11.00am

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