

The Church of St Mary the Virgin, Great Brickhill

SUNDAY 4th December – The second Sunday in Advent

Welcome to our celebration of **Holy Communion** this morning led by Father Colin Griffiths.

Please stay for tea and coffee and a chat after the service.

The readings today are:-

Isaiah 40 vs. 1 – 11;
2 Peter 3 vs. 8 – 15a
Mark 1 vs. 1 - 8.

THIS WEEK

On **Thursday 8th December, THURSDAY GROUP** will meet for a Christmas Tea at 32 Pound Hill, at 2.30pm. All are very welcome to come.

NEXT SUNDAY

On **Sunday 11th December**, the Christmas lights will be switched on at 6pm before our **Charity Evensong**. **Paul Dickens will give a short organ recital after the service, and mulled wine and mince pies will be served.** The charity that we are supporting this year is '**Magical Taxi Tour**', which gives children with life threatening illnesses a break from their treatment and therapy to enjoy a trip of a lifetime to the magic of Disneyland, Paris in a convoy of London taxis. The trip is supported by doctors, nurses and paramedics, and of course, London cab drivers. Everyone who makes the trip happen are volunteers and all the money raised goes directly and only to the charity. Gill Wilson is our local contact with the charity and is happy to provide further details for you.

EVENTS AND DATES

The Christmas Card Tree is ready in the church. Your donations will also contribute to support the 'Magical Taxi Tour'. Please send greetings to your friends using the cards by the tree and place a donation in the envelopes provided and pass them to me or to Phillipa Cook to support the Magical Taxi Tour Charity. Thank you.

There will again be an opportunity to **Sponsor a Light** in aid of St Mary 2000. The outdoor lights will this year be on the tower and will be switched on at 6pm on Sunday 11th December.

Carol Singing around the village will take place between 4pm and 7pm on **Saturday 17th December**. All are very welcome to come and sing or help with the collection, but remember to wrap up warmly and bring a torch. The Carol Singing band will meet up at The Three Trees outside the Old Red Lion at 3.50pm. For more details contact Phillipa on 261521 or neilacook@aol.com.

NEWS

The Church was transformed in preparation for the '**Spirit of Christmas' Bazaar last week**. Friends and neighbours and parents of High Ash and Little Ashes schools came in a steady and growing stream to buy some wonderful gifts and decorations and to enjoy a coffee and good company. It was a truly wonderful occasion made possible by the help and enthusiasm of a dedicated band of supporters led by Gill Wilson and Rosie Dawson. It was hugely successful in raising £1741 for the Church, a superb sum. Thank you to everyone who participated and bought things and to Gill Wilson for making it all possible. Thank you, also, to the Craft Group at Great Brickhill WI, who have knitted and sewed and decorated their way through the autumn.

Romanian Shoe Box Appeal

Well done to Anne Humphreys, Marion Ralph and all the team for their hard work in getting the shoe boxes ready to be sent out in time for Christmas. A total of 61 shoe boxes were filled – a great feat by a dedicated group of ladies.

The latest news from **Nuevo Reto, the orphanage in Guatemala**, is available on the bookcase by the door. The PCC is supporting this charity again this year and a donation will be given to them by Charlotte Pritchard on her next visit.

PLEASE NOTE: The United Benefice Service on **Sunday, 1st January at Stoke Hammond** will now be held at **10.00am** and not at 11.00am as indicated in the December Parish Newsletter.

NEXT SUNDAY, 11th December, there will be **Morning Worship at 9.30am**, led by Phillipa and then **THE CHARITY EVENSONG at 6pm**, commencing with **SWITCHING ON THE LIGHTS** and followed by a short **ORGAN RECITAL** given by Paul Dickens.

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To contact the Rector by e-mail: rector@brickhillschurches.org.uk

The address of the Benefice website: www.brickhillschurches.org.uk