

The Church of St Mary the Virgin, Great Brickhill

SUNDAY 5th JANUARY:- The First Sunday of Epiphany

Welcome to our Prayer Book Service of Holy Communion to celebrate the Epiphany, led by Father Colin. Everyone is invited to stay after the service for refreshments and a chat.

The readings this morning are:-

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

THIS WEEK AND NEXT:

Drop-in with the Post Office will be held, as usual on Monday afternoon, 6th January, at the Parish Hall.

There will be no more **Midweek Holy Communion** Services until further notice.

The New Year Lunch for **The Thursday Group** is being held on **Thursday 16th January**. Thereafter the Thursday Group will meet for a cup of tea and a chat on a fortnightly basis at 30 Pound Hill.

High Ash would welcome anyone who would like to attend their monthly **Prayer Meeting** this Friday, 10th January at 2.45pm.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES:

Thank you to all who helped with the Christmas Services – those who helped with the preparation or took part in the services, the organists, choir, bell ringers, readers, and particularly those who decorated the church so beautifully. All three services were very well attended. The Crib Service proved popular again with young families and the weather was dry for the Nativity tableau to be outside at the end of the service. There was as usual standing room only for the traditional Christmas Eve Carol Service, with some wonderful singing by the choir. On Christmas morning we celebrated the birth of Christ in our special Christmas Day Holy Communion Service.

The extremely stormy weather resulted in water coming in through the roof in several places. Thank you to those who did a splendid job in mopping up the water so that the services could go ahead.

CHRISTMAS CHARITY DONATIONS:

The **Annual Charity Evensong** on 8th December and the donations from the Christmas Card Tree were in aid of our chosen Christmas charity, **The Lodge Trust** which provides a Christian provision in Rutland for adults with learning difficulties. Edward and Mary Maley's daughter Sarah-Lily is one of the 29 residents. Edward and Mary are delighted by the total of **£553** raised for The Lodge Trust. They would like to thank everyone for the interest they showed in Sarah-Lily's home and for their generosity.

CAROL SINGING round the village took place on Saturday 14th December. Thank you to the singers and collectors. The fantastic sum of **£327** was collected towards church funds,not quite as good as the amount raised last year but apparently the sound was better!.

SPONSOR A LIGHT in aid of the restoration of the church organ has raised **£60**. Thank you to Emily Hudson for transcribing the dedications into the Commemoration Book. Thank you to Michael and Julia Turner for providing the tree for the entrance to the church, and to Steve Agambar for assembling it, and setting up the lights on the tree and along the path.

SERVICES NEXT SUNDAY, 12th JANUARY:

There will be Morning Worship, led by Phillipa at 9.30am. There will NOT be a service of Evensong next Sunday.

Other Services across the Benefice:

Bow Brickhill:- 11am Family Service

Little Brickhill:- No Service

Stoke Hammond:- 9.30am Holy Communion

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

Valerie Beardmore-Baldwin (01525 261592) vafutcher@hotmail.com

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

The address of the Benefice website: www.brickhillschurches.org.uk