

The Church of St Mary the Virgin, Great Brickhill

SUNDAY 19th December, the Fourth Sunday of Advent

Welcome to **Holy Communion** this morning, led by the Rector with Tim Holden playing the organ. Please stay for coffee or tea after the service.

The Bible readings this morning are:

Isaiah 7 vs. 10 - 16;

Romans 1 vs. 1 - 7.

The Holy Gospel reading is: **Matthew 1 vs. 18 – 25.**

LAST SUNDAY

There was a **Special Evensong for Kay and Nuevo Reto**. Over forty people attended the service, which had been planned by Kay. The Rector thanked Kay for her devoted contribution to the PCC and St Mary 2000. At the end of the service Janet Pritchard presented a report sent by Charlotte, giving details of the work and latest news from Nuevo Reto. There was then an opportunity to meet and chat over mince pies and mulled wine, and watch a video that Charlotte had sent. The collection at the service was for Nuevo Reto – the total amount collected for the orphanage will be announced as soon as all the money has been received.

THIS WEEK

On Saturday evening, 18 December there should have been **Carol Singing** around the village but this had to be postponed due to the heavy snowfall. It is hoped to re-schedule this for either Monday or Tuesday evening.

CHRISTMAS DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

There will be a celebration of the **Nativity this afternoon** at 2pm, **19th December** at its original location at the bottom of Pound Hill.

The service of **Nine Lessons and Carols** will be at **5pm** on Christmas Eve and a service of **Holy Communion on Christmas Day at 11am**. Both services will be taken by the Rector.

On **Sunday 26th December** there will be a **United Benefice Service of Holy Communion at 10am at Little Brickhill**, led by the Rector.

On **Sunday 2nd January** there will be a **United Benefice Service of Holy Communion at 10am here at Great Brickhill**. This will be led jointly by the Rector and Sister Hazel.

PLEASE SUPPORT US.....

The **Christmas Card Greetings Tree** in the church is again in aid of the Nuevo Reto Orphanage in Guatemala.

As in previous years there is the opportunity to **Sponsor a Light (for St Mary's 2000)** and even more lights decorate the yew tree by the gate this year. So, please consider 'giving' a light for Christmas – dedication forms are available near the bookcase.

AND FINALLY, we need your help to make our books balance.....

At the November PCC Meeting the Treasurer reported that for the first time the church may not be able to pay its Parish Share in full – this is the annual amount that the church is asked to pay to the diocese (£20,845 for 2010). In recent years the church has only been able to make this payment by using money from the General Reserves. This year the church is likely to have a deficit of about £4,000 if full payment were to be made. Even without emergency expenses the running costs of the church are £99 per day.

For many years large amounts have been raised for St Mary's 2000 and the PCC greatly appreciate all donations people make to the Church. It has been difficult to sustain fundraising for both St Mary's 2000 and for General Funds. Please consider if you are able to dig a little bit further into your pockets to make a slightly larger donation at services. We know that the timing is bad but all we can do is ask!

CHRISTMAS COMMUNION SERVICES:-

24th December 11.30pm Stoke Hammond (Revd John Waller)

24th December 11.45pm Bow Brickhill (Revd Steve Barnes)

25th December 9.30am Little Brickhill (Revd John Waller)

25th December 11.00am Great Brickhill (Revd John Waller)

(For all other Christmas Services, see details above)

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