

The Church of St Mary the Virgin, Great Brickhill

SUNDAY 8th DECEMBER:- The Second Sunday of Advent

Welcome to our special **Charity Evensong Service** this evening, led by the Rector. There will not be a sermon today as Mary Maley will be giving a short talk about our chosen Christmas Charity, which is **The Lodge Trust** which is located in Rutland and exists to make a Christian provision for adults with learning difficulties. Mary and Edward's daughter Sarah Lily is one of the 29 residents.

If appropriate for the collection, please complete a **Special Gift Aid Sheet** and include a note of the amount of your donation. Refreshments will be provided after the service.

The readings this evening are:- **Isaiah 11: 1-10; Matthew 3: 1-12**

THIS WEEK:

Drop-in with the Post Office will be held, as usual on Monday afternoon, 9th December, at the Parish Hall.

High Ash would welcome anyone who would like to attend their monthly **Prayer Meeting** this Friday, 13th December at 2.45pm.

At Stoke Hammond Church on **Friday, 13th December** at 7.30pm the **Belmont Handbell Ringers** will be playing an hour of festive music, followed by Cheese and Wine. Tickets £5 from John Bowler (270202) or Diane Webber (270409) david.webber@btinternet.com

[There will be no more **Midweek Holy Communion** Services until the New Year. The New Year Lunch for **The Thursday Group** is being held on **Thursday 16th January**.]

NEWS AND EVENTS:

Sister Hazel has left available for collection from the bookcase copies of her Christmas Newsletter.

Thank you to those who contributed to the **retiring collection** from the previous two weeks' services. A cheque for **£85** has been sent to Christian Aid for the **Philippines Typhoon Appeal**.

We have received news of the number of boxes sent off to the "**Link of Hope**" **shoebox appeal** – a total of **47** were sent from this village; they were received with much gratitude from our area organizer.

THE CHRISTMAS FAIR raised **£1769** towards the running costs of the church. Thank you to all who contributed to the success of the event - those who work hard to produce the goods to sell, those who organised and manned the stalls, those who provided the delicious refreshments, those who set up and cleared the Hall, and those who came along to spend their hard earned cash.

CHRISTMAS AT ST MARY'S CHURCH, GREAT BRICKHILL:

The Christmas Card Tree. The tree will soon be ready to receive your greetings – a great opportunity to send your Christmas wishes and at the same time to make a donation to the Christmas Charity, **The Lodge Trust**. There will be special envelopes in which to place your donations and these should then be passed to Phillipa Cook.

Gift Aid Declaration Forms for The Lodge Trust are available.

Sponsor a Light. This year the outdoor Christmas lights will be on a Christmas tree and around the church entrance. Thank you to Michael and Julia for providing the tree from the farm. Dedication cards are available just inside the entrance to the church, next to the Commemoration Book into which the dedications will be transcribed. Proceeds towards the restoration of the church organ.

Carol Singing round the village **next Saturday, 14th December** from 4 - 7pm, in aid of general running costs of the church. Carol folder+s will be provided. Wrap up warm, bring a torch and meet at the Church at 3.50pm. Enquiries to Phillipa Cook 261521 or pjcook6@gmail.com

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

- Crib Service at 11am, Sunday 22nd December
- Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols at 5pm on Christmas Eve
- Christmas Day Holy Communion at 11am

SERVICES NEXT SUNDAY, 15th DECEMBER:

There will be a service of **Holy Communion (Common Worship)** at **Great Brickhill at 9.30am**, led by the Rector. Other Services:-

Bow Brickhill:- Mattins at 11.00am

Little Brickhill:- Carol Service at 5.00pm

Stoke Hammond:- Holy Communion at 8.30am

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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