

The Church of St Mary the Virgin, Great Brickhill

SUNDAY 14th DECEMBER:- the Third Sunday of Advent

Welcome to our service of Holy Communion (Common Worship) this morning, led by the Rector. Thank you to Susan for playing the organ for us today and to the choir for leading our singing.

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

The readings this morning are:-

Isaiah 61: 1-4 & 8-11; 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24; John 1: 6-8 & 19-28

Carol Singing round the village took place yesterday evening.

Thank you to all those who braved the freezing conditions to join the band of singers and collectors. A large portion of the village was covered and **£368** was collected towards general church funds.

THIS WEEK AND NEXT:-

Drop-in with the Post Office will be held on Monday afternoon, 15th December at the Parish Hall.

High Ash School. The end of term Christingle Service will be held here in church on Thursday 18th December at 1.30pm. All are welcome to join them!

NEWS & EVENTS:-

CHURCH CHRISTMAS FAIR

The Christmas Fair last month was very successful. The amount raised has increased to **£1886.10**. Thanks go to all who helped, especially those who spent many hours preparing for the event.

NEWSPAPER COLLECTION

Thank you to all who helped with the newspaper collection on Saturday morning, 29th November. A total of 6.6 tonnes was loaded onto the lorry, which raised **£400**. Three loads have been collected during the year - a total weight of 17.6 tonnes, raising a staggering **£1049**. Thank you to Michael and Julia for providing the container at Lower Rectory Farm and to Frank and Betty for their fortnightly collection of newspapers from around the village.

CHRISTMAS CHARITY

Our chosen charity for Christmas this year is **Christian Aid – DEC Ebola Crisis Appeal**, a joint appeal by the Disaster Emergency Committee on behalf of thirteen charities, to support the fight against the spread of Ebola and to provide medical support to those communities in dire need of our help. The collection at last month's **Songs of Praise raised £590**. Our appeal will close this week – please use the Christian Aid envelopes which are available on the bookcase just inside the church and return them to Phillipa Cook (Green Farm) **by the end of the week**.

THURSDAY GROUP

The Thursday Group will next meet on **15th January** for their **Christmas Lunch at The Wheatsheaf, Bow Brickhill**, 12.00 for 12.30 pm. If you would like to attend please contact Jan Simpson (Tel: 261698) and let her have your £10 non-refundable deposit **by tomorrow, Monday 15th December**.

A RECORDING OF THE BENEFICE CHOIR

Last week a recording took place in the church of the Benefice Choir singing Mozart, Handel, Bach etc. To place your order for a copy of the CD at £9.99, please contact Jerry Breslin (TEL: 01908 582952 or jerrybreslin@hotmail.com).

REVIEW OF PATTERN OF CHURCH SERVICES

When we introduced the changes to the times and pattern of services across the four churches in the United Benefice we promised we would ask for people's views at the end of the year once the changes had been in place for a few months – and now is the time to seek your views. To be greener and to save money printing, we hope as many people who can will **complete a short online survey**, which was sent by email to people earlier this week. **Paper versions** will be available from the bookcase inside the church. The deadline for the survey is **Sunday 28th December**. If you would like to complete the online survey and have not received the email please contact Phillipa (pjcook6@gmail.com).

CHRISTMAS AT ST MARY'S CHURCH, GREAT BRICKHILL:

The Christmas Card Tree is now in place near the vestry door to receive your greetings – a great opportunity to send your Christmas wishes and at the same time to make a donation to our Christmas Charity (details above).

Sponsor a Light. The annual opportunity to sponsor one of the outdoor Christmas lights – the Christmas tree will again be to the right of the main entrance to the church. Dedication sheets are available just inside the entrance to the church, next to the Commemoration Book into which the dedications will be transcribed. Proceeds will go towards general church funds.

OUR CHRISTMAS SERVICES IN GREAT BRICKHILL:-

Everyone is warmly invited to join us at our special services:

- **The Village Nativity at 11am, next Sunday 21st December.** Meet at the bus shelter near The Old Red Lion and process to “Bethlehem” (aka the Church) singing carols - do come suitably attired! Or just meet at **the church at 11.30am** for a short service, followed by festive refreshments. All welcome!
- **Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols at 5pm on Christmas Eve.** Do arrive early to be sure of a seat!
- **Christmas Day Holy Communion (Common Worship) at 11.00am.**

Services across the Benefice next Sunday, 21st December:-

Bow Brickhill:- Carol Service at 3.00pm

Little Brickhill:- Carol Service at 5.00pm

Stoke Hammond:- Morning Worship at 9.00am

Christmas Services across the Benefice

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

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

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

On Sunday, 28th December there will be a United Benefice Service of Holy Communion at Stoke Hammond at 11.00am.

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

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