



## **SNOWDROP WALKS - SUNDAY 12<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY**

**St Mary the Virgin, Great Brickhill**

**PCC NEWSLETTER, 5th FEBRUARY 2017**

Since the last Newsletter in early December a number of successful events (and one not so good) have been taken place in and around St Mary's Church:-

### **THE CHRISTMAS SERVICES:**

On 15th 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 all the services and to those who decorated the church so beautifully. The Family Service / Nativity was very successful – processing from the bottom of Pound Hill to the Church for a short service where the Nativity tableau 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. Holy Communion was celebrated on Christmas morning.

### **THE CHRISTMAS FUNDRAISING EVENTS:**

**The Christmas Coffee Morning** held in the church on 10th December 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 the day before, and to those who helped with the various stalls, ..... and all who contributed to the fantastic £760 that was raised towards general church funds.

The winners of the two raffles were Joy Wilson (Christmas cake) and Nicola Stanfield (whisky).

**The Carol Singing** around the village on the Saturday prior to the Christmas weekend raised £304.47 towards general church funds. Thank you to all who joined the singers and collectors. Thanks also to Karen and Lee Roff at the Cricket Club for the very welcome refreshments.

**Our Christmas Charity Appeal was for “SolarAid”** a charity, helping to provide solar lights to transform peoples' lives in Africa. A total of £251 was raised – on

receipt by SolarAid the amount was doubled by the Mohammed S Farsi Foundation. This enabled 167 more solar lights to shine in Africa, providing 167,000 children extra hours to study. Each light lasts for at least three years. A "Thank You" letter and card is on display near the entrance to the church.

**Sponsor a Light** in aid of church funds raised **£85**. Thank you to Emily Hudson for transcribing the dedications into the Commemoration Book. Thanks also to the Turner family for providing and setting up the tree with the outdoor lights.

**and one unwanted activity was a:-**

#### **FURTHER THEFT OF LEAD FROM THE CHURCH ROOF:**

Sometime between Christmas and the New Year thieves returned to the church and took away the remaining lead on the south side of the roof. Our roofing contractor has done a temporary repair to make the roof water tight. He has also removed the remaining strips from the north side - we now have no more lead on the roof.

The temporary repair to the roof will last for at least two years and so we have time to obtain quotes for a permanent solution and do the necessary fundraising.

#### **ONGOING EVENTS:**

**Newspaper Collection.** This continues to be a good source of fundraising. Thank you to Henry Clark for doing the fortnightly collection of newspapers around the village, and to the team of people who help to load the lorry as and when necessary on a Saturday morning. The four loads collected during 2016 raised £1040.

**Ladies who Lunch.** These are proving to be very popular and a great source of income - £1280 plus gift aid in 2016. Thank you to Gill Wilson for organising these and the ladies who host the lunches.

#### **ASH WEDNESDAY & LENT:**

**On Ash Wednesday 1st March** there will be one service in the four parishes, a United Benefice service of Holy Communion here in Great Brickhill at 10.30am.

**The Lent Courses** will start the following week beginning 6th March. The Sunday readings and theme for the services during Lent will form the subject for the Lent Group the following week - the theme will focus on particular bible stories based on journeys / pilgrimages. At Stoke Hammond there will be the usual midweek afternoon Lent Group on a Tuesday and there will be an evening course at venues across the Benefice. The full details will be available shortly.

#### **FORTHCOMING EVENTS:**

##### **SNOWDROP WALKS:**

The first fundraising event of the year will be the annual Snowdrop Walks, which will take place on the **NEXT TWO SUNDAYS, 12th and 19th February** between 2.00pm and 4.00pm. Please come along to this very popular event and bring your friends with you. There will be homemade cakes and teas in the church – **if anyone could help with baking some cakes, please contact Betty Kinsey (261836).**

A PDF file of a flier for the Snowdrop Walks is attached

## CAFÉ CHURCH:

Advance notice of this new venture on **Sunday morning, 19th March** - a special form of Coffee Morning to include a short time for worship. The details are still being arranged – you will shortly receive an invitation to attend.

## THE PLANT FAYRE:

Advance notice of the date of this year's Plant Fayre:-

**Saturday 8th April**

If you are able to offer an hour or so of your time to help out with the event John and Celia Hall will be pleased to hear from you:-

[johnnewhall@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:johnnewhall@yahoo.co.uk)

[celiafeetam@madasafish.com](mailto:celiafeetam@madasafish.com)

## BRICKSTOCK 2017, SUNDAY 28th MAY AT THE CRICKET CLUB:

St Mary's Church roof repair fund has been selected to be one of the beneficiaries at this open air music event. We will be organising the raffle and other activities. Please put the date in your diaries and nearer the time offer to help out at some point during the day if you are able to.

**AND FINALLY, .....**

## **St MARY'S YEAR BOOK 2016:**

David Marlow has very kindly produced another fantastic St Mary's Year Book featuring photographs he has taken at various events throughout the year. The new 2016 edition is on display on the small table on the left as you enter the church. Do take a moment to enjoy looking through the book. If you would like to order a copy, or any individual photographs, the details of how to contact David can be found at the back of the book. We would like to record our thanks to David for all the time and effort he puts in to taking the photos and then compiling the book for us all to enjoy.

***Phillipa Cook***  
***5th February 2017***