

St Mary the Virgin, Great Brickhill



The Church continues to be alive and active, but our buildings must close.

CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) OUTBREAK **Update 8th May 2020**

This weekend marks the 75th anniversary of Victory in Europe Day (VE Day) and also the start of Christian Aid Week.

Today's VE Day celebrations have not been quite as had originally been envisaged. There was no opportunity for big remembrance services but you might be interested in seeing the following, attached:

- A WW2 poster giving an insight into faith on the home front.
- An Outline Order of Service drafted for the 75th anniversary of VE Day.
- The VE Day 1945 Order of Service which took place in Westminster Abbey.

A prayer for VE Day, from the Act of Commitment for Peace:-

Lord God our Father,
we pledge ourselves to serve you and all humankind, in the cause of peace,
for the relief of want and suffering,
and for the praise of your name.
Guide us by your Spirit;
give us wisdom;
give us courage;
give us hope;
and keep us faithful now and always.
Amen.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK, 10th – 16th May

Sunday is the official start of Christian Aid Week and this would have been the focus for many services this weekend. The normal House to House Collections will not take place this week but the need for funds is still there, even more so in the present situation. A note from the Christian Aid website:-

“ As this virus spreads across the world, love rises up in response. You've already shown incredible kindness to your neighbours. Now is the time to reach out to your neighbours both near and far.

Your love protects. From storms, from drought, and now from coronavirus. Your love protects our global neighbours battling the spread of this illness. Your love protects. With soap, clean water and medical supplies.

By supporting us this Christian Aid Week, you can reach out and protect more of your neighbours today.”



If anyone would like to make a donation to Christian Aid, this can easily be done by clicking on “**Please donate now and save lives**” on the following link:-

https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/christian-aid-week?_sja=tsid:|cid:1723647296|agid:70121279513|tid:kwd-671817365024|crid:433208921187|nw:g|rnd:11630815482989972344|dvc:c|adp:|mt:b|loc:1007084&gclid=Cj0KCQjwhT1BRCiARIsAGIY5117xogbYyw1LihWjr40WPyT87uTr6UB0r-WjZctyPM63gDUMcUvkgUaAiWkEALw_wcB

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES FOR THIS WEEK:

Two files accompany this e-mail giving the details of worship for this coming Sunday.

(1). The Rector has written a brief reflection and prayer.

(2). How and where to find services for this Fifth Sunday of Easter. This includes the programmes available on the BBC, both radio and television, and live-streaming services from the Oxford Diocese and the Church of England.

Children’s Resources - do remember the resources available for families with children and young people referred to in last week’s e-mail. There are activities and drawings on offer for the young to participate in whatever their parents feel appropriate. If you would like to share with others the results of their exploits, please send as PDF or jpeg files to:- pjcook6@gmail.com

IN BRIEF,

THE RECTOR:

Revd John Waller is available to hear from parishioners who have any concerns during this worrying time:- 01525 261062 rector@brickhillchurches.org.uk

ACTIVE E-MAIL PRAYER CHAIN:

Anyone who would like to join the group or would like to have a prayer included, contact:- Valerie Kerr (valeriejkerr@hotmail.com) or Mary Maley (mary@maley.org.uk) or Roger Blofeld (rogerblo@aol.com).

THE FOOD BOX RUNNING:

Please remember to spread the news that the Food Box in the church porch is there to help anyone who is in need of food either in an emergency or longer term. The church main and porch gates are open for easy access to the Food Box at all times.

OTHER GENERAL NEWS THIS WEEK:

The Post Office:

We have received news that the Postmaster has had permission to re-open **the Post Office in the Parish Hall on Tuesdays, from 9.30am - 11.00am**, starting on 5th May. Remember you will still have to remain at least 2 metres apart.

The Parish Hall:

The building of the **Parish Hall extension will commence this Monday 11th May** as planned. The builders have given assurance us that appropriate PPE and social distancing will be observed by their team whilst they are working on site. The western part of the car park, on your left as you enter, will be closed from Sunday at 6.00pm until further notice. Following the extension build, **the Parish Hall will be entirely closed from Monday 20th July until the end of August** for internal refurbishment.

For further information about any of the above, please contact:-

Phillipa Cook TEL: 01525 261521 07788 740969 pjcook6@gmail.com

Do please remember that the Benefice website will be the best way to receive updates about the current situation and to obtain worship information. The special "Coronavirus" section will be updated with any new information and worship details:-

www.brickhillchurches.org.uk