

The Church of St Mary the Virgin, Great Brickhill

SUNDAY 18th December 2016:- The Fourth Sunday of Advent

[There will not be a Pew Sheet on 25th December or 1st January]

Welcome to our Village Nativity service led by the Rector. 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. Everyone is invited to stay after the service for refreshments and a chat.

We were pleased to host the **High Ash** end of term **School Christingle Service** on **Thursday afternoon**.

The Carol Singing round the village took place yesterday evening. Thank you to all those, young and old, who gave up their time to join the singers and collectors. The weather was kind and everyone was very generous – over half the roads in the village were covered and the amount collected came to a fantastic **£304.47**. Thank you!

SAD NEWS:

We received the sad news that Janet Simpson passed away on Tuesday. As one of our regular members of the congregation she will be much missed by us all. Her funeral will be here in the church on Wednesday at 11.00am. Our thoughts and prayers are with Ian, Diana, Lucy and their families at this sad time.

THIS WEEK AND NEXT:-

The Happy Cup Coffee Club, the child-friendly weekly drop-in coffee morning, is held **every Monday morning in the church during term time from 9.15am to 11.15am**. All welcome – not obligatory to bring a child with you! There will be a session **tomorrow** and it will then resume after the Christmas break on **Monday 9th January**.

Village Drop-In. Although there is no longer a Post Office, the Drop-In continues on Monday afternoons at the Parish Hall, from 1.20 – 3.20pm, so please call in for a cup of tea, slice of cake and a chat. **There will no Drop-In on 26th December and 2nd January**.

The Thursday Group is taking a break. Further information will be provided when the details are known.

NEWS AND EVENTS:

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. 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) **by tomorrow, 18th December**. Cheques are payable to "Great Brickhill PCC".

THE CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING:

Last Saturday's Coffee Morning was a very enjoyable occasion, a great substitute for the Christmas Fair held in previous years. Thank you to all who helped with the setting up on Friday and all who helped with the various stalls, and all who contributed to the fantastic **£760** that was raised.

SPONSOR A LIGHT on the Christmas tree, which is at the entrance to the church. Dedication sheets are available just inside the church next to the Commemoration Book into which the messages will be transcribed. Suggested donation £5.

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, Holy Communion, 9.30am

ON SUNDAY, 1st JANUARY there will be a United Benefice Service of Holy Communion at Stoke Hammond at 11.00am.

SUNDAY, 8th JANUARY, Epiphany Sunday:- Holy Communion, 9.30am at **Great Brickhill**, led by the Rector.

Bow Brickhill:- Family Service, 11am; **Little Brickhill:-** No Service

Stoke Hammond:- Covenant Service (Methodist Church), 11am.

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