

The Church of St Mary the Virgin, Great Brickhill

SUNDAY 11th December 2016:- 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.

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

The readings this morning are:-

Isaiah 35: 1 - 10; James 5: 7 - 10; Matthew 11: 2 - 11

The Christmas Coffee Morning was held yesterday – this was a very enjoyable occasion, a great substitute for the Christmas Fair held in previous years. Thank you to all who helped with the setting up on Friday and all who helped with the various stalls, and all who contributed to the fantastic **£760** that was raised.

THIS WEEK AND NEXT:-

The Happy Cup Coffee Club, the child-friendly weekly drop-in coffee morning, is held **every Monday morning during term time in the church from 9.15am to 11.15am**. All welcome – not obligatory to bring a child with you!

Village Drop In and Post Office. Our Post Lady, Paula, retired on 24th October. Swanbourne no longer have anybody to attend the outreaches and therefore we no longer have a Post Office on a Monday afternoon. Drop In will continue, so please call in for a cup of tea, slice of cake and a chat. Swanbourne are talking to Royal Mail to try to get another Post Office to take over in the future.

Thursday Group. The fortnightly meetings are taking a break until the New Year. The date of the next session has not yet been decided – watch this space!

NEWS AND EVENTS:

CHRISTMAS CHARITY APPEAL:

This year's appeal is for "**SolarAid**" a charity, helping to provide **solar lights to transform peoples' lives in Africa**. More information can be found on the display near the main door, or visit:- www.solar-aid.org. Anyone else who would like to contribute, please use one of the **special Gift Aid sheets** and return it with

your donation to Phillipa Cook (Green Farm) **before 18th December**. Cheques are payable to "Great Brickhill PCC".

"FEED THE HUNGRY" CHARITY:

This year's consignment of "Fish 'n Chip" baby vests and beanies have just been delivered to the Salvation Army in Louth, Lincolnshire where it will be collected for its onward journey to those infants in desperate need. Recently the vests have been sent to Bulgaria, Athens and Syria. Shipments get sent abroad several times a year so it is good to know that the garments reach their destination very soon after they are completed. May we thank all those who knitted garments, or provided wool, so very much for all their very valued contribution, and report that a wonderful 374 vests and beanies were delivered this year. As you can imagine the need will always be there so every item is very much appreciated. If anyone would like a different pattern to make for a change, please just ask Rosie:- Tel: 01525 261425

CHRISTMAS EVENTS & SERVICES:

(See separate flyer on the separate sheets on the bookcase)

Carol Singing around the village in aid of general Church funds next **Saturday 17th December, from 4.00 to 7.00pm**. All welcome - singers and collectors meet at The Three Trees at 3.50pm.

Sponsor a Light on the Christmas tree, which will be at the entrance to the church. Dedication sheets are available just inside the church next to the Commemoration Book into which the messages will be transcribed. Suggested donation £5.

SERVICES ON SUNDAY 18th DECEMBER:

The Family Service / Nativity - meet at **10.50am** at the bus shelter at the bottom of Pound Hill and **process to the church** singing carols along the way. Or just meet **at the church at 11.30am** for a short service, followed by festive refreshments. All welcome!

Other Services next Sunday:-

Bow Brickhill:- Carol Service at 3.00pm

Little Brickhill:- Carol Service at 5.00pm

Stoke Hammond:- Morning Worship at 9.00am

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