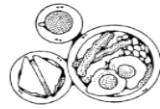


Church News – November 2018

Review:

Community Breakfast: It was a little quieter than usual, but appetites were healthy and kept us busy! We are grateful to our sponsors: Kutti from the **Village stores** who donates bread and eggs, and Tim of **Pollards butchers** in Newton Longville, who gives us a discount off sausages and bacon. Many thanks to you both.



Harvest festival & lunch: St Luke's harvest festival service was enjoyed by all, thanks to the beautiful flowers decorating the church. Thank you to all who helped, especially to Alex of **Carolanne flowers** in Bletchley, who spent many hours in the



freezing cold church! Also this year we were privileged to have a magnificent harvest loaf baked by local schoolboy amateur baker

Toby Pollington. Special thanks to Toby for his sterling work! (see photo). After being displayed at the harvest service, the loaf was given to the children of **Buttons preschool** who'd visited the church the previous Friday with their harvest donations in a week where they'd learned about harvest and sharing. The children had a tour of the church then sang songs in the choir stalls – a delight to hear! The harvest festival was followed by the harvest lunch which had to be moved to a bigger venue in the Community Centre at the last minute. The buffet was a delicious

meal and astoundingly good value. Thanks to all who helped out with donations, catering and setting or tidying up, especially Tracie and Valerie. Afterwards, harvest produce was given to Mr & Mrs Sturgess of the MK Lions food cupboard in Bletchley.

St Luke's Gift Day: In spite of - or perhaps because of – the delightful weather, there was a low turnout for the gift day, but those who were there enjoyed delicious home-made cakes and soup. There's still time to hand in your envelope donation to those places in your letter if you simply forgot!



Special services:

Café church: As we go to press, Café church (28th Oct) has yet to take place, but I'm sure it will have been a great success! A review will follow next month.

All Souls Benefice service: Will be held **Sun 4th Nov at 6pm** at **St Mary's Church, Little Brickhill**. If you'd like prayers said for a loved one who has died (either recently or in the past) or would like to attend the service, please contact the Rector.

Remembrance day service: We hope you'll join us for this year's service in the church at **10.45am on Sunday 11th November**. This year is a special commemoration, during which we will observe the usual two

minutes silence.

Forthcoming events:

Prayer meetings: We are delighted that our prayer meetings are swelling in numbers, but we always have room for more. You don't have to be Church of England to attend – all denominations welcome! Meetings are at **8pm** on



Wed 14th and 28th November at The Birches, Church Rd. If you'd like prayers for someone, please let us know and if you'd like to join us, please call John Bowler, as we sometimes change times and dates last minute.

Community Breakfast: We will be holding our Community Breakfast again on **Saturday 10th November**, serving breakfast **from 8.30 till 10.30am**. If you've never been yet, now's the time to come along! There's no charge, you just pay what you feel it's worth or what you can afford. This will be our last Breakfast this year as the Community Centre will be in use for the old folks' Christmas party in December.

"Battle's over" commemoration: This year there's a special commemoration to mark 100 years since the end of WW1. The event, which is being organised by the Parish Council, will take place on the village Green at **6.30pm on 11th November**. St Luke's Church is offering soft drinks and mulled wine and we hope you can join us.



Christmas Fair: St Luke's Christmas Fair will take place on **Saturday 1st December** in the **Community Centre** between **2pm and 4pm**. The usual attractions will be there including Christmas hamper raffle, Church bookshop (selling cards and Advent goods), cake stall, refreshments, and a wide range of other stalls and this year you can visit Santa in his special grotto!

Christmas tree festival: Back by popular demand, it will be held on **Sat 8th Dec 10am – 5pm** and **Sun 9th Dec 10am – 3pm**. This year's theme is "All things bright & beautiful" There will be a meeting on **23rd Nov at 6.30pm** at **St Luke's** for all those decorating trees. Please contact Hazel on 270404 if you'd like to decorate a tree.

A look ahead to our Christmas services – dates for your diary:

Sun 2nd Dec 4pm - St Luke's Church: Christingle service

Sun 9th Dec 4pm - St Luke's Church: Carol Service

Sun 23rd Dec time tbc - Village Green: Carol Singing

Mon 24th Dec 4pm - St Luke's Church: Crib Service (for children & adults)

Mon 24th Dec 11.30pm – St Luke's Church: Midnight Holy Communion (Mass)



Bible verse of the month: Proverbs 3 v 5: *Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;*

What does it mean? One interpretation is: God has a plan for everything and though you don't understand why things have happened right now, with the passage of time (sometimes decades!) you might come to realise it was for the best.

Church Benefice Website: www.brickhillchurches.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. His phone goes straight to an answerphone but he will reply as soon as he's able. The Rector's day off is Monday.

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)

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 **Churchwardens: Harry, on 07773065271; Diane, on 270409 or Treasurer: John, on 270202.**