

The Church of St Mary the Virgin, Great Brickhill

SUNDAY 22nd FEBRUARY 2015:- The First Sunday of Lent

Welcome to our Family Service this morning, led by the Rector. Thank you to Andrew and Margretta for playing the music to accompany some of our songs. The service will be a little shorter than normal due to the preparations for this afternoon's Snowdrop Walk. There will not be coffee after the service today – there will be plenty of time for a chat this afternoon!

The reading this morning is:- **Mark 1: 9 - 15**

SNOWDROP WALKS, THIS AFTERNOON & NEXT SUNDAY:

The second Snowdrop Walk is this afternoon from 2.00 - 4.00pm. Even if you came last week, do bring friends and family to enjoy a walk among the snowdrops, returning to the church for homemade cakes and teas. Last week's Snowdrop Walk raised an amazing **£728 plus gift aid**. Well done to all concerned and grateful thanks to our hosts David and Sally Duncombe.

THIS WEEK AND NEXT:-

The Happy Cup Coffee Club, a child-friendly weekly drop-in coffee morning, especially welcoming parents and carers of young children is held **every Monday** in the church, **from 9.15am to 11.15am**. **All welcome** – not obligatory to bring a child with you!

Drop-in with the Post Office will be held on Monday afternoon, 23rd February at the Parish Hall.

The Thursday Group will resume after Easter.

THE LENT GROUPS will start this coming week. The successful evening **"Bible Course"** held last year is being repeated, on Thursday afternoons. There will also be a Lent group meeting on some Wednesday evenings through Lent.

Please see the pink Lent/Easter flyer available on the bookcase for details. The details for this week are:

- **Wednesday, 25th February** the Bible Group will meet at Green Farm, Stoke Lane, 8.00 - 9.30pm. All are welcome.
- **Thursday, 26th February at 1.45pm** the first session of "The Bible Course". This first session is an overview – all welcome. Please note there is a **change in venue** – it will now be held at **Furze Hill, Ivy Lane**.

NEWS & EVENTS:-

COFFEE & CAKES on Saturday 7th February:

Invitations were sent to over 80 people who help with the various church rotas. A convivial time was had by all present. The Rector took the opportunity to thank the 50 plus people attending for the time they contribute to help run St Mary's, Great Brickhill.

GREAT BRICKHILL CHRISTMAS BOOK:

David Marlow has produced a wonderful **book of over 50 photographs** taken during the Christmas period. **The hard back book is on view on the small table to the left as you enter the church.** In recognition of the time that David has spent compiling the book, we would welcome **donations**, a suggested minimum of £5. If you send your e-mail address with your donation a **PDF version of the book** will be sent to you. Donations (gift aid envelopes can be used if appropriate) to Phillipa Cook – Green Farm, Stoke Lane.

WORKING PARTY FOR THE CHURCHYARD:

A huge thank you to David Duncombe who did sterling work last week tidying up the churchyard at the rear. As David has done all the strimming of the long grass and taken out the hedge along the roadside, there has been a re-think about the working parties that were planned for March. There will now be a working party on **just one Saturday, 21st March** starting at 10.00am, with the following Saturday a reserve date in case of bad weather. Anyone who is able to help will be most welcome.

SERVICES NEXT SUNDAY, 1st MARCH:

There will be a said Holy Communion (BCP) Service at 11.00am in Great Brickhill, led by the Revd. Peter Green.

Other Services across the Benefice:-

Bow Brickhill:- Mattins at 11.00am

Little Brickhill:- Holy Communion at 9.00am

Stoke Hammond:- Family Service at 11.00am

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