

# **The Church of St Mary the Virgin, Great Brickhill**

## **SUNDAY 22nd January 2017:- The Third Sunday of Epiphany**

Welcome to our **Family Service** this morning led by the Rector. 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.

The bible reading this morning is:- **Matthew 4: 18 – 23**

**The electricity supply has been causing problems this week.** We hope that the heating will not have cut out overnight – apologies if this has happened. The problem is being investigated next week.

### **THIS WEEK AND NEXT:-**

**The Happy Cup Coffee Club tomorrow, 23rd January.** The child-friendly 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.**

**Village Drop-In, tomorrow 23rd January.** 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.

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

### **NEWS AND EVENTS:**

#### **The Christmas Services & Fundraising Events:-**

On 15th December **High Ash** held their end of term **School Christingle Service** - the church was full to capacity.

**Thank you to all those who helped** with the preparation or took part in all the services and to those who decorated the church so beautifully. The **Family Service / Nativity** was very successful – processing from the bottom of Pound Hill to the Church for a short service where the Nativity tableau was set. Many thanks go to the children for their participation, with the readings and the prayers.

The church was as usual full for the traditional **Christmas Eve Carol Service** – thanks to organist, Jerry Breslin, the choir for their wonderful singing and to all the readers. **Holy Communion** was celebrated on Christmas morning.

**The Christmas Coffee Morning** was a very enjoyable event raising **£760** for general church funds.

**Carol Singing around the village** on the Saturday prior to the Christmas weekend raised **£304.47** towards general church funds.

**Our Christmas Charity Appeal** was for “**SolarAid**” a charity, helping to provide solar lights to transform peoples’ lives in Africa. A total of **£251** was raised from the Charity Songs of Praise. A “Thank You” letter and card is on display near the entrance to the church.

**Sponsor a Light** in aid of church funds has raised **£85**. Thank you to Emily Hudson for transcribing the dedications into the Commemoration Book. Thanks also to the Turner family for providing and setting up the tree with the outdoor lights.

### **THEFT OF LEAD:**

Following another theft of lead sometime between Christmas and the New Year from the south side of the roof, the remaining strips from the north side have been taken down. Thank you to Michael Turner for arranging the disposal of the lead, and to Henry Clark, James Northen and Steve Wilson for helping Michael with the removal of the lead from the church. Our roofing contractor has done a temporary repair to make the roof water tight.

### **NEWSPAPER COLLECTION:**

Thank you to those who met at Rectory Farm a week last Saturday morning to transfer the load of newspapers from the containers onto the lorry. News of the amount raised from the load will be notified shortly. **The four loads collected in 2016 raised £1030.**

### **SNOWDROP WALKS:**

Due to the cold weather the snowdrops are only just beginning to come out and so the dates for our two Sunday afternoon walks in February are yet to be confirmed. Please see future Pew Sheets for the dates:- 2.00 – 4.00pm. Homemade cakes & teas in the church.

### **SERVICES ON SUNDAY, 29th JANUARY (CANDLEMAS):**

**As this is the fifth Sunday of the month there will be just one service across the Benefice next Sunday – a United Benefice Service of Holy Communion (Common Worship) here in Great Brickhill at 11.00am, led by Reverend Robert Wright.**

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**The address of the Benefice website:**

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