

The Church of St Mary the Virgin, Great Brickhill

SUNDAY 7th DECEMBER:- the Second Sunday of Advent

Welcome to our Prayer Book Service of Holy Communion this morning led by the Rector. Sister Hazel will also be with us, as will Father Colin who will be saying his farewell to us this morning as he is returning to Australia later this month. We would like to say a big thank you to him for all the services he has led for us over many years – we wish him a safe journey back to his homeland.

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

The readings this morning are:-

Isaiah 40: 1 - 11; 2 Peter 3: 8 - 15a; Mark 1: 1 – 8

THIS WEEK AND NEXT:-

Drop-in with the Post Office will be held on Monday afternoon, 8th December at the Parish Hall.

High Ash. The monthly High Ash Prayer Meeting will take place this Friday 12th, 2.45 - 3.15pm. The end of term Christingle Service will be held here in church on Thursday 18th December at 1.30pm. You are welcome to join them at both of these!

Carol Singing round the village next Saturday, 13th December from 4 - 7pm, in aid of general running costs of the church. Carol folders will be provided. Wrap up warm, bring a torch and meet at The Three Trees at 3.50pm. Enquiries to Phillipa Cook 261521 or pjcook6@gmail.com.

NEWS & EVENTS:-

CHURCH CHRISTMAS FAIR

The Christmas Fair a couple of weeks ago was very successful. The fantastic sum of **£1865.20 was raised**. Thanks go to all who helped, especially those who spent many hours preparing for the event.

NEWSPAPER COLLECTION

Thank you to all who helped with the newspaper collection on Saturday morning, 29th November. A total of 6.6 tonnes was loaded onto the lorry – this should raise almost £400.

CHRISTMAS CHARITY

Our chosen charity for Christmas this year is **Christian Aid – DEC Ebola Crisis Appeal**, a joint appeal by the Disaster Emergency Committee on behalf of thirteen charities, to support the fight against the spread of Ebola and to provide medical support to those communities in dire need of our help. The collection at last month's **Songs of Praise raised £590**. Our appeal will be open for one more week – please use the Christian Aid envelopes which are available on the bookcase just inside the church and return them to Phillipa Cook (Green Farm) **by Monday 15th December**.

THURSDAY GROUP – will next meet on **15th January** for their **Christmas Lunch at The Wheatsheaf, Bow Brickhill**, 12.00 for 12.30 pm. If you would like to attend please contact Jan Simpson (Tel: 261698) and let her have your £10 non-refundable deposit by **Monday, 15th December**.

A RECORDING OF THE BENEFICE CHOIR

On Monday evening a recording took place in the church of the Benefice Choir singing Mozart, Handel, Bach etc. To place your order for a copy of the CD at £9.99, please contact Jerry Breslin (TEL: 01908 582952 or jerrybreslin@hotmail.com).

REVIEW OF PATTERN OF CHURCH SERVICES

When we introduced the changes to the times and pattern of services across the four churches in the United Benefice we promised we would ask for people's views at the end of the year once the changes had been in place for a few months – and now is the time to seek your views. To be greener and to save money printing, we hope as many people who can will complete a short online survey that will be emailed to people this evening. Paper versions will be available from the bookcase inside the church. The deadline for the survey is Sunday 28th December. If you would like to complete the online survey and have not received the email by tomorrow evening please contact Phillipa (pjcook6@gmail.com).

CHRISTMAS AT ST MARY'S CHURCH, GREAT BRICKHILL:

The Christmas Card Tree. There will be a Christmas Card tree to receive your greetings – a great opportunity to send your Christmas wishes and at the same time to make a donation to our Christmas Charity (details above).

Sponsor a Light - the annual opportunity to sponsor one of the outdoor Christmas lights. Dedication sheets are available just inside the entrance to the church, next to the Commemoration Book into which the dedications will be transcribed. Proceeds towards general church funds.

Everyone is warmly invited to join us at our special services:

- **The Village Nativity at 11am, Sunday 21st December.** Meet at the bus shelter near The Old Red Lion and process to “Bethlehem” (aka the Church) singing carols - do come suitably attired! Or just meet at **the church at 11.30am** for a short service, followed by festive refreshments. All welcome!
- Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols at 5pm on Christmas Eve
- Christmas Day Holy Communion at 11am

SERVICES NEXT SUNDAY, 14th DECEMBER:

There will be a service of Holy Communion (Common Worship) at 9.00am in Great Brickhill, led by the Rector.

Other Services across the Benefice:-

Bow Brickhill:- Christingle Service in the School, 11.00am

Little Brickhill:- No Service

Stoke Hammond:- Carol Service at 4.00pm

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

Valerie Beardmore-Baldwin (01525 237265) vafutcher@hotmail.com

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

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