

The Church of St Mary the Virgin, Great Brickhill

SUNDAY 15th DECEMBER:- The Third Sunday of Advent

Welcome to our Service of Holy Communion (Common Worship) this morning, led by the Rector with Jerry Breslin playing the organ. Everyone is invited to stay after the service for refreshments and a chat after the service.

The readings this morning are:-

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

Around a dozen singers went **Carol Singing** round the village yesterday evening. Thanks to the sterling effort of the collectors Steve, Stuart, Neil and Simon, **£326.74** was raised towards the general running costs of the church,not quite as good as the £374 raised last year but apparently the sound was better! Thank you to Steve and Val Baldwin for their hospitality in hosting a supper afterwards.

THIS WEEK:

Drop-in with the Post Office will be held, as usual on Monday afternoon, 16th December, at the Parish Hall.

[There will be no more **Midweek Holy Communion** Services until further notice. The New Year Lunch for **The Thursday Group** is being held on **Thursday 16th January**. There are no more fortnightly Thursday Group sessions planned.]

High Ash School Christingle Service will be held on **Thursday afternoon**, 19th December at 1.30pm. Everyone is welcome.

NEWS AND EVENTS:

Sister Hazel has left available for collection from the bookcase copies of her Christmas Newsletter.

Thank you to those who contributed to the **retiring collection** at two recent services. A cheque for **£85** has been sent to Christian Aid for the **Philippines Typhoon Appeal**.

We have received news of the number of boxes sent off to the "**Link of Hope**" **shoebox appeal** – a total of **47** were sent from this village; they were received with much gratitude from our area organizer.

Last Sunday's **Charity Evensong Service** was in aid of our chosen Christmas charity, **The Lodge Trust**. Mary Maley gave a very informative presentation about the Trust which provides a Christian provision in Rutland for adults with learning difficulties. Mary and Edward's daughter Sarah Lily is one of the 29 residents. They were delighted to hear that the donations received came to **£500**.

Thank you to Jerry Breslin for playing a selection of organ pieces after the service and to Christine and Val for providing the seasonal refreshments.

There is still an opportunity for donations to The Lodge Trust via **the Christmas Card Tree**. The tree is now in place near the vestry ready to receive your greetings – a great opportunity to send your Christmas wishes and at the same time to make a donation to **The Lodge Trust**. There are special envelopes in which to place your donations and these should then be passed to Phillipa Cook. If appropriate, please complete a **Special Gift Aid Sheet** and include a note of the amount of your donation.

Sponsor a Light. This year the outdoor Christmas lights are on the splendid Christmas tree at the church entrance and along the path. Thank you to Michael and Julia Turner for providing the tree from the farm, and to Steve Agambar for erecting it and assembling the lights. Dedication cards are available just inside the entrance to the church, next to the Commemoration Book into which the dedications will be transcribed. Proceeds will go towards the restoration of the church organ.

Everyone is warmly invited to join us at our special Christmas services:

- Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols at 5pm on Christmas Eve
- Christmas Day Holy Communion at 11am

SERVICES NEXT SUNDAY, 22nd DECEMBER:

There will be a **Crib Service at Great Brickhill at 11.00am**, led by the Rector. Other Services:-

Bow Brickhill:- Carol Service at 3.00pm

Little Brickhill:- No Service

Stoke Hammond:- No Service

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