

St Mary the Virgin, Great Brickhill

PCC NEWSLETTER, 22nd DECEMBER 2017



Celebrity auctioneer Charlie Ross showing the painting of St Mary's Church to the eventual purchaser Clare Amies, during the bidding at the Auction of Promises
(Photo courtesy of David Marlow:- www.davidmarlowphotography.com)

THE AUCTION OF PROMISES, 21st OCTOBER:-

As you will no doubt know the evening was a tremendous success. 78 people sat down to a wonderful meal which was followed by the highly entertaining auction by Charlie Ross. £5835 was raised from the 54 lots that had been generously donated. Together with donations and proceeds from the ticket sales, the total figure raised from the evening was **£6794**. Thanks to all who supported the event.

AN UPDATE ON THE CHURCH:-

A huge amount of time and effort was spent earlier in the year to make the roof watertight following the theft of lead. Since the covering of felt was laid the church has been dry, limiting the amount of damage from the water that had been pouring in. This is only a temporary repair but it gives us time to arrange for a more permanent solution.

The problems with the roof have inevitably had a knock-on effect on the progress with the installation of the new facilities, which is frustrating for us all. It may appear that no progress has been made - however much has been happening in the background. Various surveys are required before permission can be considered for building work to proceed. Work has been done on this front and several surveys have been commissioned in this preparatory stage of the process.

The PCC is committed to make real progress in 2018 with the toilet and refreshment area. Thank you for your patience – we hope that, if there are no further major problems to deal with, there will be something tangible for you all to see in the months ahead.

OUR CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES:-

The Christmas Cake Raffle was drawn on 19th November 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.

Christmas Charity Appeal: This year's appeal was for "**The Teenage Cancer Trust**". Every day around seven young people are diagnosed with cancer – the Trust aims to make sure they all have access to the specialist care and support that they provide, no matter where they live. 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 a cheque for **£303** has this week been sent to the charity.

Carol Singing around the Village, 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. It was great to see so many families joining us. It is fair to say that there was a spread of ages across the whole spectrum, from just a few months old through to those of us who prefer not to think about our age!! Debbie Jones, David Pritchard, Mary Maley and Neil Cook had the difficult task of finding their way to the front doors and encouraging villagers to part with their cash. What an excellent job they did, the amount raised was:-
Saturday £332.63, Tuesday £237.12, **Total = £569.75.**

CHRISTMAS SERVICES IN GREAT BRICKHILL:-

The Nativity was held last Sunday at The Old Red Lion – thank you to Helen Ivory and her team for hosting the event. A large crowd (estimated at 150) gathered in the pub garden to hear the story of the birth of Jesus. Carols were sung and there were readings and prayers, mainly done by the children. Thank you to all who participated.



Mary, Joseph & Jesus at the Inn - otherwise known as Jonathan, Claire & Wilf Pincott

Everyone is warmly invited to join us at our Christmas services:

- **Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols** at 5.00pm on 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, 31st December there will be a **United Benefice Service** of Holy Communion here at **Great Brickhill at 11.00am.**

FUTURE EVENTS:-

Due to illness **The Twelfth Night concert with the Cryers Singers** on Saturday 6th January has been postponed.

Snowdrop Walks – we are pleased to say that we will again be holding a Snowdrop Walk on two Sundays in February, the dates will be decided when we will know when the snowdrops should be at their best.

The annual **Plant Fayre** will be on Saturday 7th April.

AND FINALLY,

On behalf of the PCC, thank you for all your support in 2017 – with the problems with the roof it has been a difficult year and not what we had expected.

We wish you and your families a very Happy Christmas, and we hope that we may see you at one of our Christmas services.

For further information please contact:-

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Do please remember that all the information about Church events or services can be found at the click of a button:- www.brickhillchurches.org.uk

David Marlow kindly takes photographs at our special services and events. To view the photos visit:- www.davidmarlowphotography.com