

The Church of St Mary the Virgin, Great Brickhill

SUNDAY 3rd DECEMBER 2017:- Advent Sunday

Welcome to our Prayer Book Service of Holy Communion this morning, led by the Rector. We are hope that Sister Hazel is able to be here with us.

Everyone is invited to stay after the service for coffee and a chat.

The readings this morning are:-

Isaiah 64: 1 - 9; I Corinthians 1: 3 - 9; Mark 13: 24 - 37

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

We heard this week that Jerry Breslin, who has been unwell for a couple of weeks, was admitted to hospital. He is now home but is confined to the house for at least a week. The Twelfth Night concert with the Cryers Singers on Saturday 6th January has therefore been postponed. We wish Jerry a speedy recovery.

THIS WEEK AND NEXT:-

The Happy Cup Coffee Club, the child-friendly drop-in coffee morning for parents and carers is held every Monday morning during term time, in the church from 9.15am to 11.15am.

The Village Drop-In is held on Monday afternoons at the Parish Hall, from 1.30 - 3.30pm, so please call in for a cup of tea, slice of cake and a chat.

The Post Office in the Parish Hall is now open on Mondays, from 1pm to 3pm in the small meeting room. It is no longer there on Thursdays.

NEWS AND EVENTS:

THE REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE: Thank you to all who helped to make this a very special service. Particular thanks go to Edward Maley for co-ordinating the arrangements for 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 £380, most of which was gift aided.**

PRAYER BOARD:

The new prayer board is now hanging on the cupboard door on the right inside the church porch. Please feel free to add your own prayers and encourage others to do the same.

CHRISTMAS CHARITY APPEAL: This year's appeal is for "**The Teenage Cancer Trust**" a charity which wants all young people with cancer to get the best possible care and support from day one. Every day around seven young people are diagnosed with cancer – the Trust wants to make sure they all have access to the specialist care and support they provide, no matter where they live. **The donations collected at the Charity Songs of Praise service amounted to £223**, most of which was gift aided. **Anyone else who would like to contribute**, please use one of the special Gift Aid envelopes on the table near the entrance and return it with your donation to Phillipa Cook (Green Farm) **before 18th December**.

THE CHRISTMAS CAKE RAFFLE was drawn on November 19th after the Charity Songs of Praise. The winner of the Christmas cake was Dorothy Rolls. The runner up prize of a cake decoration was won by Marion Ralph. **This year we raised a magnificent sum of £301**, all proceeds going to St Mary's Church funds. Thank you to everyone who supported the raffle, with special thanks to Janet Pritchard for baking the cake and selling the tickets, and to Jackie Coram who decorated the cake so splendidly.

SERVICES ON SUNDAY, 10th DECEMBER:

There will be a service of Holy Communion (Common Worship) at 9.30am in Great Brickhill, led by the Rector.

Other Services across the Benefice:-

Bow Brickhill:- Christingle Service at 11.00am in the school

Little Brickhill:- No Service

Stoke Hammond:- Carol Service at 4.00pm

The following Sunday, 17th December:- The Nativity will be held at 11.30am at the bottom of Pound Hill near The Old Red Lion, a celebration of the Nativity Story with carols and readings. Come and see Mary and Joseph in the stable in Bethlehem with the shepherds and the Kings. Please tell your friends and neighbours.

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