

The Church of St Mary the Virgin, Great Brickhill

SUNDAY 10th DECEMBER 2023: Second Sunday of Advent

Welcome to our Advent Family Sunday, which will be led by the Rector. It will be slightly different from our usual Family Services as throughout the service we will be exploring the meaning of the Advent wreath and candles. Our music will be provided by both Jerry on the organ and Andrew & Margretta on the piano & guitar. Sophia will be leading our singing with a mixture of well-known traditional Advent hymns and some more modern worship songs.

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

There will be four Bible readings this morning:-

Exodus 3: 1-6a; Isaiah 11: 1-4a; Mark 1: 4-8; Luke 1: 26-33, 38

The collection plate will be passed round during the last hymn. Please use the Gift Aid envelopes provided if you are able to. If you prefer to give your collection via our **debit/credit card device**, **please see Phillipa after the service.**

CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING:

Thank you again to all who helped with the Christmas Coffee Morning. The total raised, including some late receipts, is £1,030.

THE SILENT AUCTION for the painting:

Roger Blofeld was successful in the silent bidding for the painting. Thank you to Anne and Gill for donating the painting, to David for framing it and to Roger for his generous bid. The proceeds are being shared with Willen Hospice.

CAROL SINGING AROUND THE VILLAGE:

This year Carol Singing around the village in aid of general Church funds will take place on two evenings, weather permitting, on:-

- **Thursday, 14th December, 5.30 - 7.30pm** (meet at Holts Green)

- **Monday, 18th December, 5.30 – 7.30pm** (meet at the church)

It would be most helpful if you could please have CASH ready for when the collector calls. Anyone who would like to sing, or help with the collection, will be most welcome. Carol folders will be provided, just remember to wrap up warm and bring a torch.

CAROLS ON THE GREEN, STOKE HAMMOND:

Carol singing on the Village Green at Stoke Hammond at **5.00pm on Friday 22nd December**. Music will accompany the singing and song sheets will be provided. Mulled wine or soft drinks and mince pies,

free of charge, or donations. There will be some lighting, but take a torch and wrap up warm if the forecast is for cold weather.

ADVENT WINDOWS:

With thanks to Claire Pincott, once again there will be a trail of Advent windows in the village. The windows will be lit up one by one, ending at the Church on Christmas Eve. The windows will last until the end of December. Together they will create a lovely walk around the village over the festive season. Copies of the map of the windows with dates that they will be lit, are available on the bookcase.

"PATHWAYS" MAGAZINE:

Pathways is the magazine for the Diocese of Oxford. The Winter 2023/4 edition has just been published - a copy can be downloaded from the Oxford Diocese website:- <https://www.oxford.anglican.org/>

FOOD BOX:

Demand for produce from the Food Box has escalated. If anyone would like to contribute to the stocked goods, we would be very grateful. All contributions can be placed inside the box or next to it. The main requirements at the moment are:

Tea, coffee, long life milk, cereal, tinned meals, pasta sauce, soup, baked beans, tinned fruit, custard. There is a full list of suggestions inside the box lid. Please note that no more pasta is required.

If you know of anyone who would benefit from this initiative, please pass this information on. For anyone in real need, there is also information near the Food Box on some local Food Larders, held in various locations on different days in Milton Keynes.

SERVICES IN THE NEXT TWO WEEKS:

THE VILLAGE NATIVITY, NEXT SUNDAY 17th DECEMBER:

The Village Nativity is being held next Sunday at the **Cricket Club** at **11am**. Come and see an enactment of the Nativity Story with carols and readings - Mary and Joseph in the stable with the shepherds and the kings. Please pass on the details to family and friends.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES IN GREAT BRICKHILL:

Christmas Eve:- 17.00 Nine Lessons and Carols

Christmas Day:- 11.00 Holy Communion

Julia Turner – Warden (07714 028785)

juliaturner.it@icloud.com

Phillipa Cook – Secretary (01525 261521)

pjcook6@gmail.com

To contact the Rector, Revd John Waller:

rector@brickhillschurches.org.uk

The address of the Benefice website:

www.brickhillschurches.org.uk