

## **The Church of St Mary the Virgin, Great Brickhill SUNDAY 28th November – ADVENT SUNDAY**

Welcome to our **Family Service with Baptism**, led by the Rector with Margaret Oliver playing the piano. We would like to thank James for reading, Clare for the intercessions and for serving refreshments after the service this week, and Margaret for the music for our singing. Please stay for coffee or tea after the service.

It is a great pleasure to welcome Simon and Leona Puxley and their relatives and friends who are here to join us for the baptism of Simon and Leona's young son Edward.

Edward is Mary and Edward Maley's first grandson. He is also a brother to Lily who was baptised here two years ago.

The Bible reading this morning is:

**Isaiah 2 vs. 1 – 5.**

### **THIS EVENING**

The annual **ADVENT CAROL SERVICE** will be held at **BOW BRICKHILL at 4pm**. Please note that this is an hour earlier than usual to enable people to arrive in the last light of the day. Please bring a torch to help you to read the hymn book and to light your way back to your car after the service.

### **THIS WEEK**

On **Thursday, December 2nd**, everyone is welcome to come to the **Thursday Group Christmas Tea at 2.30pm** at Brandlings, Pound Hill.

On **Friday, 3<sup>rd</sup> December**, the **YOUTH CAFÉ** invites everyone to join them in the Church at 7pm for an evening of music and carols, led by the Youth Café leader, Marco Loxley. Refreshments and mulled wine will be served, and the Youth Café would particularly like as many of us as possible to join in the celebrations.

## **NEWS**

**Thank you** for the help that we received in planning the **Remembrance Service**. We would especially like to thank Edward Maley for making the many arrangements and to thank Linda Cormie for providing the warming and delicious refreshments in the church after the service.

### **A CHANGE OF SEX - HENRY HAS BECOME HETTIE**

**Thanks to the very generous donation from DROP-IN**, we are able to buy the church a new vacuum cleaner. We have chosen Hettie rather than Henry because she is pink and was cheaper than Henry but is said to be just as robust, reliable and uncomplicated. We were also able to purchase, mount and frame a new Cradle Roll for the church and with the £10 remaining we have bought a new milk jug! It feels like Christmas has arrived early.

### **Sid Bates**

**Recently**, with a church full of his many friends, we were able to say our farewells and celebrate the life of **Sid Bates**. He is buried in the cemetery with his wife and, like many, we will miss him greatly.

### **The Parochial Church Council**

At the PCC Meeting on Thursday, 4<sup>th</sup> November, Mrs Valerie Beardmore-Baldwin was appointed as the PCC's Health and Safety Representative. Valerie would be pleased to hear from you at any time if you have an issue to raise about your own or other peoples' health and safety when in or around the church building at any time and not just when attending services. Val can be contacted on 01525 261592.

### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

**On Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> December, STOKE HAMMOND** invites us to their Christmas Tree celebration in the Church at 2.30pm.

## DECEMBER EVENSONG

On **Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> December**, there will be a very special service of Evensong. We are calling this “**An Evensong for Kay**”. The service will give all her friends the chance to thank Kay for all the work she has done for us over many years and, not least, for her devotion to St Mary 2000. Kay, together with John, is planning the service and afterwards we will serve mulled wine and mince pies and have a chance to hear from Janet about Charlotte Pritchard’s latest visit to the Nuevo Reto orphanage in Guatemala.

## CHRISTMAS

As Advent begins I thought you would like to know what is planned over the next few weeks.

We will have a **Christmas Card Tree** in the church again this year with donations given to the Nuevo Reto Orphanage in Guatemala.

There will be the opportunity to **Sponsor a Light**, as in previous years and even more lights will decorate the yew tree by the gate this year. So, please consider ‘giving’ a light for Christmas.

There will also be a celebration of the **Nativity** on Sunday afternoon, 19<sup>th</sup> December at its original location at the bottom of Pound Hill.

There will be **Carol Singing** around the village late afternoon on Saturday, 18<sup>th</sup> December.

The service of **Nine Lessons and Carols** will be at 5pm on Christmas Eve and a service of **Holy Communion on Christmas Day at 11am**. Both services will be taken by the Rector.

**NEXT SUNDAY, 5<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER** there will be a service of **Holy Communion** at 9.30am, led by Father Colin.

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