

St Mary the Virgin, Great Brickhill



Candles for the Third Sunday of Advent

CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) OUTBREAK Update 12th December 2020

TOMORROW - THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT:

There will be a Service of Nine Lessons with Christmas Music at 4.00pm at Stoke Hammond Church. Due to the social distancing rules there is a restriction on numbers, only 20 can attend. Anyone wishing to go to the service should check with Diane Webber to see if there are spaces as it is first come first served:-

01525 270409 dianejwebber@gmail.com.

THE NATIVITY – NEXT SUNDAY 20th DECEMBER ON THE CRICKET FIELD AT 11am

Everybody is welcome at this enactment of the Christmas story and we are delighted that, as we are outdoors, we are allowed to sing carols. Do come and join us and see Mary and Joseph in the stable in Bethlehem with the shepherds and the Kings – and the sheep and donkey will be there too!

The staging will be set up as such that we can adhere strictly to the COVID-19 guidelines. Everyone must be socially distanced with individuals, households or bubbles maintaining 2 metres distancing.

Please note that, due to The Nativity, the church will not be open next Sunday – see “Church Opening Times” item below.

NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS:

As we are not able to hold our normal Nine Lessons and Carols on Christmas Eve, we will be filming a Nine Lessons and Carols in the church this week, albeit with no congregation present. Our thanks to the members of the choir and Jerry Breslin for making this possible. The recording will be available via You Tube – the link will be circulated next weekend, together with an Order of Service, so that you can sing along to the well-known carols.

CHRISTMAS MORNING HOLY COMMUNION AT 11.00am

The normal Holy Communion service will be held on Christmas Day. We will not be able to sing but our organist Jerry will be there to provide music at various points through the service. We plan to record the Rector’s Christmas sermon plus a children’s story for Christmas. The link to these will be made available on Boxing Day.

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES:

A schedule of all the services planned across the Benefice for December can be found at the end of this Newsletter. Looking forward to services in the New Year, for at least January, there will continue to be just one service in the Benefice each week.

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES FOR SUNDAY, 13th DECEMBER:

The Rector has written and recorded a reflection and prayer for this Third Sunday of Advent and Diane Webber has recorded this week's story, "Jesus is Baptised". Both were filmed near the Advent wreath in Stoke Hammond church.

The recordings can be found on the following links:

- Reflection & Prayer:- <https://youtu.be/-5-OcQT0KH0>
- "Jesus is Baptised":- Story - https://youtu.be/u_Zufy5j078
Prayer - <https://youtu.be/t8BgvZcFgKE>

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). The Rector's written brief reflection and prayer.

(2). How and where to find this week's services for the Third Sunday of Advent. 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:

Due to the ongoing building work the church opening times are now limited to once a week:-

SUNDAYS FROM 10.00am – 12 noon

Please note that due to The Village Nativity, the church will not be open next Sunday

BUT, if anyone would like to visit the church for individual private prayer outside of these times please get in touch with Julia or Phillipa and arrangements will be made for you:- 261618 juliaturner.jt@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. If you are able to, please use the QR code on display as you enter the church.

ADVENT WINDOWS:

We are now halfway through the lighting of the Advent Windows, which will be lit up at night until 31st December – remember there is a secret message to work out from the letters found in each window. The map showing the dates from which each window will be lit, was sent last week. There is also a copy in the church porch and on the notice board.

THE RECTOR:

If anyone has any concerns during this worrying time, do contact:

- The Rector, Revd John Waller:- 01525 261062 rector@brickhillschurches.org.uk
- Jeremy Hopkinson, LLM:- 01525 261674 jeremysfh@gmail.com

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

www.brickhillschurches.org.uk

SERVICES ACROSS THE BENEFICE IN DECEMBER 2020

| DATE: | TIME | SERVICE | VENUE |
|-----------------------------|-------------|---|-------------------------|
| December 13th | 16.00 | Nine Lessons with Christmas Music | Stoke Hammond |
| December 20th | 11.00 | The Village Nativity (on the Cricket Field) | Great Brickhill |
| | 15.00 | Carol Service | Bow Brickhill |
| | 15.00 | Crib Service (on the Village Green) | Stoke Hammond |
| | 17.00 | Carol Service | Little Brickhill |
| December 24th / 25th | 23.30 | Holy Communion (<i>Midnight Mass</i>) | Stoke Hammond |
| Christmas Day | 9.30 | Holy Communion (<i>Christmas Morning</i>) | Little Brickhill |
| | 11.00 | Holy Communion | Great Brickhill |
| December 27th | | No Service | |

Updated 5th December