

The Church of St Mary the Virgin, Great Brickhill

SUNDAY 20th DECEMBER 2015:- The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Welcome to our Village Nativity service led by the Rector. With the mild weather we do hope that you have enjoyed the procession to the church.

Thank you to Andrew and Margretta for leading our singing and to all those who have helped with the preparation for today's Nativity. Special thanks go to the children for their participation, with the readings and the prayers.

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

The reading this morning is:- **Luke 2: 4 – 7**

We were pleased to host the **High Ash** end of term **School Christingle Service** on **Thursday afternoon**. The church was full, with standing room only.

Yesterday was the second of the two Saturdays for Carol Singing round the village - the total collected from the two days came to a staggering **£577.63** towards the running costs of the church (2014 total = £368). Last Saturday's collection of **£230** was a fantastic effort but yesterday evening surpassed all expectations. Helped by the generosity of the shooting party at the Cricket Club the collection came to **£347.63**.

Thank you to all those, young and old, who gave up their time to join the singers and collectors, especially those who came on both Saturdays. We were very lucky with the weather on both days, which was a huge bonus!

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 morning during term time in the church**. The next session will be on **11th January 2016**.

Drop-in with the Post Office will be held on Monday afternoon, 21st December at the Parish Hall. It will not be held next week, 28th December.

The Thursday Group will resume on Thursday, 14th January.

NEWS & EVENTS:

The 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 - **a breakdown of the proceeds can be found on the blackboard in the church porch.**

“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 are on 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.

SERVICES OVER CHRISTMAS AND THE NEXT TWO SUNDAYS

Christmas Eve - Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols at 5pm.

Christmas Day - Holy Communion at 11am, led by the Rector.

Other 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

Next Sunday, 27th December there will be a United Benefice Service of Holy Communion here at Great Brickhill at 11.00am.

Sunday, 3rd January, Epiphany Sunday:- Holy Communion, 11.00am at **Great Brickhill**, led by the Rector. **Bow Brickhill:-** Mattins, 11.00am; **Little Brickhill:** - Holy Communion, 9.30am; **Stoke Hammond:-** Family Service, 11am at the Methodist Church

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