

The Church of St Mary the Virgin, Great Brickhill

Sunday 16th December – The Third Sunday of Advent.

Welcome to our celebration of **Holy Communion** (Common Worship) this morning, led by the Rector with Jerry Breslin playing the organ.

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

The readings this morning are:

Zephaniah 3 vs. 14 – end;
Philippians 4 vs. 4 – 7; and
Luke 3 vs. 7 – 18.

CAROL SINGING YESTERDAY EVENING I am sure that you heard the church choir carol singing around the village. Well done and thank you to the twenty people who braved the elements to sing a variety of carols. Special thanks to the collectors: David, Neil, Rosie, Simon and Steve. Between them they managed to call at most of the houses and collected the fantastic sum of **£374**, towards church funds. Thank you to all who gave so generously.

LAST SUNDAY we held our **ANNUAL CHARITY EVENSONG** in aid of **Willen Hospice**. **Thank you to everyone who came to support the event and for giving so generously. During the evening £752 was raised for Willen.** There is also the opportunity to make a donation, during the Christmas weeks and especially by posting a greeting on our **Christmas Card Tree**.

Steve Barnes, the Chaplain at Willen came to give us a short talk about the challenges faced by the Hospice in raising sufficient funds to keep going during the current economic climate. When he returned home after the Evensong service he sent this Christmas Greeting to everyone:

“ It was great to be with you all on Sunday evening, and on behalf of Willen Hospice I thank you for the generosity of such an event. You are a good team. A very blessed Christmas to you all. ”

Please use the Willen Gift Aid envelopes for your donations.

CHRISTMAS AT ST MARY'S CHURCH, GREAT BRICKHILL

Everyone is warmly invited to join us at our special services over Christmas. Please invite your friends, neighbours and guests.

In particular, we would especially like to invite everyone to a **Special Family Worship on Sunday 23rd December at 11am.** This service is especially for children and adults who are young at heart and we will have food and refreshments, carols and story telling and there will be a chance to help to build the crib for Baby Jesus. Oh! I nearly forgot, the Shepherds are coming with their sheep. If you would like to dress up that would be really great, but you don't have to.

On Christmas Eve there will be a Service of Carols and Readings by Candlelight at 5pm. Please come and join a 'full to bursting' church for some rousing carol singing.

On Christmas Day there will be a celebration of Holy Communion at 11am.

SPONSOR A LIGHT

There is again an opportunity to Sponsor a Light in aid of St Mary 2000. As last year, the outdoor lights will be on the tower and along the path. Dedication cards are available on the table inside the entrance to the church. The dedications will be transcribed into a special Remembrance Book on display.

THE CHRISTMAS CARD TREE

The tree is ready to receive your greetings. Your donations with the greetings will also contribute to support Willen Hospice. Please place your donation in the special envelopes provided and pass them to me or Phillipa Cook to support Willen Hospice. Thank you.

THIS WEEK:

DROP-IN will be held in the Parish Hall **tomorrow, Monday 17th December.** The Post Office and refreshments will be available as usual. The following Monday is Christmas Eve and there will not be a Drop-in or Post Office, but the following week, the 31st December, there will be a Drop-in and Post Office as usual.

High Ash School Christingle Service will be held on **Thursday afternoon, 20th December, at 1.30pm.** Everyone is welcome to come and join in.

SERVICES NEXT SUNDAY AND OVER CHRISTMAS

Next Sunday, 23rd December, there will be a **Crib Service at 11am,** led by the Rector.

On Christmas Eve, at 5pm, there will be the **Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols.**

On Christmas Day, at 11am, there will be **Holy Communion,** led by the Rector.

Other Christmas Services across the Benefice:

Bow Brickhill:- Christmas Eve at 11.45pm, Holy Communion

Stoke Hammond:- Christmas Eve at 11.30pm, Holy Communion

Little Brickhill:- Christmas Day at 9.30am, Holy Communion

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The address of the benefice website is: www.brickhillschurches.org.uk