

St Mary the Virgin, Great Brickhill

PCC NEWSLETTER, 26th JANUARY 2020



SNOWDROP WALKS - SUNDAY 9th & 16th FEBRUARY

Firstly, a report of recent events and activities,

THE CHRISTMAS SERVICES & EVENTS:

The Advent Fair on 1st December was a great success. Thank you to everyone who helped, especially Val and Gill who coordinated all the arrangements. **With additional receipts the Fair raised the magnificent sum of £1,251.90.**

High Ash held their end of term School Christingle Services in the church on 16th December for the younger children and 17th December for the older children.

Carol Singing around the village took place on Saturday 21st December. Thank you to the singers and collectors and to the Cricket Club and Old Red Lion for their hospitality. A total of **£358** was raised.

Thank you to all who helped with or played a part in **The Village Nativity** on Sunday 22nd December, especially the Holy Family of Jason, Jo & Olivia and to Andrew for providing the music. The Cricket Club proved a wonderful venue, with thanks to Lee and Karen Roff for all their help and support, and providing the refreshments. A photographic summary of the event is attached as a PDF file.

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. The traditional **Christmas Eve Carol Service** was as wonderful as ever. Thanks to the choir and to Jerry Breslin for their magnificent contribution to the musical content of the service.

There was a lively, festive atmosphere in the church for the post-Christmas **Candles and Canapes evening** on 27th December, a very enjoyable post-Christmas occasion. The donations received on the night came to £240.

FOOD BOX:

There is a Food Box in the church porch to help anyone who is in need of food either in an emergency or longer term. We have had a very generous donation of food from High Ash School and so do not need any more donations at the moment. However, we have an outlet for any excess food should the supply be greater than the need – surplus items will be taken to The Food Cupboard in Milton Keynes.

A flyer is attached as a PDF file explaining how the scheme works - please spread the news of this initiative as widely as you can.

And looking ahead to future events

THE SNOWDROP WALKS, SUNDAYS 9th & 16th FEBRUARY:

The two walks will be from 2.00pm to 4.00pm, starting at the church. Please spread the word to your friends and family and bring them along. As usual there will be homemade cakes and teas in the church. **If anyone could help with the teas or baking some cakes, please contact Julia:-**
261618 or 07714 028785 juliaturner.jt@icloud.com

PLANT FAYRE, SATURDAY 18th APRIL:

Please make a note in your diaries of the above date for this annual event.

FUNDRAISING ORGANISERS:

We have been extremely fortunate in recent years that Val Baldwin and Gill Wilson, along with Julia, have taken the lead on organising most of our fundraising events. Val and Gill no longer live in the village and are stepping down - we owe them a huge debt of thanks.

Please get in touch if you would like get involved with our fundraising events. It would be wonderful if we were to have a few people who are willing to take on organising individual events – anyone interested please contact Julia or Phillipa.

GENERAL HELP REQUIRED:

There are many tasks that need doing on a regular basis to keep the church and churchyard in good order. It is of concern that these tasks are being undertaken by fewer people – we do not seem have anyone younger taking over from those who have been helping out for many years but who are no longer able to do so. We would like to have some volunteers offering to give a little of their time to take on the occasional task – many hands make light work. Please get in touch to find out how you might be able to help (mowing, cleaning, coffee, flowers etc. etc.)

ADMIN ASSISTANCE FOR THE RECTOR & SABBATICAL:

Marion Ridgway has been providing admin assistance for the Rector on a Benefice level for over ten years. She has retired from the post and was presented with a gift as thanks at the Wardens' Meeting earlier this month. We are very pleased that Gill Wilson has taken over this task from Marion.

The Rector will be having a sabbatical (which all members of the clergy are encouraged to take every ten years) from 18th April to 13th July. Gill's assistance, especially during the time of the Rector's sabbatical, will be much appreciated.

ASH WEDNESDAY & LENT:

On Ash Wednesday, 26th February there will be one service in the four parishes, a United Benefice Holy Communion Service with hymns at Stoke Hammond at 7.30pm.

The following week **the Lent Course** will commence. Details still have to be confirmed – please refer to the Pew Sheets in the coming weeks for details, or visit the "Lent Courses" section of the website.

For further information about any of the above, please contact:-

Phillipa Cook TEL: 01525 261521 07788 740969 pjcook6@gmail.com

Do please remember that all the information about Church events or services can be found on the Benefice website:- www.brickhillschurches.org.uk