

St Mary the Virgin, Great Brickhill

PCC NEWSLETTER, 14th NOVEMBER 2014

With the festive season around the corner we would like to give you details of all the special events and services taking place between now and the year end:-

Sunday 16th November

Charity Songs of Praise, Sunday 16th November at 5.00pm

Everyone is warmly invited to come and celebrate this first event of our Christmas Season. Familiar hymns and readings have been chosen by members of our church community and the Benefice Choir will be leading the singing. Refreshments will be served.

The chosen Christmas charity this year is the **DEC Ebola Crisis Appeal** via Christian Aid. This is a joint appeal by the Disaster Emergency Committee to support the fight against the spread of Ebola and to provide medical support to those communities in West Africa in dire need of our help.

For those unable to be at the service but would like to contribute, special Gift Aid envelopes will be available on the bookcase just inside the church – please return these to the Wardens or Phillipa Cook before 15th December.

Saturday 22nd November:-

Christmas Fair in the Parish Hall from 11.00am to 2.00pm.

Come and start your Christmas shopping, meet up with Father Christmas and your friends. Lots of stalls and refreshments. A flyer is attached giving all the details.

Sunday, 30th November:-

Advent Carols Benefice Service at Bow Brickhill, 4.00pm.

Celebrate the start of the season of Advent at this Benefice service at Bow Brickhill. Do remember to take a torch with you!

Saturday 13th December:-

Carol Singing Around the Village, 4.00 – 7.00pm

All are welcome to join the band of carol singers. Meet at The Three Trees at 3.50pm ready to start singing at 4 o'clock – remember to wear warm clothing and to bring a torch. There will be a collection for ordinary Church funds – volunteers are required to help with the collecting. It would be helpful to let Phillipa Cook know in advance if you are able to join us (details below).

Sunday, 21st December:-

The Children's Nativity – 10.50am at the bus shelter & 11.30am in the Church

This special event will begin with a gathering at the bus shelter at the bottom of Pound Hill – carols will be sung and the procession to the church will set off at 11 o'clock. Those who would like to go straight to the church are asked to be there for 11.30am. Children (and adults if desired!) are encouraged to dress up appropriately. Mince pies, tea, coffee and squash available at the end of the short service in church.

**Christmas Eve:-
Carol Service, 5.00pm.**

The traditional Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols will be held as usual on Christmas Eve at 5 o'clock – the perfect way to start the Christmas break. Please arrive early to guarantee a seat.

**Christmas Day:-
Holy Communion, 11.00am.**

Sung Holy Communion on Christmas morning – all are welcome, including children and grandchildren with their gifts from Santa!

**Sunday, 28th December:-
Benefice Holy Communion at Stoke Hammond, 11.00am.**

The only service in the Benefice on this post Christmas Sunday – Holy Communion at Stoke Hammond at 11.00am.

Other Activities:-

Sponsor a Light:

It is hoped that a suitable size tree for the outdoor Christmas lights can be found to be placed at the church entrance as last year. Dedication cards will be available just inside the entrance to the church, next to the Commemoration Book into which the dedications will be transcribed. Donations will go to general church funds.

Christmas Greetings:

The children will be making a Christmas tree for inside the church. Christmas card greetings can be placed on or around the tree, an opportunity for those who wish to make a donation to charity rather than sending local Christmas cards.

Advance Date:-

We will again be holding a **Coffee Morning** in the New Year for all who contribute their time to help with the running of the church. More details will be sent nearer the time but please note the date:- **Saturday 14th February 2015**

Website:-

Do please remember that all the information about Church events or services can be found at the click of a button:- www.brickhillchurches.org.uk

The website contains a wealth of information - the monthly service schedule for all four parishes, the weekly readings, the Pew Sheets that are produced every Sunday, the monthly rota sheets (ideal to check if you think you are on the rota for any of the weekly duties).

For further information on any of the above events please contact:-

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