

THE CHURCH



here in Great Brickhill

CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) OUTBREAK Update 16th October 2020

NEWS OF LIVE SERVICES:

There are two services in the Benefice this Sunday:

- A short service of Holy Communion at 9.00am at Stoke Hammond in celebration of St Luke's Day.
- A Harvest Family Service at 11.00am in Little Brickhill.

NEXT SUNDAY, 25th OCTOBER there will be a Holy Communion service here in Great Brickhill at 11.00am. Under the current restrictions:

- There is still no congregational singing
- Hand sanitizing is required on entry to the church
- Single-use service sheets will be used
- Seating will be in accordance with social distancing rules and the rule of six
- Masks are a mandatory requirement
- We ask for contact details, which we have to keep for 21 days.

VIRTUAL SERVICE OF EVENSONG ON MONDAY, 26th OCTOBER AT 7.00pm:-

Jerry Breslin is arranging another online Evensong service via Zoom on Monday 26th October when the choir would normally be holding their weekly practice session. If anyone would like to join in this virtual service please contact Phillipa Cook for the log-in details:- pjcook6@gmail.com

NOVEMBER SERVICES:

The schedule for the end of October and November services is on a separate file accompanying this Newsletter. The pattern of services remains generally as in previous months with one service being held at one of the churches on each of the Sundays but November has a number of special services. There will be a **Remembrance Sunday** service in each village but, in order to be COVID safe, the other three villages will have an outdoor only service. Unless the regulations change the service here will be in the church and then at the war memorial.

The annual **All Souls Service** will as usual be held at Little Brickhill, on **Sunday 1st November** at 6.00pm. This is the service in which we remember with thanksgiving our loved ones who have died, those who lived here local to us or who lived further away – an important occasion this year more than ever. **If anyone would like a candle to be lit** in memory of a loved one, please contact Julia Turner 01525 261618 juliaturner.it@icloud.com

The first of our special pre-Christmas services will be held at Bow Brickhill on 29th November, an **Advent Carol Service** (with no singing) at 3.00pm.

The details for the **services over the Christmas** period have yet to be confirmed but they will have to be different from our normal pattern to conform with the COVID-19 regulations.

For those who are not yet ready to come back to services in church, there are occasional virtual services and we will continue to share information about the weekly virtual worship opportunities that are being either televised or live streamed from around the country.

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY, CELEBRATING ST LUKE'S DAY:

Jeremy Hopkinson has written and recorded a reflection and prayer for St Luke's Day and Stuart Leeming has recorded this week's story: "The Kind Stranger". Both were filmed at St Luke's church in Stoke Hammond. Please make the story available to the younger members of your family if appropriate.

These are available on You Tube via the following links:

- Reflection & Prayer:- <https://youtu.be/GVbtUbl7xYs>
- "The Kind Stranger":- <https://youtu.be/eich2MOyFrQ>

Earlier week's reflections and stories can be found on the website in the section "Coronavirus You Tube Recordings".

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

- (1). Jeremy's written brief reflection and prayer.
- (2). How and where to find this week's services for the Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity. This includes the programmes available on the BBC, both radio and television, and livestreaming services from the Oxford Diocese and the Church of England.

CHURCH OPENING TIMES:

The church is now 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:- 261618 juliaturner.it@icloud.com 261521 pjcook6@gmail.com

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. All bibles, books etc have been removed. Please take your own bible or reading matter with you. Visitors outside of normal services are asked to sign the registration sheet in a red folder at the entrance to the church.

THE FOOD BOX:

As the winter weather approaches and the effects of the pandemic appear to be worsening, please remember that the Food Box is in the church porch to help anyone who is in need of food either in an emergency or longer term. Please spread the news of this initiative as widely as you can. The church main and porch gates are being kept open for easy access to the Food Box at all times.

ONLINE ALPHA COURSE ON THE 1st WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH AT 8pm

Alpha is an 11-week course where people are brought together for a conversation about faith, life and God. It is an opportunity to explore life's big questions together in an open, informal environment. The episodes explore the basics of the Christian faith, addressing questions such as Who is Jesus? How can we have faith? and How does God guide us?

The course is equally there for everyone, those who already have a Christian faith and those who have yet to come to know Jesus. In the past Alpha courses have been run in person but due to the pandemic this course will be online.

The course starts on Wednesday 4th November. If you would like to join the course or find out more about it, please contact:-

Roger Blofeld 01525 261072 (rogerblo@aol.com).

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:- Roger Blofeld (rogerblo@aol.com).

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.brickhillschurches.org.uk