

# Church News

## Review:

The **Community Breakfast** was another success this month with more children than we've ever seen before, and yet more first timers! Thanks to all who helped out on the day.

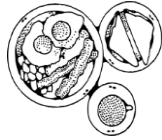
## Forthcoming Events:

**Community Breakfast:** We will be serving our Community Breakfast on **Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> March** between **8.30am and 10.30am**. We serve a range of breakfasts including full English breakfast, cooked breakfast items to order or a lighter breakfast of toast, cereal or a croissant. Alternatively you're welcome to join us for a coffee or 2, so come along and enjoy yourself!

**Lent course:** Our Stoke Hammond Lent Course has been postponed for a couple of weeks as the content has been reduced. The course begins on **Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> March** starting at **1pm** with a soup lunch then **2 till 3.30pm** for the session. The 3 sessions are independent, so it doesn't matter if you miss one. The format is based on Bishop Steven's call for Christians to be Contemplative, Compassionate and Courageous. The evening Lent group is held in different venues on Wednesday evenings. The content is the same as the daytime course, so if you miss a daytime session one week, you can catch up the following evening. Everyone is welcome, so if you are interested in either of these (free) courses, please contact one of the wardens below.

**Sponsored walk:** Some advance warning of our sponsored walk, which will take place this year on **Saturday April 7<sup>th</sup>**: This year we are hoping to trial a new route which will break for lunch at The Boot in Soulbury. There will again be different route lengths for different walking stamina levels. The shortest route will be approximately 5 miles and the longest 9.75 miles. The routes haven't been tested yet, so they are still provisional, but if you would like to take up the challenge and raise sponsorship in aid of St Luke's church, please contact one of the wardens below.

**Bible Study Course:** Have you ever wondered: What if there is a God?... What if he did have a son who was born on earth?... What if that man, Jesus, really did die on the cross and came back from the dead just to save YOU? Would you like to know more? Have you ever thought you'd like to find out about the Bible? We are at the early stages of offering a Bible Study course which has been developed by Rev Andrew Ollerton. This eight week course offers an introduction to the Bible (and for those of you who are aware of the 66 books in the Bible, you will realise that it is just that – an introduction!) involving a



discussion after watching a video. If you think you might be interested, contact the Church wardens below.

**Mothering Sunday** this year will fall on **Sunday 11th March**. We would love to see you at our **11am family friendly service** at **St Luke's church** will be led by Lesley Berry and gifts will be presented to all Mothers attending.

**"Mothering Sunday":** Last month I explained Lent. The 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday during Lent is Mother's day, or to give it its correct name, Mothering Sunday. Contrary to popular belief, this celebration didn't start as a celebration of Mums!

Mothering Sunday began as a religious festival in the 16th Century, with no connection to mothers at all. The word "mothering" referred to the "mother church", ie. the main church or cathedral of the region. Local parishes would form a procession to venerate the mother church. It later became a tradition that, on the 4th Sunday of Lent, people would return to their mother church for a special service. This pilgrimage was known as "going a-mothering", and became



holiday, with domestic servants traditionally given the day off to visit their families as well as their mother church.

As domestic service declined, this fell out of practice, but in 1920, Constance Smith, the daughter of an Anglican vicar wrote a book entitled "The revival of Mothering Sunday" and formed a society to promote the idea. Within a few years, the festival was restored into popular culture, but focussed on celebrating motherhood, following the American tradition which had started a few years earlier. Since Constance had started the revival based on the traditional festival, the original date on 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent was retained, whereas the American Mother's day was introduced as a new celebration, which is why it and our own festival have different dates.

**Funerals:** We have sadly had a number of deaths in the village of late and say farewell to Jean Miskimmon, Thelma Brown and Wynne Bygrave: friends who will be sorely missed.

**Church Benefice Website:** [www.brickhillschurches.org.uk](http://www.brickhillschurches.org.uk). If you want to come to a service, all church service times are listed on the website, along with contact details for the Rector.

If you would like to come to church but have mobility problems please ring John (see below) regarding transport. If you would like to volunteer to help, have a prayer request or enquiry, please ring **Harry: Churchwarden, on 07773065271, Diane: Assistant Churchwarden, on 270409 or John: Treasurer, on 270202.**

