

## St Mary the Virgin, Great Brickhill

PCC NEWSLETTER, 14th DECEMBER 2018



The Village Nativity will be held at The Old Red Lion on Sunday 23rd December at 11.00am (details – see below)

**Firstly, a report of recent events, .....**

### **REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY, 11th NOVEMBER:**

Thank you to all who helped to make this a very special service and especially to Edward Maley for co-ordinating the arrangements for the service and refreshments afterwards. It was good to see nearly 200 people in the church to commemorate 100 years since the Armistice Day in November 1918. Wreaths were laid by Edward Maley on behalf of the servicemen and Chris Leech for the Parish Council. Mary Smit laid the wreath made by members of the WI and a wreath was also laid by two pupils from High Ash School. The collection at the service raised **£719 for The Poppy Appeal**. David Marlow took some photographs which can be viewed on his website:- [www.davidmarlowphotography.com](http://www.davidmarlowphotography.com)

### **CHRISTMAS CHARITY APPEAL:**

This year's chosen charity is Willen Hospice. There are various leaflets available on the bookcase and the font giving current information about Willen. Thank you to Jerry Breslin and the Benefice choir for their contribution to the Songs of Praise service on 18th November. Julie White, one of Willen's ambassadors, gave a talk at the end of the service. The donations collected in support of the appeal amounted to **£160**, most of which was gift aided.

Our appeal is still open and so there is **still time to contribute if you wish** – anyone who would like to make a donation, please take away one of the Willen envelopes and return it with your donation to Phillipa Cook (Green Farm) **before 20th December**.

### **ADVENT COFFEE MORNING, SATURDAY 1st DECEMBER:**

Many thanks to everyone who made the Advent Coffee Morning a success. The magnificent sum raised came to **£985.65** – a breakdown of the total is on display in the church porch. Pauline Sear was the winner of the Christmas Cake and Pauline Waller won the Ginger Bread House. David Marlow has uploaded some photos of the Coffee Morning to his website:- [www.davidmarlowphotography.com](http://www.davidmarlowphotography.com)

**And now for news of Christmas activities, .....**

### **CHRISTMAS SERVICES & ACTIVITIES:-**

**CAROL SINGING around the village** in aid of general Church funds will take place on **Saturdays 15th & 22nd December**, from 4.10 to 6.30pm. All are welcome - singers and collectors meet on both days at The Three Trees at 4.00pm. It would be helpful if those who would like to sing, or help with the collection, could contact Phillipa (details below).

**SPONSOR A LIGHT** on the Christmas tree at the church. Dedication sheets are available just inside the entrance to the church. Donations will go to general church funds and the dedications will be transcribed into the special Commemoration Book. The sheets should be returned to Phillipa along with your donation (suggested £5 per light) – please use the Gift Aid Scheme if you are a tax payer.

**THE NATIVITY** will be held on **Sunday 23rd December at 11.00am at The Old Red Lion**. Come and see the celebration of the Nativity Story with carols and readings - Mary and Joseph in the stable in Bethlehem with the shepherds and the Kings. Followed by mulled wine & mince pies kindly provided by The Old Red Lion. Please tell your friends and neighbours - a flyer/poster is attached with the details.

### **CHURCH SERVICES:**

**Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols** at 5.00pm on Monday 24th December, Christmas Eve

**Christmas Day Holy Communion** at 11.00am

### **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, 30th December** there will be a United Benefice Service of Holy Communion at Little Brickhill at 11.00am.

**And now for, .....**

### **FUTURE DATES & EVENTS:-**

#### **SAVE A PENNY.....TO SPEND A PENNY!”:**

As you will know we are saving to build a toilet and so have started this new initiative – if you would like to help, please take an empty jar that you will find in the church porch. Please return the jar when full of coins via Phillipa to the Church Treasurer, Neil Cook who will count the coins and let you know how much was in your jar, ..... and issue you with a new jar if you wish to continue supporting the scheme. To coin a well-known phrase, “every little helps”!

#### **UPDATE RE “SWEET MUSIC” CONCERT:**

You will recall the concert on 6th October was postponed. At the moment we do not have a date when it will take place but it is unlikely that it will be before the summer. News of the re-scheduled date will be circulated as soon as we have the details.

**THE HAPPY CUP COFFEE CLUB:**

The child-friendly drop-in coffee morning is held in the church on Monday mornings during term time from 9.15am to 11.15am. The last session of the year will be on Monday 17th December and the Coffee Club will resume after the Christmas break on **Monday 7th January**.

**THE PRAYER GROUP:**

The Prayer Group now meets in church on the **second and fourth Mondays** of each month. Meeting at 11.00am for a coffee gives the opportunity to meet with those at the Coffee Club. Everyone is very welcome. If you are not able to come but would like a prayer said on your behalf, please feel free to put a note on the prayer board in the church porch. **The next Prayer Group dates:- Mondays 14th & 28th January.**

**And finally, .....**

A huge thank you to you all, for the support you have given to the church in any way during 2018. It would be unsustainable to run the church and keep it open for all our events and services without the help you kindly give. Your contributions either financial or by way of the time that you give, are much appreciated by the PCC.

Wishing you all a joyous and peaceful Christmas and New Year.

**For further information** please contact:-

Phillipa Cook TEL: 01525 261521 07788 740969 [pjcook6@gmail.com](mailto:pjcook6@gmail.com)

Do please remember that all the information about Church events or services can be found on the Benefice website:- [www.brickhillchurches.org.uk](http://www.brickhillchurches.org.uk)