

## St Mary the Virgin, Great Brickhill

PCC NEWSLETTER, 7th DECEMBER 2016

### THE CHURCH ROOF:-

#### **A brief update on the position with the church roof.**

You will all know that in October the church roof was targeted yet again and there is now virtually no lead left on the roof. The alarm system that we had hoped to have in place in September will no longer be installed. Our roofing contractor did a temporary repair to make the roof as water tight as possible. We now have permission to do the permanent repair in a substitute material and quotes are being obtained to carry out this work. It will doubtless be an expensive operation and it may be that the work has to be phased. An update will be circulated when more information is available.

### OUR CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES:-

#### **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](http://www.solar-aid.org)

The **donations collected at the Songs of Praise** service in November 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** available within the display in the church, 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:**

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

#### ***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 have been on sale for a while - the cake has kindly been decorated by Jackie Coram.

We look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible.

#### **Sponsor a Light:**

There is the annual opportunity to sponsor a Light on the Christmas tree, which will be 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. The sheets and donations are to be returned please to Phillipa Cook (Green Farm).

#### **Carol Singing around the Village, Saturday 17th December:**

This year Carol Singing around the village in aid of general Church funds will take place on just the one Saturday before Christmas, from **4.00 to 7.00pm**.

Anyone who would like to join us to either sing, or help with the collection, would be most welcome. We will **meet at The Three Trees at 3.50pm** and will hope to cover the following areas:-

***Ivy Lane, Stoke Lane, Holts Green, Cuff Lane, Duck End, Knights Close, Heath Road, Lower Way / Naisby Drive, Church Lane***

It would be helpful if those interested could contact:-

Phillipa Cook (TEL: 261521; e-mail: [pjcook6@gmail.com](mailto:pjcook6@gmail.com)).

P.T.O.

## **CHRISTMAS SERVICES IN GREAT BRICKHILL:-**

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

- **The Family Service / Nativity on Sunday 18th 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! Please see the separate flyer giving more details.
- **Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols** at 5.00pm on Christmas Eve
- **Christmas Day Holy Communion** at 11.00am

**Services across the Benefice on Sunday, 18th 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 Holy Communion, 9.30am

**On Sunday, 1st January** there will be a **United Benefice Service** of Holy Communion at **Stoke Hammond at 11.00am.**

## **THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO HAVE SUPPORTED:-**

### **“Link to Hope” Shoebox Charity:**

A wonderful 49 shoeboxes were collected from the “Great Brickhill and Friends” group 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 to all those 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 of this year’s boxes - when it comes it will be put in the folder at the back of the church for all to look at.

### **“Feed the Hungry” Charity:**

This year’s consignment of “Fish ‘n Chip” baby vests and beanies have just been delivered to the Salvation Army in Louth, Lincolnshire for the onward journey to those infants in desperate need. Shipments are sent abroad several times a year to locations such as Bulgaria, Athens and Syria. Thank you to all who knitted garments, or provided wool - a wonderful 374 items were delivered this year.

**And a huge thank you to Rosie Dawson for co-ordinating these two projects.**

## **WEBSITE:-**

Do please remember that all the information about Church events or services can be found at the click of a button:- [www.brickhillschurches.org.uk](http://www.brickhillschurches.org.uk)

**For further information** please contact:-

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