

The Church of St Mary the Virgin, Great Brickhill

SUNDAY 21st DECEMBER:- the Fourth Sunday of Advent

Welcome to our Village Nativity service led by the Rector. At the time of writing the weather forecast is good and so we do hope that you have enjoyed the procession to the church.

Thank you to Andrew and Margretta for leading our singing and to all those who have helped with the preparation for today's Nativity. Special thanks go to the children for their participation, with the readings and the prayers.

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

We were pleased to host the **High Ash** end of term **School Christingle Service** on **Thursday afternoon**. The church was full, with standing room only.

THIS WEEK AND NEXT:-

Drop-in with the Post Office will be held on Monday afternoons, 22nd and 29th December at the Parish Hall.

NEWS & EVENTS:-

CHURCH CHRISTMAS FAIR

The Christmas Fair last month was very successful. The amount raised has increased to **£1886.10**. 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, which raised **£400**. Three loads have been collected during the year - a total weight of 17.6 tonnes, raising a staggering **£1049**. Thank you to Michael and Julia for providing the container at Lower Rectory Farm and to Frank and Betty for their fortnightly collection of newspapers from around the village.

THURSDAY GROUP

The Thursday Group will next meet on **15th January** for their **Christmas Lunch at The Wheatsheaf, Bow Brickhill**, 12.00 for 12.30 pm. Enquiries to Jan Simpson (Tel: 261698).

CAROL SINGING ROUND THE VILLAGE

Thank you to all those who braved the freezing conditions to join the band of singers and collectors last Saturday evening. A large portion of the village was covered and **£368** was collected towards general church funds.

THE CD RECORDING OF THE BENEFICE CHOIR

The CDs of the Benefice Choir singing Mozart, Handel, Bach etc. are now available. The CDs cost £9.99. To obtain your copy of the CD, please contact Jerry Breslin (TEL: 01908 582952 or jerrybreslin@hotmail.com).

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. A total of **£660** has been collected including **£590** from last month's **Songs of Praise**. For any late donations please use the Christian Aid envelopes which are available on the bookcase just inside the church, and return them to Phillipa Cook (Green Farm).

The Christmas Card Tree is near the vestry door ready 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.

SPONSOR A LIGHT

This is the annual opportunity to sponsor one of the outdoor Christmas lights – thank you to Michael and Julia Turner for providing the tree and to Stephen Agambar for erecting it and setting up the outdoor 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 will go towards general church funds.

2015 DATES AND EVENTS

A variety of events have been planned for 2015. Please pick up a flyer from the bookcase giving all the details. Further information will be circulated in due course.

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**. **Paper versions** are 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 please contact Phillipa Cook (pjcook6@gmail.com).

SERVICES OVER CHRISTMAS AND THE NEXT TWO SUNDAYS

Christmas Eve - Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols at 5pm.

Christmas Day - Holy Communion at 11am, led by the Rector.

Other Christmas Services across the Benefice:

- Bow Brickhill:- Christmas Eve at 11.45pm, Holy Communion
- Stoke Hammond:- Christmas Eve, 11.30pm, Holy Communion
- Little Brickhill:- Christmas Day at 9.30am, Holy Communion

Next Sunday, 28th December there will be a United Benefice Service of Holy Communion at **Stoke Hammond at 11.00am**.

Sunday, 4th January, Epiphany Sunday:- Holy Communion, 11.00am at **Great Brickhill**, led by Revd. Norman Thorp. **Bow Brickhill:-** Mattins, 11.00am; **Little Brickhill:-** Holy Communion, 9.00am; **Stoke Hammond:-** Family Service, 11.00am

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

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