

The Church of St Mary the Virgin, Great Brickhill

SUNDAY 6th DECEMBER 2015:- The Second Sunday of Advent

Welcome to our Prayer Book Service of Holy Communion this morning led by the Rector. We hope that Sister Hazel will feel well enough to join us. Everyone is invited to stay after the service for coffee and a chat.

The readings this morning are:-

Malachi 3: 1 - 4; Philipians 1: 3 - 11; Luke 3: 1 – 6

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, 7th December at the Parish Hall.

Thursday Group - The Christmas Lunch will be held this coming Thursday 10th December at The Old Red Lion – all enquiries to Jan Simpson (Tel: 261698).

High Ash. The monthly High Ash Prayer Meeting will take place this Friday 11th, 2.45 - 3.15pm. The end of term Christingle Service will be held here in church on Thursday 17th December at 1.30pm. You are welcome to join them at both of these!

Carol Singing round the village will take place on the next two Saturdays, from 4 - 6pm, in aid of general running costs of the church. Carol folders will be provided. All welcome - wrap up warm, bring a torch and meet at **The Three Trees at 3.50pm**. Enquiries to Phillipa Cook 261521 or picook6@gmail.com. The route will be:
Saturday 12 December:- Holts Green, Ivy Lane, Heath Road etc.
Saturday 19 December:- Lower Way, Rotten Row, Green End, Pound Hill

NEWS & EVENTS:

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.

The Church Christmas Fair

The event last weekend was very successful. Although there were many less people attending the fantastic sum of **£1873.80 was raised – a breakdown of the proceeds can be found on the blackboard in the church porch.** Thanks go to all who helped, especially those who spent many hours preparing for the event and donated the items for sale.

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 last month’s **Songs of Praise**. It will be open for one more week – 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.**

CHRISTMAS AT ST MARY'S CHURCH, GREAT BRICKHILL:

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

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

- **The Family Service / Nativity on Sunday 20th December.**
Meet at 10.50am at the bus shelter at the bottom of Pound Hill and process to the church singing carols along the way. 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 5.00pm on Christmas Eve
- **Christmas Day Holy Communion** at 11.00am

SERVICES ON SUNDAY, 13th DECEMBER:

There will be a service of Holy Communion (Common Worship) at 9.30am in Great Brickhill, led by the Rector.

Other Services across the Benefice next Sunday:-

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

Little Brickhill:- No Service

Stoke Hammond:- Carol Service, 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