

The Church of St Mary the Virgin, Great Brickhill

Sunday 2nd December – Advent Sunday.

Welcome to everyone for our **Prayer Book Service of Holy Communion**, led this morning by the Rector.

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

The readings this morning are:

Jeremiah 33 vs. 14 – 16;

1 Thessalonians 3 vs. 9 – end;

Luke 21 vs. 25 – 36.

THIS AFTERNOON

The Annual Advent Carol Service will be held at Bow Brickhill at 4pm this afternoon. Everyone is very welcome to join in this joyful service but please bring a torch and suitable warm clothes to get you from the car park in the woods to the church door.

CHRISTMAS AT ST MARY'S CHURCH, GREAT BRICKHILL

Everyone is warmly invited to join us at our special services over Christmas. Please invite your friends, neighbours and guests.

In particular, we would especially like to invite everyone to a **Special Family Worship on Sunday 23rd December at 11am.** This service is especially for children and adults who are young at heart and we will have food and refreshments, carols and story telling and there will be a chance to help to build the crib for Baby Jesus. Oh! I nearly forgot, the Shepherds are coming with their sheep. If you would like to dress up that would be really great, but you don't have to. The church now has a toilet, although I am not sure whether the sheep know how to use it!

More formal services will be held on **Sunday, 9th December at 6pm when we will have a Charity Evensong for Willen Hospice.** The Hospice is our chosen charity for Christmas 2012.

On Christmas Eve there will be a Service of Carols and Readings by Candlelight at 5pm. Please come and join a 'full to bursting' church for some rousing carol singing.

On Christmas Day there will be a celebration of Holy Communion at 11am

If you live in Great Brickhill and are at home between **4 and 7pm on Saturday 15th December** you may well hear our choir **carol singing around the village**. Listen out for us and a donation for the church would be appreciated.

THIS WEEK:

DROP-IN will be held in the Parish Hall **tomorrow, Monday 3rd December**. The Post Office and refreshments will be available as usual.

THURSDAY GROUP will hold its Christmas tea at Brandlings, Pound Hill at 2.30 pm on **Thursday 6th December**. Everyone is welcome. Please could you bring your deposit of £5 with you, if you are going to the **Thursday Group New Year Lunch on Thursday 10th January**.

NEWS

Carol Singing around the Village

This year Carol Singing will take place **between 4pm and 7pm on Saturday 15th December**. All are very welcome to come and sing or help with the collection, but remember to wrap up warmly and bring a torch. The Carol Singing Band will meet up at The Three Trees outside the Old Red Lion at **3.50pm**. For more details contact Phillipa on 261521 or neilcook@aol.com.

The Church Christmas Fair was held last weekend in the Parish Hall. It was a really happy and well-supported event and very many of the village residents came to meet friends and buy some unique Christmas presents. Our thanks go to all the many helpers on the day, and especially to Helle and Jeremy, Val and to Gill and Steve Wilson. The weather was appalling but the loyal support helped to raise in excess of £1569 for the church funds to help with the day-to-day costs of running the church and keeping it warm and welcoming for everyone. Oh! And I forgot to thank Father Christmas who came to wish us all a Merry Christmas.

THE CHURCH TEMPORARY TOILET is ready for your use. It is a chemical toilet and, as such, please be sparing in your use of toilet paper and do not dispose of paper towels etc. because the toilet is not designed to manage such waste.

The toilet is brand new and clean and comfortable so you should feel happy to use it. The toilet will be unlocked before, during and after services. At other times the key to unlock it may be found hanging on the coat pegs in the vestry. The key has a large label so you should be able to find it. The toilet is located close to the North wall of the church next to the bins. It has a grey cubicle. We hope to install a light in due course, plus other homely touches!

The Newspaper Collection

The collection in October weighed 9.4 tonnes and raised £566.40. The total raised by the recycling of waste paper and cardboard during the whole of 2012 reached the magnificent sum of £931. Thank you to everyone who has helped by taking their waste paper and card to Lower Rectory Farm and especially to Frank Kinsey for organizing regular house collections and for coordinating this money raising initiative.

NEXT SUNDAY, 9th December THE ANNUAL CHARITY EVENSONG will be held here in Great Brickhill at 6pm. This year Willen Hospice will be the beneficiary of your donations, both at the Evensong and also from the donations given with the Christmas Card Tree. Please encourage your friends and neighbours to come. Sung Evensong (without a sermon), will be followed by a short organ recital and the opportunity for the church community to say thank you to the choir, organists and bell ringers who enhance our worship throughout the year. We will also hear a short talk given by Revd. Steve Barnes, the Chaplain at Willen, who will reflect his year at the Hospice. Wine and refreshments will be served during the evening. Please come.

There will be Morning Worship at 9.30am, led by Jeremy

Other Benefice Services on the 9th December:

- Bow Brickhill:- Christingle in the School at 11.00am.
- Little Brickhill:- Morning Worship at 11.00am.
- Stoke Hammond:- Carol Service at 4.00pm.

Christine Agambar (01525 261527) christine.agambar@btinternet.com

To contact the Rector by e-mail: rector@brickhillschurches.org.uk

The address of the benefice website is: www.brickhillschurches.org.uk