

The Church of St Mary the Virgin, Great Brickhill

SUNDAY 21st November – The Sunday before Advent, CHRIST the KING

Welcome to **Holy Communion** this morning, led by the Rector with Jerry Breslin playing the organ. Please stay for coffee or tea after the service.

The Bible readings this morning are:

Jeremiah 23 vs. 1 - 6;

Colossians 1 vs. 11 - 20.

The Holy Gospel reading is: **Luke 23 vs. 33 – 43.**

THIS WEEK

On **Wednesday November 10th, Midweek House Communion** will be celebrated at 10.30am at Knightleys, Heath Road. Everyone is very welcome.

NEWS

Thank you for the help that we received in planning the **Remembrance Service last Sunday**. We would especially like to thank Edward Maley for making the many arrangements and to thank Linda Cormie for providing the warming and delicious refreshments in the church after the service.

HENRY IS COMING.....!

Thanks to the very generous donation from DROP-IN, we are able to buy the church a new vacuum cleaner. We have chosen Henry because he is said to be robust, reliable and uncomplicated – perfect. We were also able to purchase, mount and frame a new Cradle Roll for the church and with the £10 remaining we have bought a new milk jug! It feels like Christmas has arrived early.

Last Thursday, with a church full of his many friends, we were able to say our farewells and celebrate the life of **Sid Bates**. He is buried in the cemetery with his wife and, like many, we will miss him greatly.

The Parochial Church Council

At the PCC Meeting on Thursday, 4th November, Mrs Valerie Beardmore-Baldwin was appointed as the PCC's Health and Safety Representative. Valerie would be pleased to hear from you at any time if you have an issue to raise about your own or other peoples' health and safety when in or around the church building at any time and not just when attending services. Val can be contacted on 01525 261592.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

On Friday, 3rd December, the YOUTH CAFÉ invites everyone to join them in the Church at 7pm for an evening of music and carols, led by the Youth Café leader, Marco Loxley. Refreshments and mulled wine will be served and the Youth Café would particularly like as many of us as possible to join in the celebrations.

On Saturday 4th December, STOKE HAMMOND invites us to their Christmas Tree celebration in the Church at 2.30pm.

DECEMBER EVENSONG

On Sunday 12th December, there will be a very special service of Evensong. We are calling this "**An Evensong for Kay**". The service will give all her friends the chance to thank Kay for all the work she has done for us over many years and, not least, for her devotion to St Mary 2000. Kay, together with John, is planning the service and afterwards we will serve mulled wine and mince pies and have a chance to hear from Janet about Charlotte Pritchard's latest visit to the orphanage in Guatemala.

CHRISTMAS

Next week Advent begins so I thought you would like to know that it is planned to have a Christmas Card Tree in the church again this year with donations given to the Nuevo Reto Orphanage in Guatemala.

There will be the opportunity to **Sponsor a Light**, as in previous years and even more lights will decorate the yew tree by the gate this year. So, please consider 'giving' a light for Christmas.

There will also be a celebration of the **Nativity** on Sunday afternoon, 19th December at its original location at the bottom of Pound Hill.

There will be Carol Singing around the village late afternoon on Saturday, 18th December.

The service of Nine Lessons and Carols will be at 5pm on Christmas Eve and a service of Holy Communion on Christmas Day at 11am. Both services will be taken by the Rector.

NEXT SUNDAY, 28TH NOVEMBER is ADVENT SUNDAY

There will be a **Family Service with Baptism** at 11am. The young grand daughter of one of our congregation will be christened during the service. A very large party of friends and family will also be present – so, come and join them – it is bound to be a very joyful service.

The annual **ADVENT CAROL SERVICE** will be held at **BOW BRICKHILL** at 4pm. Please note that it is an hour earlier than usual to enable people to arrive in the last light of the day. Please bring a torch to light your way back to your car after the service.

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