

The Church of St Mary the Virgin, Great Brickhill

SUNDAY 22nd NOVEMBER 2015:-

Sunday next before Advent, celebrating Christ the King

Welcome to our **Family Service** this morning, led by the Rector. Thank you to Andrew and Margretta for playing the music to accompany our songs. The service will have an advent theme, focusing on the advent wreath and what the candles symbolise. The children's activity will be decorating candles.

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

The reading this morning is:- **2 Corinthians 4: 5 - 10**

Yesterday a short service of blessing was held here in the church for the wedding of Tim Franklin (one of our regular bell ringers) and his new wife, Iryna.

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, 23rd November at the Parish Hall.

Thursday Group - The next fortnightly meeting will be held on **3rd December 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).

The Church Christmas Fair is being held in the Parish Hall from 11am to 3pm next **Saturday 28th November**. Please donate any **unwanted scarves** for the Scarf Stall. **Whole cakes** are also required for the Cake Stall – please deliver them to the Parish Hall or contact Betty Kinsey – 261836. A request also for **books** please for the Book Stall to be delivered direct to the Parish Hall.

Tickets for the Christmas cake are already being sold by Janet Pritchard at £1 each (**Tel: 261573**).

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 Remembrance Sunday Service.

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. **371 from Great Brickhill and friends** were recently 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.

Christmas Charity, L & D - NICU

Our chosen charity for Christmas this year 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. The appeal was launched at the Songs of Praise service last Sunday and will be open for a few weeks – anyone else who would like to contribute, please use one of the specially adapted Gift Aid envelopes available on the bookcase (**those people who normally use PIN numbers will need to sign these envelopes**). Any cheques are to be paid to “Great Brickhill PCC”. **Please return the envelopes or any cash donations** to the Wardens or Phillipa Cook (Green Farm) **before 15th December**.

SERVICES SUNDAY, 29th NOVEMBER: there will be a **United Benefice Service at Bow Brickhill, Advent Carol Service at 4.00pm** – do remember to take a torch with you!

SERVICES ON SUNDAY, 6th DECEMBER:

There will be a said Holy Communion (BCP) Service at 11.00am in Great Brickhill, led by the Rector.

Other Services on 6th December across the Benefice:-

Bow Brickhill:- Mattins at 11.00am

Little Brickhill:- No Service

Stoke Hammond:- Christingle Service, 4.00pm

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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