

The Church of St Mary the Virgin, Great Brickhill

SUNDAY 20th November 2016:- Sunday next 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. The Benefice Choir will be leading the singing with Jerry playing the organ. **This year “SolarAid” is our chosen charity, helping to provide solar lights to transform peoples’ lives in Africa.** More information on this worthwhile charity can be found on the display near the main door, or visit:- www.solar-aid.org. The hymns and readings for the service will follow **the theme of light.**

Please consider supporting the appeal by making a donation. **Our usual gift aid envelopes are not appropriate on this occasion – please use the special Gift Aid sheets** available to record your name and address. 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 take away one of the sheets and return it with your donation to Phillipa Cook (Green Farm) **before 18th December.**

Apologies to those affected by the lack of heating in the church last week. Thanks to the prompt response by our contractor the heating was back working again on Monday.

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 from 9.15am to 11.15am.** All welcome – not obligatory to bring a child with you!

Village Drop In and Post Office. Our Post Lady, Paula, retired on 24th October. Swanbourne no longer have anybody to attend the outreaches and therefore we no longer have a Post Office on a Monday afternoon. Drop In will continue, so please call in for a cup of tea, slice of cake and a chat. Swanbourne are talking to Royal Mail to try to get another Post Office to take over in the future.

Thursday Group. The next fortnightly meeting will be held this Thursday, 24th November at 30 Pound Hill – meet at 2.30pm for a cup of tea and a chat. All are welcome to attend.

NEWS & EVENTS:-

CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING, SATURDAY 10th DECEMBER:

A Christmas Coffee Morning will be held in the church on Saturday 10th December, from 10.00am to 12 noon:-

Christmas Cake Raffle; Tombola; Bric-a-brac; Gill-y-Anne Art

Please sort out any unwanted gifts or items you can spare, plus bottles, jars, tins etc. Tickets for the Christmas cake are already on sale at £1 each – contact Julia 261213 or Janet Pritchard 261573. The cake has kindly been decorated by Jackie Coram (photos of the cake can be seen on the bookcase just inside the church).

“LINK TO HOPE” SHOEBOX CHARITY:

A wonderful 49 shoeboxes were collected from our group “Great Brickhill and Friends” to send to the very poor of the world; they are now on their way to the people who need them most in time for Christmas. Thank you so very much to all those of you who contributed to this amazing result with either filling shoeboxes or by donating money to the charity, your generosity is much valued and appreciated. Hopefully we will receive an update about the distribution this year, when it comes in it will be put in the folder at the back of the church for you all to look at.

THE REMEMBRANCE DAY 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, to Robert Wright for leading the service and to Dave and Philip Howe for clearing away all the leaves etc. from around the war memorial. The collection for **The Poppy Appeal** collection raised **£343**, most of which was gift aided.

SERVICES ON SUNDAY 27th NOVEMBER:

There will be a **Family Service here at 11.00am** led by the Rector. Other Services across the Benefice:-

Bow Brickhill:- Advent Carol Service, 5.00pm [Do take a torch!]

Little Brickhill:- No Service

Stoke Hammond:- Morning Worship at 9.00am

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