

Church News - December 2018

Review:

Community Breakfast: Another great breakfast last month: thanks to new helpers Hazel and Sue, as well as our regulars. Last month we introduced prayer request cards. To keep prayers confidential, they were placed in a basket on the altar during the next service – our Father knew what they said! Prayer requests cards will be available at future breakfasts.

Café church: Café church was well supported, and we were particularly pleased to see a couple of new faces. The brief “service” was about the Bible as it was Bible Sunday and led to a discussion about the Bible course – more on that later!

All Souls Benefice service: This annual poignant service for those who had lost a loved one in the last year (or in the past) was emotional for everyone. Names of the loved ones were read out and a candle lit for each one.



Remembrance day service: We were delighted to see the church full for Remembrance day, particularly for the centenary of the end of WW1. Wreaths were laid at the memorial in church.

“Battle’s over” commemoration: We were completely overwhelmed by the number of people who came along: a rough count came to 2-300 people! Our apologies to those who had slightly cold mulled wine hastily stretched as we struggled to cope with the demand! Congratulations to the Parish Council for organising this excellent event.

Forthcoming events:

Prayer meetings: You don’t have to be Church of England to attend our prayer meetings, all denominations welcome! There will be a meeting at **8pm** on **Wed 12th Dec** at **The Birches, Church Rd.** There won’t be a meeting on Boxing day, but we may schedule another date instead. If you’d like prayers for someone, or if you’d like to join us, please call John Bowler, as we sometimes change times and dates last minute.



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” Please contact Hazel on 270404 for more details.

A look ahead – 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 6pm- 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)

We look forward to seeing you at our services over Christmas!



The Bible Course: This course can be completed by anyone; you don’t have to know anything about the Bible! It’s an 8 session course produced by the Bible Society in Britain to help participants understand the Bible for themselves.



It aims to show the big picture of the Bible storyline – from Genesis to Revelation **The course is free.** Each session is structured with informal refreshments before the start. After a brief introduction there are video talks on the week’s theme by Rev Andrew Ollerton (who devised the course) with breaks to discuss a suggested question or topic or two in small groups. The session lasts about 2 hours. There will be a little “homework” which consists of reading Bible passages in preparation for the next session! More information is available online at: <https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/explore-the-bible/the-bible-course/>

If you can’t make the introductory session, don’t worry, you can join in later. We’d love to see the Methodist Chapel filled to bursting, so even if you’re not really sure it’s for you, just come to the introductory session, with no obligation on **Tue 8th Jan at 7pm for supper and 8pm start in the Methodist Church, Newton Rd. Contact John, Diane or Harry below.** For the first session, we’re having a light supper beforehand so if you’d like to come along, **please let us know for catering purposes** (with any dietary requirements).

Community Breakfast: We will be holding our Community Breakfast again on **Saturday 12th January,** serving breakfast **from 8.30 till 10.30am.**



There’s no charge, but you can make a donation if you wish (but we appreciate that after Christmas that could be difficult!) We’re also hoping to start a regular collection for the **food bank** at Community Breakfast, so please bring your donations with you.

Bible verses of the month: Luke 12 v 25-26 & 31: *Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to your life? Since you cannot do this very little thing, why do you worry about the rest?...But seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well.*

What does it mean? One interpretation is that Jesus is telling the disciples that worry is a negative feeling that they should try to avoid. Later in verse 31, he says that God knows what we need (food, drink and clothes) and if we look for his kingdom the rest will come. Read the full passage at:

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+12%3A25-31&version=NIV>

St Luke’s would like to wish everyone a happy and peaceful Christmas

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 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.** There will be a free bottle of wine for the first person to call Diane saying that they have read this report online! **Yes, really!**