

The Church of St Mary the Virgin, Great Brickhill

SUNDAY 4th DECEMBER 2022: SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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

The readings this morning are:-

Isaiah 11: 1-10; Romans 15: 4-13; Matthew 3: 1-12

A reminder that Holy Communion is now being administered at the altar rail. This means that all special measures brought in for Covid have 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**.

YESTERDAY'S CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING:

Thank you to all who helped and contributed to the Christmas Coffee morning. It was a lovely occasion with a great atmosphere and everyone appeared to be having a wonderful time catching up with friends. The total raised is £1,009.95 compared to £1,264.39 in 2021, a bit less than last year but it may well be that we have some late donations still to come in. Whilst the primary aim of an event such as this is to raise money for the running costs of the church, which have understandably increased this year, it is just as important for us to welcome people into the church and for them to have an enjoyable time. A full analysis of the results can be found in the porch.

Winners of the raffles etc:

Christmas Cake Raffle:- Stephen Agambar

Hamper Raffle:- Sophia Walmsley

Guess the Number of Sweets:- Sue Loveday

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, 15th December , 5.30 - 7.30pm (meet at Holts Green)

- Monday, 19th December , 5.30 – 7.30pm (meet at the church)

Anyone who would like to sing, or help with the collection, will be most welcome - remember to wrap up warm and bring a torch. It would be helpful if those interested could please let Phillipa know.

ADVENT WINDOWS:

The first Advent Window was lit up on Thursday and a new window will be lit every day until the final one at the church on Christmas Eve. They will light up the village until 31st December. Copies of the map showing the dates from which each window will be lit are available in the church porch and on the bookcase.

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL, STOKE HAMMOND:

The annual Christmas tree festival at St Luke's, Stoke Hammond is next weekend:-

Saturday 10th December, 10.45am – 2.30pm

Sunday 11th December, 11am – 2.30pm.

MONDAY MORNING COFFEE CLUB:

The Coffee Club is held every Monday during term time from 9.30am – 11.30am. All are welcome, call in to the church for a coffee and a chat. **Monday 19th December** will be last Coffee Club of the year, resuming again after the school holidays on **Monday 9th January**.

FOOD BOX:

Thank you to those who have been leaving items in the Food Box. The demand for goods has increased in recent weeks. 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 DECEMBER:

Next Sunday, 11th December:

Here in Great Brickhill - 10am Holy Communion (1662 BCP)

At Stoke Hammond - 4pm Carol Service

The following Sunday, 18th December, the Village Nativity is being held 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. Do encourage family and friends to come along.

Other December services in Great Brickhill:

Christmas Eve 17.00 Nine Lessons and Carols

Christmas Day 11.00 Christmas Holy Communion

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