

# **The Church of St Mary the Virgin, Great Brickhill**

**SUNDAY 11th JANUARY 2015:-**

**The first Sunday of Epiphany, celebrating the Birth of Christ**

Welcome to our service of Holy Communion (Common Worship) this morning, and a special welcome to Revd Robert Wright who is with us for the first time today. Thank you to Susan for playing the organ for us and to the choir for leading our singing. Everyone is invited to stay after the service for coffee and a chat.

The readings this morning are:-

**Genesis 1: 1 - 5; Acts 19: 1 - 7; Mark 1: 4 - 11**

The Rector is on leave this weekend – John and Pauline will be attending granddaughter Isabelle's baptism today. The new Christian Community Centre where Tim and Clare now live is being inaugurated at the same service by the Bishop of Birmingham. It will be a day of celebration for them all.

## **THIS WEEK AND NEXT:-**

**Drop-in with the Post Office** will be held on Monday afternoon, 12th January at the Parish Hall.

**Work is required on some trees in the churchyard.** The necessary permissions have been obtained and Michael Bellamy will be doing the work on **Tuesday and Wednesday** this week – the church will remain closed while the work is being carried out.

**The Thursday Group** meet this Thursday for their annual Lunch at The Wheatsheaf, Bow Brickhill, 12.00 for 12.30 pm. Thereafter the Thursday Group will meet for a cup of tea and a chat on a fortnightly basis. Enquiries to Jan Simpson (Tel: 261698).

## **NEWS & EVENTS:-**

### **CHRISTMAS SERVICES & EVENTS:**

#### **The Christmas Services:-**

Thank you to all those who helped with the preparation or took part in the services - the organists, choir, bell ringers, readers, and those who decorated the church so beautifully. All three services were very well attended. The Village Nativity was very successful - starting at the bottom of Pound Hill the large crowd, many dressed in nativity attire, sang their way to a short service in the church

where the Nativity Scene was set. Many thanks go to the children for their participation, with the readings and the prayers. There was as usual standing room only for the traditional Christmas Eve Carol Service – thanks to the choir for their wonderful singing and to all the readers.

### **The Christmas Fundraising Events:-**

**The Christmas Fair** was highly successful. With money received after the event the total raised has now reached **£1941.10**.

**Carol Singing around the village** raised **£368** towards general church funds.

**Our Christmas Charity Appeal was the Christian Aid DEC Ebola Crisis Appeal** to support the fight against the spread of Ebola and to provide medical support. A total of **£660** was raised from the Charity Songs of Praise and the Christmas Card Tree.

**Sponsor a Light** in aid of church funds raised **£105**. Thank you to Emily Hudson for writing the dedications into the Commemoration Book. Thanks also to Michael and Julia Turner for providing the tree and to Stephen Agambar setting up the tree and outdoor lights.

### **THE CD RECORDING OF THE BENEFICE CHOIR**

Well done to Jerry and the Benefice Choir for the recording of their CD. There are a few copies left - to purchase a copy contact Jerry: Tel: 01908 582952 or [jerrybreslin@hotmail.com](mailto:jerrybreslin@hotmail.com).

### **2015 DATES AND EVENTS**

A variety of events has been planned for 2015. If you haven't already done so, please pick up a flyer from the bookcase giving all the details. Further information will be circulated in due course.

The first of the events is the **Snowdrop Walks** – please make a note of the dates (**15th & 22nd February**) and spread the word!

### **SERVICES NEXT SUNDAY, 18th JANUARY:**

**There will be a service of Morning Worship at 11.00am in Great Brickhill, led by Phillipa.**

**Other Services across the Benefice next Sunday:-**

**Bow Brickhill:-** [ Church open, 9.00 - 11.00am ]

**Little Brickhill:-** Family Service at 11.00am

**Stoke Hammond:-** Holy Communion at 9.00am

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