

The Church of St Mary the Virgin, Great Brickhill

SUNDAY 8th January 2017:- The Epiphany of the Lord

Welcome to our first service here of the New Year, Holy Communion (Common Worship) led by the Rector, celebrating the Epiphany (hence the crib is still in place even though twelfth night has passed). Thank you to Susan for playing the organ for us and to members of the choir for leading our singing.

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

The readings this morning are:-

Isaiah 60: 1 - 6; Ephesians 3: 1 - 12; Matthew 2: 1 - 12

Thank you to those who met at Rectory Farm early yesterday 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.

THEFT OF LEAD:

Sometime between Christmas and last weekend thieves returned to the church to take away the remaining lead on the south side of the roof. This resulted in rain coming into the church. Our roofing contractor came on Tuesday to do a repair to make the roof water tight. He has also taken down the remaining strips from the north side, before they were taken – you will see that the lead has been brought through the west door and is stored in the centre aisle at the rear of the church. It will be disposed of as soon as possible but until then the church will remain locked except for planned events.

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**. The first session of the new term will be held **tomorrow, 9th January 2017**.

Village Drop-In. Although there is no longer a Post Office, the Drop-In continues on Monday afternoons at the Parish Hall, from 1.20 – 3.20pm, so please call in for a cup of tea, slice of cake and a chat. **Tomorrow is the first Drop-In of the New Year**.

The Thursday Group is taking a break. Further information will be provided when the details are known.

NEWS AND EVENTS:

The Christmas Services:-

On 15th December **High Ash** held their end of term **School Christingle Service** - the church was full to capacity.

Thank you to all those who helped with the preparation or took part in all the services and to those who decorated the church so beautifully. The Family Service / Nativity was very successful – processing from the bottom of Pound Hill to the Church for a short service where the Nativity tableau was set. Many thanks go to the children for their participation, with the readings and the prayers. The church was as usual full for the traditional Christmas Eve Carol Service – thanks to organist, Jerry Breslin, the choir for their wonderful singing and to all the readers. Holy Communion was celebrated on Christmas morning.

The Christmas Fundraising Events:-

The Christmas Coffee Morning was a very enjoyable event raising **£760** for general church funds.

Carol Singing around the village on the Saturday prior to the Christmas weekend raised **£304.47** towards general church funds.

Our Christmas Charity Appeal was for “**SolarAid**” a charity, helping to provide solar lights to transform peoples’ lives in **Africa**. A total of **£251** was raised from the Charity Songs of Praise.

Sponsor a Light in aid of church funds has raised **£85**. Thank you to Emily Hudson for transcribing the dedications into the Commemoration Book. Thanks also to the Turner family for providing and setting up the tree with the outdoor lights.

SERVICES ON SUNDAY, 15th JANUARY:

There will be a service of **Morning Worship at 9.30am in Great Brickhill**, led by Jeremy. Other Services across the Benefice:-

Bow Brickhill:- [Church open, 10.00 - 11.00am]

Little Brickhill:- Family Service at 11.00am

Stoke Hammond:- Holy Communion at 9.00am

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