

The Church of St Mary the Virgin, Great Brickhill

SUNDAY 18th December – The Fourth Sunday in Advent

Welcome to our celebration of **Holy Communion** today, led by the Rector with Tim Holden playing the organ.

Please stay for coffee and a chat after the service

The readings this morning are:

2 Samuel 7 vs. 1 – 11 & 16;

Romans 16 vs. 25 – end; and

Luke 1 vs. 26 – 38.

THIS AFTERNOON

December 18th at 2pm The Great Brickhill Nativity

This year the Nativity will be organised for the first time by a group of mums with toddler-aged children.

Come and see Mary and Joseph in the stable in Bethlehem with the sheep and the shepherds and the Kings.

Opposite the Old Red Lion near the Rectory at 2pm

Please come and tell your friends and neighbours.

NEXT SATURDAY – CHRISTMAS EVE AT 5pm.

We will be holding the annual and traditional **FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS** here in the Church. Please invite your friends and neighbours to join us for this candle-lit service. Everyone will be welcome.

NEXT SUNDAY is CHRISTMAS DAY (in case no one has mentioned it to you yet!)

There will be a celebration of **Holy Communion at 11am.**

CHRISTMAS DONATIONS

Carol Singing around the village took place yesterday afternoon/early evening. Well done to the band of singers and collectors who braved the cold and wet conditions. They managed to cover a large proportion of the village in the time available and collected £229.97 towards church funds. Thanks also go to the

collectors without whom the money would not have been raised. Thank you to everyone who took part and to Phillipa for her organization.

The Charity Evensong last Sunday provided us with an opportunity to enjoy the company of others with mulled wine and mince pies and music and to raise money for this year's chosen charity. We have chosen to support the '**Magical Taxi Tour**' this year. The charity gives children with life threatening illnesses a break from their treatment and therapy to enjoy a trip of a lifetime to the magic of Disneyland, Paris in a convoy of London taxis. Do take some time to look at the pictures on display showing the work of the charity. Gill Wilson is our local contact with the charity and is happy to provide further details for you. We have developed a tradition at Saint Mary's of supporting those charities where friends of the church have close links and also contribute much of their time and energies. At the Charity Evensong we raised £224 but there is also the opportunity to contribute at any time over Christmas and, in particular, when 'buying' a Christmas Greeting to place on the church Christmas Tree. Please continue to give generously for this worthwhile cause by sending greetings to your friends using the cards by the tree and placing a donation in the envelopes provided. Thank you.

There will again be an opportunity to **Sponsor a Light** in aid of St Mary 2000. Dedication cards are available on the bookcase inside the entrance to the church. The dedications will be transcribed into a special Remembrance Book on display.

The latest news from **Nuevo Reto, the orphanage in Guatemala**, is available on the bookcase by the door. The PCC is supporting this charity again this year and a donation will be given to them by Charlotte Pritchard on her next visit.

PLEASE NOTE: The United Benefice Service on **Sunday, 1st January at Stoke Hammond** will now be held at **10.00am** and not at 11.00am as indicated in the December Parish Newsletter.

NEXT SUNDAY, CHRISTMAS DAY, there will be a celebration of Holy Communion **at 11am**, led by the Rector.

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To contact the Rector by e-mail: rector@brickhillchurches.org.uk

The address of the Benefice website: www.brickhillchurches.org.uk