

The Church of St Mary the Virgin, Great Brickhill

SUNDAY 10th December 2017:- The Second Sunday of Advent

Welcome to our service of Holy Communion (Common Worship) this morning led by the Rector. Provided we have no snowfall overnight Susan will be 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 40: 1 - 11; 2 Peter 3: 8 - 15a; Mark 1: 1 - 8

As reported last week Jerry Breslin has been unwell for over two weeks and is unable to play for us at the moment. Well done to the choir for continuing with their practices for the Christmas services in Jerry's absence. **The Twelfth Night concert with the Cryers Singers on Saturday 6th January has been postponed. We wish Jerry a speedy recovery.**

THIS WEEK AND NEXT:-

The Happy Cup Coffee Club, the child-friendly drop-in coffee morning for parents and carers **is held every Monday morning during term time, in the church from 9.15am to 11.15am. Monday 18th December** will be the last session until the first Monday of next term, **8th January.**

The Village Drop-In is held on Monday afternoons at the Parish Hall, from **1.30 - 3.30pm**, so please call in for a cup of tea, slice of cake and a chat.

The Post Office in the Parish Hall is now open on Mondays, from 1pm to 3pm in the small meeting room. It is no longer there on Thursdays.

NEWS AND EVENTS:

THE CHRISTMAS CAKE RAFFLE was drawn on November 19th after the Charity Songs of Praise. The winner of the Christmas cake was Dorothy Rolls. The runner up prize of a cake decoration was won by Marion Ralph. **This year we raised a magnificent sum of £301**, all proceeds going to St Mary's Church funds. Thank you to everyone who supported the raffle, with special thanks to Janet Pritchard for baking the cake and selling the tickets, and to Jackie Coram who decorated the cake so splendidly.

PRAYER BOARD: The new prayer board is now hanging on the cupboard door on the right inside the church porch. Please feel free to add your own prayers and encourage others to do the same.

CHRISTMAS CHARITY APPEAL: This year's appeal is for "**The Teenage Cancer Trust**". Every day around seven young people are diagnosed with cancer – the Trust wants to make sure they all have access to the specialist care and support they provide, no matter where they live. **The donations collected at the Charity Songs of Praise service amounted to £223**, most of which was gift aided. **Anyone else who would like to contribute**, please use one of the special Gift Aid envelopes on the table near the entrance and return it with your donation to Phillipa Cook (Green Farm) **before 18th December.**

CHRISTMAS EVENTS:

Carol Singing around the village in aid of general Church funds will take place on two evenings:

- **Saturday 16th December**, from 4 to 7pm (meet at 3.50pm)
- **Tuesday 19th December**, from 6 to 8pm (meet at 5.50pm)

All welcome - singers and collectors meet at The Three Trees.

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 17th DECEMBER:

The Nativity will be held at 11.30am at the bottom of Pound Hill near The Old Red Lion, a celebration of the Nativity Story with carols and readings. Come and see Mary and Joseph in the stable in Bethlehem with the shepherds and the Kings. Please tell your friends and neighbours.

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

SERVICES OVER THE CHRISTMAS PERIOD:

See separate flyer on the green sheets near the bookcase

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