

The Church of St Mary the Virgin, Great Brickhill

SUNDAY 10th JANUARY 2016:-

First Sunday of Epiphany, Celebrating the Baptism of Christ

Welcome to our service of Holy Communion (Common Worship) this morning. A special welcome to Revd Val Plumb who has recently taken up the new post of Joint Area Dean, and is with us for the first time today. Thank you to Susan for playing the organ for us and to the choir for leading our singing.

Everyone is invited to stay after the service for coffee and a chat.

The readings this morning are:-

Isaiah 43: 1 - 7; Acts 8: 14 - 17; Luke 3: 15-17, 21-22

Thank you to those who met at Rectory Farm early yesterday morning to transfer the load of newspapers from the containers onto the lorry. News of the amount raised from the load will be notified shortly.

THIS WEEK AND NEXT:-

The Happy Cup Coffee Club, the child-friendly weekly drop-in coffee morning, especially welcoming parents and carers of young children is held **every Monday morning during term time in the church**. The first session of the new term will be held **tomorrow, 11th January 2016**.

Drop-in with the Post Office will be held on Monday afternoon, 11th January at the Parish Hall.

The Thursday Group resumes this Thursday, 14th January at 30 Pound Hill – meet at 2.30pm for a cup of tea and a chat. All are welcome to attend.

NEWS & EVENTS:-

THE BUCKS HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST “Ride and Stride”: Money raised from this event is divided between the local church and the Bucks Historic Churches Trust. **£102.50** has just been received, the share due to our church thanks to the efforts of Robin and Rosie in the September Ride & Stride. Thank you to those who kindly contributed to their sponsorship for this worthy cause.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES & EVENTS:

The Christmas Services:-

On 17th December **High Ash** held their end of term **School Christingle Service** - the church was full to capacity.

Thank you to all those who helped with the preparation or took part in the services and to those who decorated the church so beautifully. All three services were very well attended. The Family Service / Nativity was very successful - starting at the bottom of Pound Hill the crowd sang their way to the Church for a short service where the Nativity Scene was set. Many thanks go to the children for their participation, with the readings and the prayers.

The church was as usual full for the traditional Christmas Eve Carol Service – thanks to organist, Jerry Breslin, the choir for their wonderful singing and to all the readers. On Christmas Day it was wonderful to welcome lots of young families among the congregation for our Christmas Day Holy Communion Service.

The Christmas Fundraising Events:-

The Christmas Fair was highly successful. With money received after the event the total raised has now reached **£1903.80**.

Carol Singing around the village on the two Saturdays prior to Christmas raised a total of **£577.63** towards general church funds.

Our Christmas Charity Appeal was for L & D – NICU, the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) of Luton & Dunstable Hospital where Phoebe Read spent 177 days. A total of **£497** has been raised, including £297 from the Charity Songs of Praise. A note of thanks has been received from Jennifer and Stuart Read thanking all at St. Mary's for their generosity in the wonderful amount collected for the charity, and for welcoming Phoebe and all the family into the community.

Sponsor a Light in aid of church funds has raised **£50**. Thank you to Emily Hudson for transcribing the dedications into the Commemoration Book. Thanks also to Michael and Julia Turner for providing the tree and to Stephen Agambar for erecting it and setting up the outdoor lights, a very welcoming sight on the approach to the church.

NEWS FROM FATHER COLIN:

For those who are wondering how Father Colin is getting on, he posted the following on Facebook just before Christmas:-

“Today is 12 months to the day when I returned to Australia. It was a bit of a shock to come from the depth of the English winter to summer in Australia, but when I got to my sister’s place in Cootamundra, the cricket was on, so that was something familiar.

In many ways I feel that I have only just returned, I have learned over the years to be gentle to myself. So I have tried not to rush things. I stayed at first with my sister Carmel who was very supportive, who helped with a number of medical appointments.

In twelve months I have settled into a lovely flat in Ballarat, I assist in the Parish of Springmount where FR Ryan Bennett is the Rector. Ryan has been very supportive, as has Bishop Garry and I am slowly finding my feet in a new environment. I have even ended up as Pro/Provincial of SSM (Society of the Sacred Mission).

Thank you to all those who have helped me settle back into the land of my birth. I am very grateful for the time I had in UK, I appreciate all the things I was able to do, especially a big thank you to all at Willen who made my stay so enjoyable.”

2016 DATES AND EVENTS:

A variety of events has been planned for 2016 - please pick up a flyer available near the entrance to the church giving the details. Further information will be circulated in due course.

The first of the events is the **Snowdrop Walks** – please make a note of the dates (**14th & 21st February**) and spread the word!

SERVICES ON SUNDAY, 17th JANUARY:

There will be a service of Morning Worship at 9.30am in Great Brickhill, led by Jeremy.

Other Services across the Benefice next Sunday:-

Bow Brickhill:- [Church open, 10.00 - 11.00am]

Little Brickhill:- Family Service at 11.00am

Stoke Hammond:- Café Church at 9.30am

Christine Agambar (01525 261527)

christine.agambar@btinternet.com

Valerie Beardmore-Baldwin (01525 237265)

vafutcher@hotmail.com

To contact the Rector by e-mail:

rector@brickhillschurches.org.uk

The address of the Benefice website:

www.brickhillschurches.org.uk