

St Mary the Virgin, Great Brickhill



The last of the Advent Windows, lit on Christmas Eve

CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) OUTBREAK Update 2nd January 2021

Firstly, a Happy New Year to you all with the hope that we will be able to meet together and live somewhat more normal lives at some stage in the months ahead.

NEWS OF SERVICES:

The service for this Sunday is:-

10.00am Holy Communion Service at Stoke Hammond:

Anyone wishing to go to the service should please let Diane Webber know in advance:-
01525 270409 dianejwebber@gmail.com.

The service for Sunday 10th January is:-

10.00am Holy Communion Service at Bow Brickhill:

Due to the restriction of numbers, will those wishing to attend this service please let Stuart Leeming know in advance so that seating can be arranged to ensure social distancing:-
stuleeming@aol.com

A schedule of all the services planned across the Benefice to the end of January can be found at the end of this Newsletter.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES:

It was of course very disappointing that we could not celebrate Christmas as we had hoped. We were pleased that some of the things we had planned were able to go ahead:-

Christmas Day Service:

First of all, a huge thank you to the team of people who cleaned the church and those who did the floral decorations. It was just a shame that the usual number of people who come to church at Christmas could not enjoy the church so wonderfully decorated. Although a smaller congregation was present than normal, those who were there appreciated the opportunity for worship on Christmas morning.

Christmas Recordings on You Tube:

- (1). The recording of the Nine Lessons and Carols service on 16th December was well received. To date 108 viewings have been made.
- (2). The Rector recorded a Christmas message.
- (3). The Rector's reading of the Gospel and sermon at the Christmas morning service at Great Brickhill church were filmed.
- (4). Andrew Smith recorded the story "The First Christmas", filmed near the Christmas tree in Great Brickhill Church. This is a lovely story for the children, wonderfully told by Andrew – perfect to show to your children/grandchildren.

N.B. All the recordings above can still be seen via a link on the front page of the website.

Advent Windows:

This initiative was a great success and huge thanks to Claire Pincott for taking the lead on coordinating the windows. There was an amazing display of festive windows around the village - the final one was lit at the church on Christmas Eve, which revealed the last letter making the Christmas message. A PDF file is attached with photos of all 24 windows.

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES FOR SUNDAY, 3rd JANUARY:

The Rector has written and recorded a reflection and prayer for Epiphany Sunday and Suzanne Cook has recorded this week's story, "The Wise Men's Visit". They were filmed near the three kings in Great Brickhill church.

The recordings can be found on the following links:

- Reflection & Prayer:- <https://youtu.be/ED826ITwjCA>
- "The Wise Men's Visit":- https://youtu.be/ru2VImJvD_Y

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 online services. 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

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.

A MESSAGE FROM SHEILA McLOUGHLIN:

We have received the following message from Mark McLoughlin about his mother Sheila, which he has asked that we include in this newsletter:-

"Mum is currently staying at The Lindens in Stoke Hammond following a series of falls at home throughout 2020 and some difficulties with her mobility, and she would very much love to have visits from some of the villagers she has known for such a long time."

GREAT BRICKHILL PARISH NEWSLETTER:

Most of you will know that since the start of the pandemic, the Great Brickhill Parish Newsletter has been sent as an online version only. It will be some time before printed copies will be produced. We have been asked to publicise two things:

- If any of you do not currently receive the Parish News, all you have to do is contact the editors with your email address and land address (for GDPR purposes) and you will be added to the circulation list:- info@copywriteservices.co.uk
- If you know of any residents who are not on the internet and are unable to access the Parish News, could you please print a copy and give it to them.

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 JANUARY 2021

DATE:	TIME:	SERVICE:	VENUE:
January 3rd	10.00	Holy Communion	Stoke Hammond
January 10th	10.00	Holy Communion	Bow Brickhill
January 17th	10.00	Family All-age Service	Little Brickhill
January 24th	10.00	Holy Communion	Great Brickhill
January 31st <i>[Candlemas]</i>	16.00	Family All-age Service	Virtual by Zoom