

The Church of St Mary the Virgin, Great Brickhill

SUNDAY 27th November 2016:- Advent Sunday

Welcome to our Family Service this morning on this Advent Sunday when we will light the first of the Advent candles. Thank you to Andrew and Margretta for playing the music to accompany our songs. There will be children's activities in the Lady Chapel. Everyone is invited to stay after the service for coffee and a chat. There will be a cake for us to share, Phoebe Read's 2nd birthday cake. You will remember that we supported her fundraising appeal last year. Unfortunately Phoebe is in hospital and so they have not been able to use the birthday cake. Jeni says that Phoebe is on the mend, and will hopefully be back home at Holts Green very soon.

The bible reading this morning is:- **Isaiah 2: 1 - 5**

There is a sheet available on the bookcase giving details of all our Christmas activities. This evening at **Bow Brickhill** is the **annual Advent Carol Service at 5pm.** Do take a torch with you!

THIS WEEK AND NEXT:-

The Happy Cup Coffee Club, the child-friendly weekly drop-in coffee morning, 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 final fortnightly meeting of the year will be held on Thursday, 8th December at 30 Pound Hill – meet at 2.30pm for a cup of tea and a chat. All are welcome to attend.

CHRISTMAS CHARITY APPEAL:

This year's appeal is for "**SolarAid**" a charity, helping to provide **solar lights to transform peoples' lives in Africa.** More information can be found on the display near the main door, or visit:- www.solar-aid.org. The **donations collected at last Sunday's service** amounted to **£251**, most of which was gift aided.

Anyone else who would like to contribute, please use one of the **special Gift Aid sheets** and return it with your donation to Phillipa Cook (Green Farm) **before 18th December**. Cheques are payable to "Great Brickhill PCC".

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 and to Robert Wright for leading the service. The collection for **The Poppy Appeal** collection raised **£343**, most of which was gift aided.

SERVICES ON SUNDAY 4th DECEMBER:

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

Bow Brickhill:- Mattins at 11.00am

Little Brickhill:- No Service

Stoke Hammond:- Christingle Service at 4.00pm

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