

The Church of St Mary the Virgin, Great Brickhill

SUNDAY 31st December 2017:- The First Sunday of Christmas

Welcome to our friends from across the Benefice for our service of Holy Communion (Common Worship) this morning led by the Rector. Thank you to Susan who will be playing the organ for us. Everyone is invited to stay after the service for coffee and a chat.

The readings this morning are:-

Isaiah 61: 10 - 62: 3; Galatians 4: 4 - 7; Luke 2: 15 - 21

We were deeply saddened this week to hear the news that Clare Amies passed away on Thursday night having been admitted to hospital earlier in the day. Our heartfelt thoughts are with Tom, Edward, Sarah, Harry and Alice and their families as they come to terms with this incredibly sad news.

Yesterday morning we were pleased to welcome the friends and family of Piers and Alexandra Ridout, and their sons Digby and Hugo, to celebrate the baptism of their daughter Beatrice.

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. Monday 8th January** will be the first session of the new term.

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. **There will be no Drop-In or Post Office tomorrow, New Year's Day.**

NEWS AND EVENTS:

The Christmas Services:-

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 Christmas services and to those who decorated the church so beautifully.

Thank you to Helen Ivory at The Old Red Lion for hosting **The Nativity** on Sunday 17th December. Thanks also to those who took

part, particularly Jonathan, Claire and Wilf Pincott who played the Holy family, Andrew and Margretta for the music and the children who did the readings and prayers.

The church was as usual full for the traditional **Christmas Eve Carol Service**. Particular thanks to the choir who did a fantastic job in the absence of Jerry Breslin who was unable to attend the practices or to be at the service due to illness. We were extremely grateful to John Wearmouh for playing the organ at short notice, and to Rosemary Howell for playing at the **Holy Communion** service on Christmas morning.

The Christmas Fundraising Events:-

The Christmas Cake Raffle. As previously reported earlier the magnificent sum of **£301** was raised.

Carol Singing around the village on Saturday 17th & Tuesday 19th December. Thank you to the singers and collectors who turned out on either one or both of these evenings despite the cold and damp conditions. A total of **£579.75** was raised.

Our Christmas Charity Appeal was for “**The Teenage Cancer Trust**”. The donations collected at the Charity Songs of Praise service on 19th November amounted to £223, most of which was gift aided. **With the later donations received a cheque for £303 has been sent to the charity.**

Sponsor a Light in aid of church funds has raised **£25**. 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.

SERVICES ON SUNDAY 7th JANUARY:

The First Sunday of Epiphany, celebrating the Baptism of Christ - there will be a Said Holy Communion (BCP) Service at 11.00am in Great Brickhill, led by the Rector.

Other Services across the Benefice:-

Bow Brickhill:- Mattins at 11.00am

Little Brickhill:- Holy Communion at 9.30am

Stoke Hammond:- Covenant Service at 3pm, Methodist Church

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