

The Church of St Mary the Virgin, Great Brickhill

SUNDAY 17th SEPTEMBER 2023: 15th Sunday after Trinity

Welcome to our Family Service, which will be led by Phillipa. Andrew and Margretta will be providing the music and Sophia will be leading our singing – do join in with the singing and use the shakers as much as you like!

The theme for this morning's service is forgiveness and we will hear the story "The Unforgiving Servant" from the Storyteller Bible, based on the gospel reading for the day (Matthew 18: 21-35). The bible reading is from the Old Testament, Genesis 50: 15-20.

An activity is set up in the Lady Chapel for the children to take part in and Imogen will be there to lend a hand to the children.

Everyone is invited to stay after the service for coffee and a chat.

The collection plate will be passed round during the final hymn. Please use the Gift Aid envelopes provided if you are able to. If you prefer to give your collection via our **debit/credit card device**, **please see Phillipa after the service.**

FUNERAL DETAILS:

Janet Blake's funeral will be held here at St Mary the Virgin Church, Great Brickhill this Friday 22nd September at 12.30pm.

CHURCH BELLS:

It was lovely to hear the church bells being rung yesterday morning by a team of visiting bellringers from Redbourn.

LAST SATURDAY'S "RIDE & STRIDE":

The church was open with refreshments for participants in the annual Ride & Stride event in aid of Bucks Historic Churches Trust. Because of our location being at the top of a steep hill, we do not usually get many visitors. Last Saturday it was good to see that we had a team of seven from All Saints Church, Leighton Buzzard calling in at the church.

Bucks Historic Churches Trust has pledged a grant towards our re-roofing project and so we will do as in previous years, send a donation to BHCT. If anyone would like to add their own donation, please get in touch with me or send the donation directly via <https://bucks-historic-churches.org/>

RECTOR'S BIBLE STUDY AT THE RECTORY:

This takes place on the evening of the third Thursday of the month. The date of the next Bible Study is **this Thursday 21st September at 8pm**. All are welcome to come and discuss the passages from the bible from one of our forthcoming services. No prior knowledge of the text is required.

DEFECTS WORK ON NEW FACILITIES:

The work to rectify the defects in the new extension and refreshment area is progressing well. The extension doors are due to be fitted this week. The internal works will now start at the beginning of October. We will ensure that there will be minimum disruption during this period.

FOOD BOX:

Recently, demand for produce from the Food Box continues. If anyone would like to contribute to the stocked goods, we would be very grateful. All contributions can be placed inside the box or next to it. The main requirements at the moment are:-

Tea, coffee, long life milk, cereal, tinned meals, pasta sauce, soup, baked beans, tinned fruit, custard. There is a full list of suggestions inside the box lid. **No more pasta is required.**

If you know of anyone who would benefit from this initiative, please pass this information on. For anyone in real need, there is also information near the Food Box on some local Food Larders, held in various locations on different days in Milton Keynes.

MONDAY MORNING COFFEE CLUB:

The Coffee Club has resumed after the summer break. It is held in the church during term time **from 9.30am – 11.30am**. Call in for a coffee and a chat, any age most welcome!

FORTHCOMING SERVICES:

Next Sunday, 24th September there will not be a service here at Great Brickhill. Services in the Benefice will be:-

9.30 Harvest Holy Communion (Stoke Hammond)

11.00 Harvest Family Service (Little Brickhill)

18.00 Evensong (Bow Brickhill)

Please note that we have two special services next month:-

Sunday 8th October:

11am Benefice Family Service with Holy Communion when we will be joined by children visiting from Malawi.

Sunday 15th October:

11am Harvest Family Service at Rectory Farm

Both these services will be followed by a Bring & Share Lunch.

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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