

The Church of St Mary the Virgin, Great Brickhill

SUNDAY 27th SEPTEMBER 2020: Harvest Festival

Welcome to our celebration of Harvest this morning led by the Rector. Although there can be no singing due to the restrictions, we are very pleased that Jerry Breslin will be playing the organ at various points throughout the service.

We are sorry that due to the COVID developments this week we had to change the venue of the service to the church. We know that this news will be disappointing to many who were looking forward to having the service at Rectory Farm and enjoying a picnic in the field afterwards. We are also aware that it seems strange to be holding an indoor service rather than outside but different regulations apply for services inside a place of worship.

The reading this morning is:- **Deuteronomy 8: 6-10**

We will also hear the story of "The Man Who Came Back", which reminds us how important it is to say thank you, and harvest is about being thankful for all God's gifts. (Based on Luke 17: 11 – 19)

NEXT SATURDAY we are delighted that, after many difficult months of planning, the wedding of Sarah Amies and Rob O'Connor will take place in the church. This week's restrictions have unfortunately halved the number of guests to only 15. We send our best wishes to Sarah and Rob for a long and happy life together.

As for previous services certain things will be a little different from normal. Hand sanitizing will be required on entry to the church. Single-use service sheet will be used and the collection/envelopes should be placed in the plate on the table in the cross aisle before the start of the service. Seating will be in accordance with social distancing rules. Masks are a mandatory requirement and contact details of all those attending will be kept for 21 days.

The Rector will be explaining the various changes that are required as we go through the service.

CHURCH OPENING TIMES:

To assist the builders who are starting the work this week, the church will be open just once a week: **SUNDAYS FROM 10.00am – 4.00pm.** **BUT**, if anyone would like to visit the church for private prayer outside of these times please get in touch with Julia or Phillipa and arrangements will be made for you.

ACTIVE E-MAIL PRAYER CHAIN:

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

CHURCH ANNUAL MEETING:

A reminder that the re-arranged Annual Meeting is being held this **Thursday 1st October at 7.30pm in church**. It will be a short meeting to carry out the legal requirements. Seating will be in accordance with social distancing rules and masks will have to be worn. We will end with a short service of Compline.

FUNDRAISING QUIZ IN AID OF THE NEW FACILITIES:

We have a quiz to keep you entertained – please e-mail Janet Pritchard janvf58@hotmail.com to request quiz sheets and arrange payment (entry by donation, suggested minimum £5). Return your answers via email to Janet Pritchard by the closing date of 1st December. 1st Prize of £10.00

“LINK TO HOPE” CHARITY SHOEBOXES:

Once again, the “Great Brickhill and Friends” team are collecting shoeboxes filled with selected items to send to the poor of Romania, Moldova, Ukraine and Bulgaria who, this year, like many others have Covid 19 to add to their hardship. If you would like to help please contact Rosie Dawson, 261425 or robin.rosie@zen.co.uk for a form.

OCTOBER SERVICES:

For the foreseeable future there will generally be one service per day at one of the churches across the Benefice. The services in October:-

Sunday 4th – Harvest Family Service, 11am at Stoke Hammond

Sunday 11th – Harvest Family Service, 11am at Bow Brickhill

Sunday 18th – St Luke’s Day Said Holy Communion, 9am Stoke Hammond & Harvest Family Service, 11am at Little Brickhill

Sunday 25th - Holy Communion, 11am at Great Brickhill

There will be occasional virtual services to cater for those who do not yet feel able to venture out to church. We will continue to share information about the weekly virtual worship opportunities. The Rector’s weekly reflection plus a story from the Lion Storyteller Bible are recorded and made available on You Tube – these can be found on the website in the section "Coronavirus You Tube Recordings".

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To contact the Rector, Revd John Waller:

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The address of the Benefice website:

www.brickhillschurches.org.uk