

The Church of St Mary the Virgin, Great Brickhill

SUNDAY 17th JANUARY 2016:- Second Sunday of Epiphany

Welcome to our service of Morning Worship led by Jeremy. Thank you to Jerry for playing the organ for us this morning. Everyone is invited to stay after the service for coffee and a chat.

The readings this morning are:- **Isaiah 62: 1 - 5; John 2: 1 - 11**

THIS WEEK AND NEXT:-

The Happy Cup Coffee Club, the child-friendly weekly drop-in coffee morning, especially welcoming parents and carers of young children is held **every Monday morning during term time 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, 18th January at the Parish Hall.

Thursday Group - The next fortnightly meeting will be held on **Thursday 28th January at 30 Pound Hill** – meet at 2.30pm for a cup of tea and a chat. **All are welcome to attend.**

NEWS & EVENTS:-

CHRISTMAS CHARITY:

Our Christmas Charity Appeal was for L & D – NICU, the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) of Luton & Dunstable Hospital where Phoebe Read spent 177 days. A total of **£497** has been raised, including £297 from the Charity Songs of Praise. A note of thanks has been received from Jennifer and Stuart Read thanking all at St. Mary's for their generosity in the wonderful amount collected for the charity, and for welcoming Phoebe and all the family into the community.

LENT GROUPS:

The Lent groups will start the week beginning 15th February. There will be a Benefice Course (**The Psalms – 'Prayers for Today's Church'**) held on either Wednesday or Thursday evenings across the Benefice. For those who wish to go to a day-time course there is the opportunity to go to **Stoke Hammond on Tuesday afternoons**. Full details will be available in a flyer next week.

NEWSPAPER COLLECTION:

Thank you to those who met at Rectory Farm early last Saturday morning to transfer the load of newspapers from the containers onto the lorry. News of the amount raised from the load will be notified shortly.

GIFT AID ENVELOPES:

The formal wording for the Gift Aid declaration has changed. If anyone has any of the old version of the envelopes could they please return them to the church so that they can be used as soon as possible. If anyone wishes to keep some envelopes at home then do please take away some of the new version. (The wording for the new declaration is above the "Full Name" line, rather than at the bottom of the envelope as in the old version). It is important that we use up the old envelopes whilst they are still valid.

SNOWDROP WALKS:

The first fundraising event of the year is the annual Snowdrop Walks, which will take place between **2pm and 4pm on Sundays 14th and 21st February**. Please put the date in your diaries and spread the word amongst your friends. Teas will be available in the church – if anyone could please help with baking some cakes, please contact Betty Kinsey (261836).

OTHER 2016 DATES AND EVENTS:

A variety of events has been planned for 2016 - please pick up a flyer available near the entrance to the church giving the details. Further information on each of the events will be circulated in due course.

SERVICES ON SUNDAY, 24th JANUARY:

There will be a **Family Service with Communion here at 11.00am** led by the Rector.

Other Services across the Benefice:-

Bow Brickhill:- Holy Communion at 9.00am

Little Brickhill:- No Service

Stoke Hammond:- Morning Worship at 9.00am

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