



Great Brickhill Parish News

January 2026

Editors' Letter

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Very Happy, Prosperous and Peaceful New Year.

Best regards,

Merryl & Carys - Contact: 07811 226728 info@copywriteservices.co.uk

Newsletter Deadline – 15th of the Month

Village Whats App Group

The Village WhatsApp group, which was established as a support group during Covid in 2020, now has more than 340 members. We are still happy to provide support when requested to people in the village. We also exchange useful local information and recommendations; provide an informal 'freecycle' service; alert villagers to road closures, stray sheep and fallen trees; reunite lost dogs with their owners; and much much more. Anyone is welcome to join as long as you live in the village and stay kind. Please text Barbara on 07717 226662 or email the InfoLine: info@copywriteservices.co.uk if you would like to join or have any queries or requests.

General guidelines for posting on the group, (so members aren't overwhelmed with random messages!):

- Think First! Your message goes to more than 340 people
- If your message is just for one person - send it directly to them
- 'Freecycle' is great, well-used, and valued (but please message directly in response if possible)
- Please limit posting items for sale – (there are other places to do this); and NO commercial promotion – if you want to advertise your business please do so through the Parish News
- Please don't post pictures of people
- No moaning or arguments – this is not meant to be a forum for venting grievances!
- And, unless it's an emergency, please don't post between 10pm and 7am



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Shake off the January blues and warm up your winter evenings at The Old Red Lion. Join us for our Quiz Night & Curry on Thursday 15th January. And don't miss our traditional Burns Night Supper on Saturday 24th January, complete with flavours from the heart of Scotland.

QUIZ NIGHT & CURRY

Thursday 15th January

BURNS NIGHT SUPPER

Saturday 24th January

ENQUIRE OR BOOK A TABLE

Call us on 01525 261715 or visit www.oldredlionpub.co.uk

Thank You – Great Brickhill Poppy Appeal 2025

On behalf of the Royal British Legion, we would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the residents of Great Brickhill for their generous support of the 2025 Poppy Appeal.

Your contributions - given with such community spirit and kindness - help ensure that serving personnel, veterans, and their families receive the care and assistance they deserve. The Poppy Appeal remains a powerful symbol of remembrance and hope, and your efforts this year have once again shown the strength and compassion of our village.

Thank you to everyone who donated, volunteered, collected, or supported in any way. Your generosity truly makes a difference.

With sincere gratitude,

Stefan Kobewka - Poppy Appeal Organiser

Tea and Cake



Happy New Year!

The Village's 'Drop In' opens again from Monday, 5th January

We open on Mondays from 2.00 pm to 3.30 pm at Great Brickhill Parish Hall.

Why not give us a try? Feel free to come along and have a chat over a cuppa and a slice of cake.

Thanks to the generosity of the bakers, and the people attending, we raised over £500 for local charities and worthy causes in 2025 and will continue to raise funds during 2026.

Community Defibrillator Access

There are now two defibrillators in the village, one is located in the porch of the Parish Hall, the other at the top of Alders Farm Fishery's driveway on Ivy Lane. To access them you need a mobile phone and, if it's dark, a torch. Use the mobile to phone 999 or 112 and the operator will tell you exactly how to remove the unit from its location, giving you a code to use. Please return the unit to its place as soon as possible so that it can be replaced whilst the original is being serviced.

GREAT BRICKHILL BOXING DAY VILLAGE FUN RUN

Following the success of previous years, Mandy and Deborah are organising another Village Fun Run, starting at the Three Trees at 10.30 am on Boxing Day.

Two suggested routes of 5km and 10km can be followed by runners, walkers, strollers, dogs, family, friends etc. Everyone is invited back to White Knights off Heath Road for coffee and pastries.



See you there and hoping it's not quite this snowy!

Tractor run through Great Brickhill 14 December 2025



Who needs reindeer when you've got a tractor!



GREAT BRICKHILL WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

At: Great Brickhill Parish Hall
On: The Second Wednesday of the
month, starting at 7.30 pm

H A P P Y N E W Y E A R

Why not start 2026 by seeing what Great Brickhill WI is all about and join us for the evening. No fee is charged but any donation, made by visitors, is appreciated and goes towards the running of our WI.

Our next meeting is on Wednesday, 14th January:



Our Speaker is Mark Niel:

Mark's talk is entitled 'Never work with children'. Mark is an actor, performance poet and singer/musician. He is also the official Poet Laureate of Milton Keynes.

February Meeting: This is our Annual Meeting and is for GBWI members only.

March Meeting: Wednesday, 11th March. Our speaker will be Sue Mitchell on her 'encounter with raptors'.



GREAT BRICKHILL WI's CONTACT DETAILS:

SECRETARY - AMANDA COX: TEL: GB 261476

Email: gbrickhillwi@gmail.com

Facebook: Great Brickhill Women's Institute - GBWI

Great Brickhill Parish Hall

The Parish Hall Committee would like to wish all our Hirers a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year for 2026.

The PHC Annual General Meeting will be held at 7:30 pm on TUESDAY 20 January in the Parish Hall Meeting Room. If you would like to attend or are interested in joining the Committee please let Roger Blofeld know on 07790 742540 or email rogerblo@aol.com.

Bookings for the Main Hall, Meeting Room, Forest Hut and Multi Use Games Area are best booked using <https://www.book-online.co.uk/great-brickhill/>. This on-line system makes it easy to see which dates are available and to book and pay on-line.

Some important dates for your Diary:

Saturday 17 January at 10:00 am

Meet our PCSO, MIKE COKER, who will be available in the Parish Hall to discuss ANY POLICE/CRIME issues in an informal manner. He will explain who is now responsible for neighbourhood policing in the village, where they are based and how to contact them.

This is a great opportunity to mention any issues that you have considered reporting to the Police but felt the issue was not important or urgent enough to bother them. Get to know your local officer and how local policing works. If you would like to attend please let Roger Blofeld know on 07790 742540 or email rogerblo@aol.com so that we have an idea on numbers we need to accommodate.

Saturday 24 January at 10:00 am

Refresher First Aid Training with an emphasis on how to use the Community Defibrillators we have in the village. Always worth knowing and it is over 2 years since our last refresher. This course is funded by the Parish Council and is free for all who wish to attend.

If you would like to attend please let Roger Blofeld know on 07790 742540 or email rogerblo@aol.com so that we have an idea on numbers we need to accommodate.



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- Call Lisa on 07766 972613 for more information

Short Notes from GB Parish Council meeting on 2 December 2025 held in the Parish Hall

Please see the full minutes (to be approved at the next meeting) on the PC website – <http://greatbrickhillpc.com/>

1. **Buckinghamshire County Council** – Cllr Jordan updated on: highways progress over last 6 months, BCC calls for more tree planting, upcoming suspension of garden waste subscriptions, emergency support during Christmas/New Year holidays. She said that when the Buckingham waste facility re-opens she will ask that a new system be put in place allowing residents to continue to use the MK facility. Cllr Jordan can be contacted at jilly.jordan@buckinghamshire.gov.uk. Chairman stated John Horncapps Lane needs repair. Cllr Jordan to speak to highways technician.
2. **Youth Café** – Clerk to request Stoke Hammond PC for a grant towards costs of Youth Café.
3. **Planning Applications:** See complete application details, decisions and PC comments in full minutes.
 - The Castle, 58 Lower Way – notification of proposed works to trees in a conservation area. Supports.
 - 49 Lower Way – demolition of existing single storey structures. Erection of one and half storey side extension with rear dormer and ground floor annexe, single storey rear extension, new open porch and alterations to external materials. Supports.
4. **Neighbourhood Plan** – after some minor amendments plan will be submitted to Bucks Council.
5. **MK 2050 Local Plan** – PC to respond regarding inevitable increase in traffic volumes with the proposed developments and how roads will cope and also that Great Brickhill should be kept separate and not joined with surrounding areas.
6. **Next PC meeting:** Tuesday, 6 January 2026 at 7.30 pm in Parish Hall.

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Notes from the Parish Council

As many will be aware, our nearest household waste site in Buckingham is closed until March 2026 for some essential maintenance work to be carried out. During this closure Buckinghamshire Council have made a temporary arrangement whereby we can use the Milton Keynes sites at Bleakhall or New Bradwell. These must be booked in advance by calling 01908 691691

You cannot make a booking using an on-line form. Full details can be found on the Household recycling centres pages on Buckinghamshire Council web page

Some items for your diary:

17 January, 10.00 am Parish Hall. Come and meet our PCSO Mike Coker

24 January 10.00 am Parish Hall, Defibrillator training

7 March 10.00 am to 3.30 pm Parish Hall. Grand Union Canal Transfer scheme public consultation meeting.

Milton Keynes local plan 2050 is open for consultation and comment until 22 December. The Parish Council will be submitting a response, but any member of the public can also comment and we would encourage you to do so. The plan can be found at [MK City Plan 2050 | Milton Keynes City Council](#)

We would particularly draw your attention to policy GS17, South of Bow Brickhill Strategic extension and policy GS18, Lavante Gate Strategic extension, as both could have some impact on the village which we would seek to minimise. These can be found on pages 62 to 68

We hope everyone has a great Christmas, and a healthy 2026.

Thames Valley Police – Have Your Say

Do you have any questions about policing in and around the village for TVP?

This is your chance to put them to our new PCSO Mike Coker.



Saturday 17 January 2026 at 10.00 am in the Parish Hall.

Happy New Year!

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The Big Sky by Julie Cuthbert

It was purely by chance that we found ourselves sitting in the garden with our coats and hats on and a glass of wine, looking up at the sky when the Geminid Meteor Shower was at its best. I saw the first one, streaming white light across the black screen above our heads and shouted out, "Shooting star." Then another and another, which Rob kept missing until finally, we saw the best one together.

We are so lucky to have a big sky in Great Brickhill. We are not only blessed with minimal light pollution enabling us to see the stars' brilliance contrasted against the deep black night but, being positioned high up on a hill, we can also enjoy its massive expanse that stretches far across the Aylesbury Vale.

We didn't hear any Tawny Owls calling which was a shame. We have noticed that they are not doing so well in general over the last couple of years which is probably due to the high winds we are more frequently experiencing over their breeding season but the Muntjac and Chinese Water Deer were barking regularly in the distance.



Thames Valley Police – Be Car Safe!

As the New Year begins, many people are embracing resolutions that involve getting outdoors, walking and exercising in the fresh air. Countryside car parks are popular starting points for these activities, but they can also be a target for opportunistic thieves. To keep your car safe, it's important not to leave valuables or new Christmas presents, such as phones, iPads, coats, or bags on display inside your vehicle. Even a small item left visible can attract unwanted attention, so taking a moment to store belongings out of sight or leaving them at home helps ensure your day out in the fresh air isn't spoiled by a break-in.



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and, of course,

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Please do come along and support this weekly fixture.

**Celia's Café will be open until 5.00 pm so you can enjoy
tea/coffee/cake after you have browsed the stalls.**

Defibrillator & First Aid Training

SATURDAY 24 JANUARY from 10.00 am until 12.00 noon in the Parish Hall.

Please spread the word as the more we get to attend the better. No charge for attendees.

Bus Timetable

Stewkley – Leighton Buzzard – Bletchley

162

Monday to Thursday

From: 30 October 2023

| Notes: | MWTh | Tu |
|-----------------------------------|------|------|
| Stewkley, South End | 0935 | 1010 |
| Stewkley, North End | 0940 | 1015 |
| Soulbury, Stewkley Road | 0948 | 1023 |
| Leighton Buzzard, West Street | | 1038 |
| Leighton Buzzard, High Street | 0958 | |
| Three Locks, Car Park | 1006 | |
| Great Brickhill, The Old Red Lion | 1011 | |
| Bletchley Bus Station | 1025 | |

| Notes: | MWTh | MWTh | Tu | MWTh | MWTh |
|-------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Bletchley, Bus Station | | 1225 | | | 1425 |
| Great Brickhill, Old Red Lion | | 1238 | | | 1438 |
| Three Locks, Car Park | | 1241 | | | 1441 |
| Leighton Buzzard, High Street | 1140 | 1248 | | 1345 | 1448 |
| Leighton Buzzard, West Street | | | 1300 | | |
| Soulbury, Stewkley Road | 1150 | | 1310 | 1355 | |
| Stewkley, South End | 1157 | | 1317 | 1402 | |
| Stewkley, North End | 1202 | | 1322 | 1407 | |

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Saturday

| | |
|-----------------------------------|------|
| Stewkley, South End | 0925 |
| Stewkley, North End | 0930 |
| Soulbury, Stewkley Road | 0938 |
| Leighton Buzzard, West Street | 0948 |
| Three Locks, Car Park | 0956 |
| Great Brickhill, The Old Red Lion | 1001 |
| Bletchley Bus Station | 1015 |

| | |
|-------------------------------|----------------|
| Bletchley, Bus Station | 1225 |
| Great Brickhill, Old Red Lion | 1238 |
| Three Locks, Car Park | 1241 |
| Leighton Buzzard, West Street | 1135 1248 1345 |
| Soulbury, Stewkley Road | 1145 1355 |
| Stewkley, South End | 1152 1402 |
| Stewkley, North End | 1157 1407 |

Notes: MWTh – Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays only
Tu – Tuesdays only

No service on Sunday or Public Holidays

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Useful Information

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| Parish Council website | https://greatbrickhillpc.com/parish-council/ | |
| Parish Clerk – Karen Barker - | clerk@greatbrickhillpc.com | |
| High Ash School | | - 01525 261620 |
| Bucks CC Cllr Jordan | jilly.jordan@buckinghamshire.gov.uk | |
| Rector - Revd John Waller | | - 01525 261062 |
| The Old Red Lion | | - 01525 261715 |
| Parish Hall Bookings | https://greatbrickhillcommunitycentre.co.uk/ | |
| Cricket Club Pavilion | | - 01525 261434 |
| Allotments Secretary | | - 07917 354152 |
| St Mary's Church Warden - Phillipa Cook | | - 07788 740969 |
| | pjcook6@gmail.com | www.brickhillschurches.org.uk |
| Bell Ringing – Rosemary Howell | | - 07969 069243 |
| Little Ashes Pre-School | | - 07855 215154 |
| Drop In – every Monday 2.00 – 3.30 pm in Parish Hall | | - 01525 261476 |
| Police - non-emergencies | | - 101 |
| Highways | | - 0845 2302882/ 01296 395000 |
| Post Office - Monday 9.00 – 10.30am - Parish Hall | | - 07748 768281 |
| GB Charity Trustees - Debbie Pincott | | - 01525 261637 |
| GB Gardening Club - Rosemary Howell | | - 01525 234149 |
| GB Table Tennis Club - David Bratt | | - 07748 768281 |
| GB Women's Institute – Secretary: Amanda Cox - | gbrickhillwi@gmail.com | - 01525 261476 |
| Celia's Cafe (Kathryn) | | - 07771 858582 |
| Thursday Market Enquiries (Steve) | | - 07800 748955 |

To report issues such as potholes, street lighting, rights of way, fly tipping, dog bins, graffiti etc, visit:
<https://www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/section/report-it>

To report a possible breach of planning control, contact the Parish Council in the first instance.

The Fish & Chip Van now visits the village only between 5.00 - 6.05 pm on Thursdays. Ring 07851 740 901 to find out where they are.

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GENERAL CHURCH NEWS, 21 DECEMBER 2025



The Village Nativity Scene

The Village Nativity was a great success. The weather was good and a large crowd gathered in the Parish Hall car park, the new location due to the re-seeding of the cricket outfield. Whilst this is an enactment of the Nativity story with adults playing the main characters (except for Jesus!), it was wonderful this year to have children accompanying the kings, shepherds and angels.



Before the start we again enjoyed Christmas music played on the bagpipes by Stephen Syfret. Daisy Barrasford and Rupert Young opened the singing with a wonderful rendition of the first verse of "Once in Royal David's City". Sophia Walmsley and Lewis Monk then led the singing of the carols.

In case of bad weather, the sound system was set up under the canopy of the Parish Hall. The music for the carols was played by Andrew and Margretta Smith.



The musicians, Andrew & Margretta



With "No room at the Inn", Mary and Joseph are shown to the stable. Jesus is born and soon after the Angel Gabriel appears.



The shepherds arrive with their sheep and are soon followed by the three Kings and princes who offer their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

At the end of the Nativity, the Rector thanked the many people who had contributed, from the hosts the Parish Hall and Cricket Club, to those who erected the stable, arranged the characters and their costumes, provided the animals, and took the many parts as shown above. **Around 30 people were involved – thank you to all of you.**



Narrator, the Rector and readers Julia Turner and James Northen

RECTOR'S JANUARY MESSAGE

Knowing What We Need

Dear Friends,

As you look ahead to the New Year, do you expect that you will deal with all its challenges alone, or do you expect that you will need help from others? How do you feel about the idea of needing help, and not being able to cope with everything on your own?

Much in our culture encourages us to appear as if we are self-sufficient, and that we can cope with everything on our own. But that is not the reality, because we actually live by what is sometimes called *mutual interdependence*.

In other words, we accept the responsibilities that we have, and try to deal with them to the best of our ability. We help and support others when we can, while also understanding that we will need help from others at times, and it is alright to accept help when we need it.

The Christian life includes this acceptance that God has made us to need each other, and that we are called to work together for the good of all. And that above all we need God's help, in every part of our lives.

One of the well-known sayings of Jesus from the Sermon on the Mount is "Blessed are the pure in heart", but one Bible translation puts it in a different way:

Happy are those who know their need of God

Revd John Waller

HIGH ASH SERVICES

In the last week of the term, we were delighted to welcome pupils from High Ash for two services - Key Stage 2 for their Carol Service on Thursday and Key stage 1 and Foundation children for their Christingle service on Friday. The children all did very well with their readings and singing of the carols.

SERVICES ACROSS THE BENEFICE TO THE END OF JANUARY:

Wednesday 24th December *Christmas Eve*

| | | | |
|-------|-----------|----------------------------|-------------|
| 16.00 | (St. H.) | Crib Service | Dave Webber |
| 17.00 | (Gt. Br.) | Carol Service <i>Choir</i> | JW |
| 22.00 | (St. H.) | Holy Communion | JW |
| 23.45 | (Bw. Br.) | Holy Communion | JW |

Thursday 25th December *Christmas Day*

| | | | |
|-------|-----------|----------------|----|
| 9.30 | (Lt. Br.) | Holy Communion | JW |
| 11.00 | (Gt. Br.) | Holy Communion | JW |

Sunday 28th December

| | | | |
|-------|----------|--------------------------------|----|
| 10.00 | (St. H.) | Holy Communion <i>Benefice</i> | JW |
|-------|----------|--------------------------------|----|

This is a joint service for everyone in the four villages of the Brickhills & Stoke Hammond

Sunday 4th January

| | | | |
|-------|-----------|---|----------------------------------|
| 10.00 | (Gt. Br.) | Holy Communion <i>Benefice</i> incl Confirmation Service | Bishop of Buckingham / JW |
|-------|-----------|---|----------------------------------|

This is a joint service for everyone in the four villages of the Brickhills & Stoke Hammond

Sunday 11th January *John Waller away*

| | | | |
|-------|-----------|-----------------|---------------|
| 10.00 | (Gt. Br.) | Morning Worship | Phillipa Cook |
| 11.00 | (St. H.) | Family Service | Dave Webber |

Sunday 18th January

| | | | |
|-------|-----------|----------------|---------------|
| 9.30 | (Bw. Br.) | Holy Communion | JW |
| 9.30 | (St. H.) | Café Church | Roger Blofeld |
| 11.00 | (Gt. Br.) | Family Service | JW |

Sunday 25th January

| | | | |
|-------|-----------|----------------|------------------|
| 9.30 | (St. H.) | Holy Communion | JW |
| 11.00 | (Lt. Br.) | Family Service | JW |
| 11.00 | (Bw. Br.) | Taize Service | Jeremy Hopkinson |

NB

Bishop of Buckingham Visit, Sunday 4 January

The Rt Revd Dave Bull who was consecrated as the Bishop of Buckingham in February 2025 will be making his first visit to the Benefice on Sunday 4 January. He will be here for the Holy Communion service at 10.00 am during which he will preside over a confirmation service for the candidates in the Benefice who are currently having preparation classes.

CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING ON 29 NOVEMBER

Many thanks to everyone who contributed to the success of the Christmas Coffee Morning. We raised £1107, slightly more than the last two years. A printed copy of the full results is on display on the notice boards at the church.



But more important than that, there was a lovely atmosphere, helped undoubtedly by the addition of the High Ash and Little Ashes stalls.



Umtali stall and a family gathering



Tropic skin care stall



The raffle and tombola

The winners of the raffles etc were:

Hamper Raffle: David Carroll
Christmas Cake Raffle: Amanda Cox
Guess the Number of Sweets: Roger Blofeld

POETRY EVENING, 27 NOVEMBER

The Poetry evening hosted by the Rector at the Bow Brickhill Community Hall was extremely well received. A wide variety of poems were read by a number of people who gave an introduction as to why they had chosen the poem. Due to its success a second Poetry Evening will be held in the early part of next year.

CAROL SINGING AROUND THE VILLAGE

We had two very successful evenings carol singing. We postponed the second evening by a day due to an awful weather forecast, with the result that it was mild and dry on both occasions.



We covered all of our planned route and had a good number of singers of all ages - the carols could be heard from quite a distance. Thank you to all the singers and collectors for their support over the two weeks.



And a welcome drink awaited at the end of the first week in the Cricket Club and on the second evening at The Old Red Lion.

We had a bumper collection on the first round, helping the total, including some late donations to a massive **£902**, an all-time record (£190 more than in 2024). Thank you to all who donated either with cash or via the QR code,

A REMINDER ABOUT THE ADVENT WINDOWS

The final "window" will be lit at the church on Christmas Eve and all 24 windows will continue to be lit up at night until 31 December. Take a walk around the village during the festive season and see the amazing displays.

A DATE FOR THE DIARY

The 2026 Plant Fayre will be held at the Parish Hall / Cricket Field on Sunday 12 April, from 11.00 am to 3.00 pm.

FOOD BOX

A reminder that, for those in need during this festive season, there is access to the Food Box in the church porch at any time of day.

THE RECTOR

If anyone has any concerns, please contact:

- The Rector, Revd John Waller: 01525 261062 rector@brickhillschurches.org.uk
- Jeremy Hopkinson, LLM: 01525 261674 jeremysfh@gmail.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 obtain information and updates on any of the services:

www.brickhillschurches.org.uk

And finally, the Rector and the PCC would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas, and a Happy & Healthy New Year.