

The Church of St Mary the Virgin, Great Brickhill

Sunday 25th November - The Sunday before Advent.

Welcome to everyone for our **Family Service with Baptisms**, led this morning by the Rector and during which we will celebrate the baptism of Emily and Sophie Keeler. We welcome their parents, John and Rachel and their friends and family to the service.

Thank you, Tim, for playing for our singing this morning.

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

The reading this morning is: **John 18vs 33b to 37.**

THIS WEEK:

DROP-IN will be held in the Parish Hall **tomorrow, Monday 26th November.** The Post Office and refreshments will be available as usual.

House Communion will be on Wednesday 28th November at 10.30am at Knightleys, Heath Road. Everyone is very welcome. Please contact Betty on 261836 if you need to know more about our regular House Communion Services.

NEXT SUNDAY the Annual Advent Carol Service will be held at Bow Brickhill at 4pm. 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.

NEWS

The Church Christmas Fair was held yesterday 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 ANNUAL CHARITY EVENSONG will be held this year on Sunday, December 9th 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), 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.

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. Oh! 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.

THE SHOEBOX CHRISTMAS APPEAL

Anne has asked me to pass on her grateful thanks to everyone who participated in this appeal and gave so generously. This enabled the village to send 56 shoeboxes to Romania. They joined nearly 400 others at our collecting point at Woughton-on-the-Green.

Thank you to the Flower Arrangers.

This Sunday marks the end of the Church Flower Arrangers' year, because next Sunday is the beginning of Advent, the time when the church prepares for the celebrations of Christ's birth and the church is left unadorned. Julia asked me to thank all those who regularly provide and arrange the lovely flowers on both altars and for the window displays to mark the special days on the Church calendar throughout the year.

NEXT SUNDAY, 2nd December

There will be a Prayer Book Holy Communion Service at Great Brickhill at 11am, led by the Rector.

Other Benefice Services on the 2nd December:

- Bow Brickhill:- Advent Carol Service at 4 pm.
- Little Brickhill:- There will be no service this Sunday.
- Stoke Hammond:- Christingle Service at 3.30pm.

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

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