

St Mary the Virgin, Great Brickhill



CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) OUTBREAK

Update 20th June 2020

We are delighted to announce that as of this Sunday, 21st June the church will reopen for socially-distanced private prayer, albeit on a limited basis for the time being.

There has been much guidance given for the necessary preparation required for the church to be safely opened again. A number of measures have been put in place and the church will not look quite the same as in the past.

The church will initially be open for just two sessions per week in order that the building can be closed for 72 hours between opening times to minimise risk of infection. We will increase the opening times as soon as we feel it is safe to do so following the guidelines provided to us.

The church will be open on:

Sundays:- 10.00am – 2.00pm

Wednesdays:- 2.00pm – 5.00pm

There is hand sanitizer available at the entrance and we ask that you read the guidance provided on the blue notice board as you enter the church. Much of the church has been cordoned off and all bibles, books etc have been removed. Please take your own bible or reading matter with you. There are chairs available near the altar should you wish to sit and say a prayer, or merely enjoy the wonderful space.

We would remind for those in vulnerable groups to check the current government guidelines. We will welcome all those to visit the church who feel comfortable to do so. If anyone exhibits symptoms of coronavirus within a week of your visit to the church, please contact: Julia Turner: 01525 261618 juliaturner.jt@icloud.com or Phillipa Cook: 01525 261521 pjcook6@gmail.com. The church will then be closed for a while for special cleaning to be done.

Any change to the opening times and other updates will be notified on our website:- www.brickhillchurches.org.uk

We will continue to provide information of on-line worship details for the foreseeable future, as group worship is still not yet possible under government public health guidance and there will be many among us who need to isolate for some time to come.

This reopening of the church for private prayer is the first stage in getting back to how things were before the lockdown and being able to hold our regular services and activities. We are aware that the need for us to provide toilet facilities is now even more important as there is a greater need than ever before for hand washing facilities.

AND SO, a reminder of the announcement given last week,

EXCITING NEWS – THINGS ARE GOING TO HAPPEN AT OUR CHURCH

We are pleased to announce that the work to create toilets, a servery and gathering area in St Mary's will commence in September. You will all be aware that we have been planning this for some time. At last our church will be brought into the 21st Century.

The extension will house two toilets, one will be accessible and include baby changing facilities. We will be creating a servery and gathering area inside the church. Included in the work outside we will be laying a gravel resin bonded pathway from the road gate to the West door extension. This will be a safe and hardwearing surface to enable everyone easier access.

If you feel you are able to contribute to the final stages of our fundraising please contact Julia Turner 01525 261618 or 07714 028785 juliaturner.jt@icloud.com or Gill Wilson 01525 279005 or 07973 403761 gillewilson57@gmail.com
For payment details contact Neil Cook neilacook6@gmail.com

We hope that very soon you will be able to come and join us in celebrating the new facilities at our lovely Church.

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY:

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 this week's services for the first Sunday after Trinity. 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. Special material is available on the Diocesan website on how we might emerge from coronavirus, a podcast by Bishop Steven and a toolkit to download – more details can be found on the attached "Worship Opportunities" file:-



THE RECTOR:

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

ACTIVE E-MAIL PRAYER CHAIN:

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

THE FOOD BOX:

Thank you to those who have supported the Food Box located in the church porch. There have been very few items taken from the box and so the amount of goods kept there will be reduced - a few basic items, tea, coffee, milk, soup, beans will be kept in the box, just enough for a meal or two. The excess supplies are being taken to the MK Food Bank where there is a genuine ongoing need for supplies.

IN NEED OF A FRIENDLY CHAT:

We have been living in these strange times for over ten weeks now and, although the lockdown restrictions are being slowly eased, we are aware that there will be many who are in self isolation or generally finding life difficult at the moment. If you feel in need of a friendly chat, Julia will be very happy to receive a call from you:- 01525, 261618 or 07714 028785

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