

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

## **SUNDAY 3rd DECEMBER 2023: Advent Sunday**

Welcome to our service of Holy Communion, which will be led by the Rector. Thank you to Jerry for playing the organ for us this morning.

The readings for this morning are:-

Isaiah 64: 1-9; 1 Corinthians 1: 3-9; Mark 13: 24 - 37

**The collection plate will be passed** round during the third/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 COFFEE MORNING:**

Thank you to all who helped and contributed towards last week's Christmas Coffee Morning. Although there were less people there than last year, it was a lovely occasion with a great atmosphere, and everyone appeared to be having a good time catching up with friends. The total raised, including some late receipts, is **£1,024** which is just a little bit less than last year. Whilst the primary aim of an event such as this is to raise money for the running costs of the church, it is just as important for us to welcome people into the church and for them to have an enjoyable, relaxed time.

## **THE SILENT AUCTION for the painting by local artists:**

There is still a week to go for bids, which will be accepted until mid-day next **Saturday 9th December**. All proceeds to Willen Hospice and St Mary's Church Great Brickhill. The flyer with a photo of the painting and the Bid Form is on display in the refreshment area. Private viewing of the painting can be arranged via 07565 830622.

## **THE REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY SERVICE:**

The Remembrance Sunday Service was as usual well attended. Thank you to David Marlow for coordinating the arrangements and to all those who contributed.

**The Poppy Appeal:** The collection at the service was £330.50 and has been included in the total from Great Brickhill which raised £1,518.70 for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. This money will help fund the vital work undertaken by the RBL providing lifelong support to serving and ex-serving members of our Armed Force and their families.

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

There is no Bible Study this month. The next one will be held on Thursday 11th January.

## **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, starting last Friday 1st December, and 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.

## **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)

Anyone who would like to sing, or help collect, will be most welcome.

## **SERVICES IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS:**

### **NEXT SUNDAY, 10th DECEMBER:-**

We are having a special Advent Family Service here at 10am. Do come and join us, a great way to prepare for the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ at Christmas. All ages welcome, with modern and traditional songs for Advent.

Other services in the Benefice:- Stoke Hammond - 4pm Carol Service

### **THE VILLAGE NATIVITY, SUNDAY 17th DECEMBER:**

The Village Nativity is being held on Sunday 17th December 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 in Bethlehem with the shepherds and the kings. Please pass on the details to family and friends - do encourage them to come along.

## **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](mailto:juliaturner.it@icloud.com)

*Phillipa Cook – Secretary (01525 261521)*

[pjcook6@gmail.com](mailto:pjcook6@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)