

# **The Church of St Mary the Virgin, Great Brickhill**

## **SUNDAY 22nd DECEMBER:- The Fourth Sunday of Advent**

Welcome to our Crib Service this morning, led by the Rector with Jerry Breslin playing the organ. Special sheets are being used for the carols that we will be singing. During the service the “stir-up” cake that was made at last month’s Family Service will be decorated with crib figures and holly. The nativity tableau at the end of the service will be outside, weather permitting.

Everyone is then invited to come back into the church, to help eat the cake and have a chat. Mary Maley will be selling items from **The Lodge Trust**, our chosen Christmas charity for 2014.

The readings this morning are:-

**Luke 2: 4 - 7; Luke 2: 8 - 16; Matthew 2: 1 - 2, 7 - 11**

**This afternoon at 2pm** there will be **Nativity and Carols** on the village green in **Stoke Hammond**. Refreshments will be provided and all will be welcome.

### **THIS WEEK:**

**Unfortunately no information has been received as to whether the Drop-in with the Post Office** will be held at the Parish Hall, on either Monday afternoon, 23rd or 30th December.

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

### **NEWS AND EVENTS:**

Around a dozen singers went **Carol Singing** round the village last Saturday evening. Thanks to the sterling effort of the collectors Steve, Stuart, Neil and Simon, **£326.74** was raised towards the general running costs of the church, .....not quite as good as the £374 raised last year but apparently the sound was better! Thank you to Steve and Val Baldwin for their hospitality in hosting a supper afterwards.

We were pleased to host the **High Ash School Christingle Service** on **Thursday afternoon**. The church was full, with standing room only.

The number of boxes sent off from this village to the “**Link of Hope**” **shoebox appeal** totalled **47**; they were received with much gratitude from our area organizer.

The **Charity Evensong Service** was in aid of our chosen Christmas charity, **The Lodge Trust**. Mary Maley gave a very informative presentation about the Trust which provides a Christian provision in Rutland for adults with learning difficulties. Mary and Edward’s daughter Sarah Lily is one of the 29 residents. They were delighted to hear that the donations received came to **£500**.

There is still an opportunity for donations to The Lodge Trust via **the Christmas Card Tree**. The tree is now in place near the vestry ready to receive your greetings. There are special envelopes in which to place your donations and these should then be passed to Phillipa Cook. If appropriate, please complete a **Special Gift Aid Sheet** and include a note of the amount of your donation.

**Sponsor a Light.** You will have seen the outdoor Christmas lights on the splendid Christmas tree at the church entrance and along the path. Thank you to Michael and Julia Turner for providing the tree, and to Steve Agambar for assembling it. There are Dedication cards just inside the church entrance, next to the Commemoration Book into which the dedications will be transcribed. Proceeds will go towards the restoration of the church organ.

## **SERVICES OVER CHRISTMAS AND THE NEXT TWO SUNDAYS**

**Christmas Eve - Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols at 5pm.**

**Christmas Day - Holy Communion at 11am, led by the Rector.**

### **Other Christmas Services across the Benefice:**

- Bow Brickhill:- Christmas Eve at 11.45pm, Holy Communion
- Stoke Hammond:- Christmas Eve, 11.30pm, Holy Communion
- Little Brickhill:- Christmas Day at 9.30am, Holy Communion

**Next Sunday, 29th December** there will be a United Benefice Service of Holy Communion at **Bow Brickhill at 10.00am**.

**Sunday, 5th January:-** Holy Communion, 11.00am at **Great Brickhill**, led by Father Colin. **Bow Brickhill:-** Holy Communion, 9.30am; **Little Brickhill:-** No Service; **Stoke Hammond:-** Family Service, 11.00am

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