

St Mary the Virgin Church Great Brickhill



Review of 2024 Christmas Services and Events

December was a very busy, but extremely encouraging month for St Mary's. Thank you to all who gave their support for any, or in some cases for all, of the events and services.

THE VILLAGE NATIVITY

The Village Nativity on Sunday 15th December at the Cricket Club was a great start to our celebration of Christmas. We were very fortunate with the weather. It was lovely to have a nice, sunny day compared to the fog, snow, wind and ice in previous years.



The crowd gathered to see and hear the enactment of the Christmas story

The musicians, Andrew & Margretta, and singer Lewis with narrators John and James



Mary and Joseph with baby Jesus, and the angel Gabriel



The shepherds arrive with their sheep, closely followed by the three Kings





Many thanks to all who took part, or who contributed in any way, and of course to the Cricket Club for hosting the event.

CAROL SINGING ROUND THE VILLAGE:

We had two successful evenings carol singing round the village, covering a lot of ground in the limited time available. There were a good number of singers of all ages - the carols could be heard from quite a distance. Thank you to all the singers and collectors for their help over both weeks.

Some of the singers at the bottom of Rotten Row





Thank you to the Cricket Club for their hospitality at the end of the final evening's singing. And thank you to all who gave so generously. The total raised over both evenings was £712.68 (£20 total more than 2023).

THE CHURCH DECORATED FOR CHRISTMAS:-

The church looked wonderful for our Christmas services, thanks to the skill and dedication of the flower arrangers. We are truly blessed to have such talented ladies who are so generous with their time.

And, thank you to James Hunter for providing the lovely Christmas tree which adorned the entrance to the church.

The stunning flowers above the altar



The display in the porch to welcome visitors



One of the displays in the side aisle windows



The windows
at the rear,
west, end of
the church





The crib on the font

THE CHRISTMAS EVE CAROL SERVICE:-

It was lovely to see the church so full on Christmas Eve for our Carol Service. Looking back at the records, the largest number attending since 2017. The singing by the choir and congregation was fantastic - many thanks to the choir, and especially to Jerry Breslin for all his hard work with the music content of the service.

The service starts in the Lady Chapel and the Rector then lights the Advent candle



A full church, standing room only!



The organist, John Wearmouth, and the male voices in the choir





**The children join
the choir for
the first verse
of “Away in a
Manger”**



**Choirmaster Jerry Breslin and
bass soloist, James Northen**

The candles are lit for the end of the service



The final carol at the end of a lovely service



CHRISTMAS MORNING HOLY COMMUNION:-

The Holy Communion service on Christmas Day was well attended, and the singing was led by the choir



The altar prepared for Holy Communion



The choir lead the singing of the carols

The choir sing “We wish you a Happy Christmas” at the end of the service



THE ADVENT WINDOWS:-

The first Advent Window was lit on Sunday 1st December and a new window was lit every day until the final one at the church on Christmas Eve. Together they created a lovely walk around the village over the festive season.

Thanks to Claire Pincott for again co-ordinating the windows.

The first of the Advent windows lit on 1st December





Window Number 8



**The Cricket Club
approach and
window
number 15**





The final window lit at the church on Christmas Eve



**AND WE NOW LOOK FORWARD TO
ANOTHER GOOD YEAR IN 2025**