

# **The Church of St Mary the Virgin, Great Brickhill**

## **SUNDAY 1st JANUARY 2023: 2nd SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS**

The Rector is having a few days off but we are delighted to welcome back Revd Steve Barnes to take our service today. This morning's service is the monthly Benefice Holy Communion. There are no other services in the Benefice today and so we welcome friends from all four parishes. Thank you to Jerry for playing the organ for us and we hope that there will be a small choir.

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

The readings for this morning are:- Isaiah 63: 7-9; Matthew 2: 13-23

**Holy Communion is now being administered at the altar rail.** All special measures brought in for Covid have now been relaxed.

**The collection plate will be passed** round during the offertory 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 FLOWERS:**

We would like to thank those who have given donations to cover the cost of the floral decorations which you can see around the church. Some of the windows have a card with a dedication inscribed in memory of an event or loved one.

### **THE CHRISTMAS SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES:**

Thank you to all who took part in **the Nativity** and to our hosts the Cricket Club. The snow made it very scenic and we were very lucky that the rain held off until the end. It was another fantastic Nativity, a wonderful opportunity for us to pass on the real meaning and message of Christmas.

**High Ash School:-** we were pleased that the snow and ice had disappeared in time for the Carol Service for the older pupils to go ahead in the church. It was lovely to hear the children sing so many traditional carols. We were given Christmas cards produced by the pupils for us to distribute to elderly residents in the three villages served by the school - Great Brickhill, Little Brickhill and Stoke Hammond.

A huge thank to all who joined in the **carol singing around the village**. The ten hardy souls who braved the cold for the first outing did an amazing job both staying upright on the ice and managing to

cover most of the intended route. The second evening saw a great turnout, maybe the best ever - 20 in all. The collectors did a wonderful job and they reported back the comments they received saying how lovely the carol singing was. The two evenings raised £724.30.

A big thank you to all who helped prepare the church for, or participated in, **the Christmas services**. The church looked splendid and there was a lovely atmosphere at both services. It was wonderful after the last couple of years, to see a full church on Christmas Eve for the Nine Lessons and Carols. The choir sang beautifully and it was good to also have a choir on Christmas Day. Thank you to Jerry for all your hard work preparing for these services.

**The Advent Windows** were again splendid, by Christmas Eve 24 festive windows lit up around the village. Thank you to all who took part with this festive activity.

### **RECTOR'S BIBLE STUDY AT THE RECTORY:**

The date of the next Bible Study at The Rectory is:- Thursday 12th January at 8.00pm. All are welcome to come and discuss the passages from the bible from one of our forthcoming services.

### **MONDAY MORNING COFFEE CLUB:**

The Coffee Club will start up again on **Monday 9th January** - it is held every Monday during term time from 9.30am – 11.30am. All are welcome to call in to the church for a coffee and a chat.

### **FOOD BOX:**

Thank you to those who have been leaving items in the Food Box. The demand for goods continues. If anyone would like to leave suitable items, please place them either in or close to the box in the church porch. All items must be non-perishable and well in-date. Below is a list of suggested items:- Tea, coffee, long-life milk, cereal, rice, pasta, pasta sauce, tins vegetables, tins soup, tins meat/chicken/tuna, long-life tinned meals.

### **SERVICES IN THE BENEFICE NEXT WEEK:**

#### **Sunday 8th January:-**

- 9.30am Holy Communion (Little Brickhill)
- 10.00 Morning Worship (Great Brickhill)
- 11.00 Family Service & Baptism (Stoke Hammond)

*Julia Turner – Warden (07714 028785)*

[juliaturner.jt@icloud.com](mailto:juliaturner.jt@icloud.com)

*Phillipa Cook – Secretary (01525 261521)*

[picook6@gmail.com](mailto:picook6@gmail.com)

**To contact the Rector, Revd John Waller:**

[rector@brickhillschurches.org.uk](mailto:rector@brickhillschurches.org.uk)

**The address of the Benefice website:**

[www.brickhillschurches.org.uk](http://www.brickhillschurches.org.uk)