

The Church of St Mary the Virgin, Great Brickhill

SUNDAY 7th JANUARY 2024: Celebrating the Epiphany

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 60: 1-6; Ephesians 3: 1-12; Matthew 2: 1-12

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**.

RECTOR'S BIBLE STUDY AT THE RECTORY:

The next Bible Study at The Rectory is this Thursday 11th January at 8.00pm. All are welcome to come and discuss the passages from the bible from one of our forthcoming services. No prior knowledge of the text is required.

"INTRODUCTION TO CHRISTIANITY", STOKE HAMMOND:

To start 2024 in a positive way, a basic "Introduction to Christianity" course is being held at the Community Centre in Stoke Hammond at 6pm on six Tuesday evenings from 9th January. The course is open to anyone who would like to find out what it means to follow Jesus. Each session lasts 2 hours including a hot meal to start with. For more details, download the flyer from the front Home page of the website, or contact the Stoke Hammond Wardens:-

Diane Webber 01525 270409 or Harry Davies 07773 065271

THE CHRISTMAS SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES:

The Nativity was a wonderful start to Christmas week. We were so lucky with the weather - thick mist in 2021 and snow last year, but just a bit of wind to contend with this time. Many thanks to all who took part or who contributed in any way, and to the Cricket Club for again hosting the event.

High Ash School: we were delighted to welcome Foundation and Key Stage 1 pupils in the church for the Christingle service and the older Key Stage 2 children for the Carol Service. It was apparent how hard the children had worked in preparing for the services.

Carol singing round the village took place on two evenings and the weather was thankfully mild and dry on both days. Many thanks to the singers and collectors, the Cricket Club for their hospitality and those who gave to the collection so generously - we raised £692.69.

The Advent Windows were again splendid, by Christmas Eve 24 windows lit up around the village. Thank you to Claire Pincott for organizing the windows and all who took part in this festive activity.

The Christmas services. The church looked splendid on Christmas Eve for the Nine Lessons and Carols, with a full church and the music, choir, soloists and readers excelled. And then the choir were in fine form again for the Christmas Day Holy Communion service.

Thank you to Jerry for masterminding the choir events and a huge thank you to all who have been involved in any or, in some cases, all of the activities and services over the past month.

NEW YEAR'S EVE RAFFLE:

Huge thanks to Denise Armour for organising the raffle that was drawn on New Year's Eve at the Cricket Club, and for donating the first prize. The raffle made £415 towards the repairs to the church roof. Also, thanks to Lee and Karen Roff for providing other prizes and promoting the sale of tickets at the Cricket Club.

MONDAY MORNING COFFEE CLUB:

The Coffee Club will start again after the school holidays this Monday 8th January. It is held every Monday in the church during term time from 9.30am – 11.30am. All are welcome.

SERVICES IN THE NEXT TWO WEEKS:

Next Sunday, 14th January, the service here is:- 10am Morning Worship. This will be a lay led service celebrating the Baptism of Christ with modern worship songs, suitable for all ages.

Also in the Benefice:- 11.00 (Stoke Hammond) Family Service.

On Sunday, 21st January – Family Service with Baptism here when we will be welcoming friends and family of James Hankins-Lewis.

Other services in the Benefice:-

9.30 (Bow Brickhill) Holy Communion

9.30 (Stoke Hammond) Café Church

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The address of the Benefice website:

www.brickhillschurches.org.uk