

The Church of St Mary the Virgin, Great Brickhill

SUNDAY 4th JANUARY 2015:- Epiphany Sunday

We do hope that you have all had an enjoyable Christmas and we send our best wishes to you for the New Year. Welcome to our Prayer Book Service of Holy Communion this morning led by Revd Norman Thorp. We hope that Sister Hazel may be able to join us.

Everyone is invited to stay after the service for coffee and a chat.

The readings this morning are:-

Isaiah 60: 1 - 6; 1 Thessalonians 4: 1 - 10; Matthew 2: 1 - 12

THIS WEEK AND NEXT:-

Drop-in with the Post Office will be held on Monday afternoon, 5th January at the Parish Hall.

High Ash would welcome anyone who would like to attend their monthly **Prayer Meeting** this Friday 10th January at 2.45 - 3.15pm.

The Thursday Group will next meet on **15th January** for their annual Lunch at The Wheatsheaf, Bow Brickhill, 12.00 for 12.30 pm. Thereafter the Thursday Group will meet for a cup of tea and a chat on a fortnightly basis at 30 Pound Hill. Enquiries to Jan Simpson (Tel: 261698).

NEWS & EVENTS:-

THE CD RECORDING OF THE BENEFICE CHOIR

Well done to Jerry and the Benefice Choir for the wonderful recording of their CD. If you haven't yet purchased a copy there may still be some available - contact Jerry Breslin (TEL: 01908 582952 or jerrybreslin@hotmail.com).

CHRISTMAS SERVICES & EVENTS:

The Christmas Services:-

Thank you to all those who helped with the preparation or took part in the services - the organists, choir, bell ringers, readers, and those who decorated the church so beautifully. All three services were very well attended. The Village Nativity was very successful - starting at the bottom of Pound Hill the large crowd, many dressed in nativity attire, sang their way to a short service in the church where the Nativity Scene was set. Many thanks go to the children

for their participation, with the readings and the prayers. There was as usual standing room only for the traditional Christmas Eve Carol Service – thanks to the choir for their wonderful singing and to all the readers. On Christmas morning we celebrated the birth of Christ in our special Christmas Day Holy Communion Service.

The Christmas Fundraising Events:-

The Christmas Fair was highly successful. With money received after the event the total raised has now reached **£1941.10**.

Carol Singing around the village raised **£368** towards general church funds.

Our Christmas Charity Appeal was for **the Christian Aid DEC Ebola Crisis Appeal**, a joint appeal by the Disaster Emergency Committee to support the fight against the spread of Ebola and to provide medical support to those communities in need of our help. A total of **£660** has been raised, including £590 from the Charity Songs of Praise, plus proceeds from the Christmas Card Tree.

Sponsor a Light in aid of church funds has raised **£105**. Thank you to Emily Hudson for transcribing the dedications into the Commemoration Book. Thanks also to Michael and Julia Turner for providing the tree and to Stephen Agambar for erecting it and setting up the outdoor lights.

2015 DATES AND EVENTS

A variety of events has been planned for 2015. If you haven't already done so, please pick up a flyer from the bookcase giving all the details. Further information will be circulated in due course.

The first of the events is the **Snowdrop Walks** – please make a note of the dates (**15th & 22nd February**) and spread the word!

SERVICES NEXT SUNDAY, 11th JANUARY:

There will be a service of Holy Communion (Common Worship) at 9.00am in Great Brickhill, led by Reverend Robert Wright.

Other Services across the Benefice:-

Bow Brickhill:- Family Service, 11am

Little Brickhill:- No Service

Stoke Hammond:- Covenant Service, 11am at Methodist Church

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To contact the Rector by e-mail: rector@brickhillschurches.org.uk

The address of the Benefice website: www.brickhillschurches.org.uk