

The Church of St Mary the Virgin, Great Brickhill

SUNDAY 21st January 2018:- The Third Sunday of Epiphany

Welcome to our Service of Mattins, led by Jeremy. We are pleased that Jerry is back playing the organ for us today.

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

The readings for this morning are:-

Genesis 14: 17 - 20; John 2: 1 - 11

You will see that some of the pews have been removed from behind the font to give space for the coffee station to be located there, allowing the area in front of the vestry to be kept clear for the choir and clergy. This is all part of the work in progress to make best use of the whole area we have available within the church. The vestry has also been tidied to give more space.

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.

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 Wearmouth 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:-

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 **£569.75** 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.

THE SNOWDROP WALKS:

The first fundraising event of the year will be the annual Snowdrop Walks, which will take place on **SUNDAYS, 11th and 18th February** between 2.00pm and 4.00pm. Please spread the word and bring your friends with you. As usual there will be homemade cakes and teas in the church – **if anyone could help with the teas or bake some cakes**, please contact Julia (261213 juliaturner.jt@icloud.com).

SERVICES ON SUNDAY, 28th JANUARY:

There will be a **Family Service here at 11.00am** led by the Rector. Other Services across the Benefice:-

Bow Brickhill:- Holy Communion at 9.00am

Little Brickhill:- No Service

Stoke Hammond:- Café Church at 9.30am

Julia Turner – Warden (01525 261213)

juliaturner.jt@icloud.com

Phillipa Cook – Secretary (01525 261521)

pjcook6@gmail.com

To contact the Rector by e-mail:

rector@brickhillschurches.org.uk

The address of the Benefice website:

www.brickhillschurches.org.uk