

The Church of St Mary the Virgin, Great Brickhill

SUNDAY 12th December – Gaudete Sunday

The third Sunday of Advent is known as Gaudete Sunday from the opening words of the Mass “Rejoice in the Lord” or “Gaudete in Domino”. It is traditional for the penitential tone of Advent to be relaxed a little – so we have left the wedding flowers in place over the altar and will be serving mulled wine and mince pies after Evensong!

Welcome to Morning Worship and thank you to Phillipa for preparing today’s service around the theme “***The tradition of Advent***”. ***We will also be using special Advent prayers and sentences throughout all parts of the service.***

Please stay for coffee or tea after the service.

The Bible readings this morning are:

Isaiah 35 vs. 1 – 10; and Matthew 11 vs. 2 – 11.

THIS EVENING

Please join us for the **Special Evensong for Kay and Nuevo Reto this evening at 6pm**. The service will be slightly shorter than normal (no sermon) and has been planned by Kay. We will be hearing from Janet Pritchard about the work and latest news from Nuevo Reto and there will be the opportunity to meet and chat over mince pies and mulled wine. During the evening we will be able to thank Kay for her devoted contribution to St Mary 2000. The collection at the service will be for Nuevo Reto.

THIS WEEK

Next Saturday, 18 December there will be **Carol Singing** around the village from 4 – 7pm. All are very welcome to come and sing or help with the collection, but remember to wrap up warmly and bring a torch. The Carol Singing band will meet up at The Three Trees outside the Old Red Lion at 3.50pm.

CHRISTMAS DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

There will be a celebration of the **Nativity** on Sunday afternoon at 2pm, **19th December** at its original location at the bottom of Pound Hill.

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.

On Sunday 26th December there will be a **United Benefice Service of Holy Communion at 10am at Little Brickhill**.

PLEASE SUPPORT US.....

We will 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.

AND FINALLY, we need your help to make our books balance.....

At the November PCC Meeting the Treasurer reported that for the first time the church may not be able to pay its Parish Share in full – this is the annual amount that the church is asked to pay to the diocese (£20,845 for 2010). In recent years the church has only been able to make this payment by using money from the General Reserves. This year the church is likely to have a deficit of about £4,000 if full payment were to be made. Even without emergency expenses the running costs of the church are £99 per day.

For many years large amounts have been raised for St Mary' 2000 and the PCC greatly appreciate all donations people make to the Church. It has been difficult to sustain fundraising for both St Mary's 2000 and for General Funds. Please consider if you are able to dig a little bit further into your pockets to make a slightly larger donation at services. We know that the timing is bad but all we can do is ask!

NEXT SUNDAY, 19th DECEMBER there will be a service of **Holy Communion** at 9.30am, led by the Rector and a celebration of the **Nativity Story at 2pm outside the pub at the bottom of Pound Hill**.

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