

The Church of St Mary the Virgin, Great Brickhill

SUNDAY 13th DECEMBER 2015:- The Third Sunday of Advent

Welcome to our service of Holy Communion (Common Worship) this morning, led by the Rector. Thank you to Susan for playing the organ for us today 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:-

Zephaniah 3: 14 - 20; Philippians 4: 4 - 7; Luke 3: 7 - 18

Yesterday saw the first of the two Saturdays for Carol Singing round the village. Thank you to those who turned out on a mild but breezy evening to either sing or collect, especially our young supporters, Thomas, Emily, Jasper and Imogen. It was particularly pleasing that those houses where we have not had time to visit in the past, were very pleased that we made the effort this year. With thanks to the collectors, Mary, Neil and Simon, the fantastic sum of **£230 was collected** in aid of general running costs of the church. The second session is **next Saturday, 19th December from 4 - 6pm**. 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 pjcook6@gmail.com. The route will be: Lower Way, Church Lane, Rotten Row, Green End, Pound Hill

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! **Tomorrow is the last session before the Christmas break** – the next session will be on 11th January 2016.

Drop-in with the Post Office will be held on Monday afternoon, 14th December at the Parish Hall.

The Thursday Group will resume in the New Year.

High Ash School will be holding their annual **Christingle Service here** in the church **this Thursday, 17th December at 1.30pm**. All welcome.

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 last month was very successful. The amount raised has increased to **£1903.80**. Thanks go to all who helped, especially those who spent many hours preparing for the event and donated the items for sale - **a breakdown of the proceeds can be found on the blackboard in the church porch.**

Christmas Charity, L & D – NICU. A final call for late donations to our chosen Christmas charity, the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) of Luton & Dunstable Hospital. (See previous Pew Sheets for full details). 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 Phillipa Cook (Green Farm) **before next weekend.**

“Songs from the Choir Stalls” CD recorded in December 2014 by Phil Whittaker, formerly of the BBC. All the songs you have ever wanted to hear your choir sing, and more. All proceeds towards the cost of recording and choir funds. Support your choir – pick up a CD today from the bench along the pews near the main door. **Cost £9.99** - as this is a purchase of goods, gift aid is not applicable.

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.

OUR CHRISTMAS SERVICES IN GREAT BRICKHILL:-

(See separate flyer on the pink sheets on the bookcase)

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

- **The Family Service / Nativity next 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 across the Benefice next Sunday, 20th December:-

Bow Brickhill:- Carol Service at 3.00pm

Little Brickhill:- Carol Service at 5.00pm

Stoke Hammond:- Morning Worship at 9.00am

Christmas Services across the Benefice

Bow Brickhill:- Christmas Eve, Holy Communion, 11.45pm

Stoke Hammond:- Christmas Eve, Holy Communion, 11.30pm

Little Brickhill:- Christmas Day, H.C. with Baptisms, 9.30am

On Sunday, 27th December there will be a United Benefice Service of Holy Communion here at Great Brickhill at 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