

Church News

Review:

Plant Sale: What a miserable day we picked for our plant sale: continuous drizzle all day with breaks for full on rain making us all freezing cold! Still it was great to see those troopers who turned up in spite of the weather. The other great news was that despite the weather, we still sold over 100 trays of bedding plants as well as basket and other plants. Many thanks to those who helped us raise £420 towards church funds.



Community Breakfast: We enjoyed a busy Community breakfast this month as we were missing several experienced members of our team. Particular thanks to our assistants, Val, Sylvia, Claire, Margaret and Liz, who helped us cope. Our new noticeboard was up for the first time. This month we held a Christian Aid colouring competition which was won by Katie. Thank you to all the children who entered, it was a very difficult decision to make! The total donations to Christian Aid from the breakfast are about £180, but additional funds will come from those who generously gift aided their donations. Thank you!

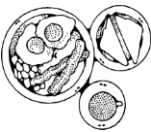
Christian Aid coffee morning and bring and buy: On behalf of the Methodist Chapel and ourselves, thank you to all who came to the coffee morning, and brought lots of things for us to sell: plants, homemade cakes, second hand books, unopened cosmetics and ornaments etc. all helped to raise a total of £120 for Christian Aid.

Pentecost service & Pentecost walk: We enjoyed a special treat of the Benefice choir joining us for the Pentecost service, singing a lovely anthem. A hardy few then joined in the walk to Great Brickhill where there was a contemplative service of prayer and then on to Little Brickhill for an all age prayer activity followed by a delicious Bring and Share lunch. The party then ended the afternoon with prayers at Bow Brickhill.

Forthcoming events:

Prayer walk: There will be a prayer walk around the village on **Saturday 2nd June** starting at the church at **10am** and stopping to pray at various locations. Please let us know if you'd like to join us. Although we try to cover as much of the village as possible, we can't do it all in one morning! If you'd like special prayers in your road, let us know. Feel free to stop us on our way if you see us as well! (Of course your prayer requests are treated in strictest confidence).

Community breakfast: We will be holding our Community Breakfast again on **Saturday 9th June**. If you've never been before and are nervous about coming down because you won't know anyone, please feel free to give us a call (numbers below) and we'll make sure you're given an extra warm welcome or we can give you a lift down, espe-



cially if you have mobility problems! Please take a minute to have a look at our new noticeboard next time you visit! For those who have been before, feel free to give us any feedback or suggestions for changes. We aim to improve continuously and already have a few ideas planned!

Songs of Praise with Afternoon teas: We're holding a service of Songs of Praise on **Sunday 10th June** at **3pm** followed by afternoon teas at **4pm**. For those who may be unfamiliar with Songs of Praise, it is literally just that – a chance to sing your favourite popular hymns or worship songs which you'll have had the opportunity to choose via the **Stoke Hammond Village Community Group Facebook** site <https://www.facebook.com/groups/StokeHammond/> (apply to join if not a member). The Benefice choir will be there to support the singing (they're always looking for new members!); there are no Bible readings or liturgy (church words and responses from the service book), but the minister may offer a few words about the hymns. We'd love to hear you singing (especially the children!), but if you'd rather just turn up for the afternoon teas that's fine too! (no charge, but you can give a donation if you like) If you can't make it this time, write these other "teas" dates in your diary: **29th July, 19th August and 23rd September**.



Open gardens: As mentioned last month, our Open Gardens will be held on the weekend of **16th & 17th June** this year, so that people can show a different flowering period in their gardens. There'll be 12 gardens, some as last year, others new for the first time. The gardens will be open **from 12 noon till 4pm** each day and we're still looking for helpers – as long or short as you like on either day. There will be at least 3 gardens offering refreshments and some with plants available to buy. **Tickets are only £5** and children are free. It would be lovely to see a few more villagers visiting this year – big or small, come along and get some ideas for your own garden!



Church Fete: The Church fete is also coming up imminently on **21st July**. It will be held at the church (subject to the weather being clement enough!)

Church Benefice Website: 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.

Just to let you know that The Church news articles are now available to read on the benefice website (click on Stoke Hammond in the list and scroll down to Stoke Hammond Newsletters) - handy for when you want to click on a web address instead of typing it out!

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