

# **The Church of St Mary the Virgin, Great Brickhill**

## **SUNDAY 3rd JANUARY 2016:- Epiphany Sunday**

We do hope that you have all had an enjoyable Christmas and we send our best wishes to you for the New Year. Welcome to our Prayer Book Service of Holy Communion this morning led by the Rector. We hope that Sister Hazel may be able to join us.

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

The readings this morning are:-

**Isaiah 60: 1 - 6; Ephesians 3: 1 - 12; Matthew 2: 1 – 12**

### **THIS WEEK AND NEXT:-**

**The Happy Cup Coffee Club**, the child-friendly weekly drop-in coffee morning, especially welcoming parents and carers of young children is held **every Monday morning during term time in the church**. The next session will be on **11th January 2016**.

**Drop-in with the Post Office** will be held on Monday afternoon, 4th January at the Parish Hall.

**The monthly Healing Prayer Meeting** will be held **from 7-8pm** on this **Wednesday evening at The Rectory**. All are welcome. Please send any requests for prayer to the Rector.

**High Ash** would welcome anyone who would like to attend their monthly **Prayer Meeting** this Friday 9th January at 2.45 - 3.10pm.

**Newspaper Collection – help is required** to transfer the next load of newspapers onto the lorry this coming **Saturday morning, 9th January**. Anyone able to help please meet by the containers at Lower Rectory Farm at **8.00am**. Enquiries to Frank Kinsey 261836.

**The Thursday Group will resume on Thursday, 14th January.**

### **NEWS & EVENTS:-**

**THE BUCKS HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST “Ride and Stride”:** Money raised from this event is divided between the local church and the Bucks Historic Churches Trust. **£102.50** has just been received, the share due to our church thanks to the efforts of Robin and Rosie in the September Ride & Stride. Thank you to those who kindly contributed to their sponsorship for this worthy cause.

## **CHRISTMAS SERVICES & EVENTS:**

### **The Christmas Services:-**

On 17th December **High Ash** held their end of term **School Christingle Service** - the church was full to capacity.

**Thank you to all those who helped** with the preparation or took part in the services and to those who decorated the church so beautifully. All three services were very well attended. The Family Service / Nativity was very successful - starting at the bottom of Pound Hill the crowd sang their way to the Church for a short service where the Nativity Scene was set. Many thanks go to the children for their participation, with the readings and the prayers.

The church was as usual full for the traditional Christmas Eve Carol Service – thanks to organist, Jerry Breslin, the choir for their wonderful singing and to all the readers. On Christmas Day it was wonderful to welcome lots of young families among the congregation for our Christmas Day Holy Communion Service.

### **The Christmas Fundraising Events:-**

**The Christmas Fair** was highly successful. With money received after the event the total raised has now reached **£1903.80**.

**Carol Singing around the village on the two Saturdays prior to Christmas** raised a total of **£577.63** towards general church funds.

**Our Christmas Charity Appeal** was for L & D – NICU, the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) of Luton & Dunstable Hospital. A total of **£497** has been raised, including £297 from the Charity Songs of Praise.

**Sponsor a Light** in aid of church funds has raised **£50**. Thank you to Emily Hudson for transcribing the dedications into the Commemoration Book. Thanks also to Michael and Julia Turner for providing the tree and to Stephen Agambar for erecting it and setting up the outdoor lights, a very welcoming sight on the approach to the church.

## **2016 DATES AND EVENTS:**

A variety of events has been planned for 2016 - please pick up a flyer available near the entrance to the church giving the details. Further information will be circulated in due course.

The first of the events is the **Snowdrop Walks** – please make a note of the dates (**14th & 21st February**) and spread the word!

## **NEWS FROM FATHER COLIN:**

**For those who are wondering how Father Colin is getting on, he posted the following on Facebook just before Christmas:-**

“Today is 12 months to the day when I returned to Australia. It was a bit of a shock to come from the depth of the English winter to summer in Australia, but when I got to my sister’s place in Cootamundra, the cricket was on, so that was something familiar.

In many ways I feel that I have only just returned, I have learned over the years to be gentle to myself. So I have tried not to rush things. I stayed at first with my sister Carmel who was very supportive, who helped with a number of medical appointments.

In twelve months I have settled into a lovely flat in Ballarat, I assist in the Parish of Springmount where FR Ryan Bennett is the Rector. Ryan has been very supportive, as has Bishop Garry and I am slowly finding my feet in a new environment. I have even ended up as Pro/Provincial of SSM (Society of the Sacred Mission).

Thank you to all those who have helped me settle back into the land of my birth. I am very grateful for the time I had in UK, I appreciate all the things I was able to do, especially a big thank you to all at Willen who made my stay so enjoyable.”

## **SERVICES NEXT SUNDAY, 10th JANUARY:**

**There will be a service of Holy Communion (Common Worship) at 9.30am in Great Brickhill, led by Reverend Val Plumb, recently appointed to the new post of Joint Area Dean.**

Other Services across the Benefice:-

**Bow Brickhill:-** Family Service, 11am

**Little Brickhill:-** No Service

**Stoke Hammond:-** Covenant Service, 11am at Methodist Church

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