

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

## **SUNDAY 15<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2015:-Second Sunday before Advent**

Welcome to our special service this evening – our Charity Songs of Praise led by the Rector. Everyone is invited to join us after the service for refreshments and a chat.

This is our first event of our Christmas Season. Familiar hymns and readings with an emphasis on children and families have been chosen and the Benefice Choir will be leading the singing with Jerry playing the organ. Jeni Read is here to tell us about this year's Church Christmas charity - L&D NICU.

Our chosen charity is in support of an appeal set up by the parents of Phoebe Read, who was born prematurely at 24 weeks last November. Phoebe spent 177 days in the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) of Luton & Dunstable Hospital. Her parents, Jeni and Stuart who live in Holts Green, are trying to raise money for a house for parents/family to stay at the L&D when babies are in NICU - there is generally very little space for parents to just relax for 5 mins let alone a house for parents to stay when potentially travelling longer distances.

Please consider supporting the appeal by making a donation – specially adapted Gift Aid envelopes are available (**those people who normally use PIN numbers will need to sign these envelopes**). Any cheques are to be paid to "Great Brickhill PCC". Our appeal will be open for a few weeks – anyone who would like to contribute at a later date, please use one of the envelopes which are available on the bookcase just inside the church – please return these and any cash donations to the Wardens or Phillipa Cook (Green Farm) **before 15th December**.

The readings this evening are:-

**Exodus 2: 1-10; Hosea 11: 1-4; Colossians 3: 12-17**

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

**The Happy Cup Coffee Club**, the child-friendly weekly drop-in coffee morning, especially welcoming parents and carers of young children is held **every Monday during term time in the church, from 9.15am to 11.15am. All welcome – not obligatory to bring a child with you!**

**Drop-in with the Post Office** will be held on Monday afternoon, 16th November at the Parish Hall.

**Thursday Group** - The next fortnightly meeting will be held this coming **Thursday 19th November at 30 Pound Hill** – meet at 2.30pm for a cup of tea and a chat. **All are welcome to attend.** The Christmas Lunch will be on Thursday 10th December at The Old Red Lion – all enquiries to Jan Simpson (Tel: 261698).

## **NEWS & EVENTS:**

**“Link To Hope” Charity Shoe Box Appeal** – a wonderful 64 shoeboxes were collected and sent off. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this amazing result. The shoeboxes will go to where the need is greatest at the time... Rosie will pass on any news in this regard as soon as she hears.

**The Church Christmas Fair** is being held in the Parish Hall from 11am to 3pm on **Saturday 28th November**. Please donate any **unwanted scarves** for the Scarf Stall – just leave them in the vestry or give them to one of the Wardens or to any PCC member.

**Whole cakes** are also required for the Cake Stall – please deliver them to the Parish Hall or contact Betty Kinsey – 261836. **Books** also please to the Parish Hall.

**The Christmas cake** is now ready and Janet Pritchard is selling tickets at £1 each (**Tel: 261573**).

**The Remembrance Sunday Service last week.** Thank you to all who helped to make this a very special service. Particular thanks to Edward Maley for co-ordinating the arrangements for the service, and to Dave and Philip Howe for working very hard in the stormy weather to clear away all the leaves etc. from around the war memorial. The collection for **The Poppy Appeal** collection raised **£390**, most of which was gift aided.

**Pew Cushions:** You will have noticed the new pew cushions. Thank you to Val, Betty, Chris & Helle for providing the material and making these for us.

**“Feed the Hungry” charity’s “Fish ‘n Chip” baby vests.** Huge thanks to all who have knitted vests and beanies for babies in the poorest or most stricken parts of the world. This week **371 from Great Brickhill and friends** were delivered to The Salvation Army collection point in Louth in Lincolnshire where they will start their

international journey to the children that need them most. Our contribution was very gratefully received and we had assurance that the rumours that these garments are no longer needed is certainly not true of the "Feed the Hungry" charity and that it would be delighted to receive as many as people wish to donate. Recent consignments have been sent to Syria and Nepal and when we hear of news of where the current batch is going we will let you know.

### **SERVICES ON SUNDAY, 22nd NOVEMBER:**

There will be a **Family Service here at 11.00am** led by the Rector.

Other Services across the Benefice:-

**Bow Brickhill:-** Holy Communion at 9.00am

**Little Brickhill:-** No Service

**Stoke Hammond:-** Morning Worship at 9.00am

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