

The Church of St Mary the Virgin, Great Brickhill

SUNDAY 6th JANUARY 2019: The Epiphany

Welcome to our Prayer Book Service of Holy Communion this morning, when we will celebrate the Epiphany. We welcome back Reverend Norman Thorp to lead the service and we hope that Sister Hazel is able to be here with us. Everyone is invited to stay after the service for coffee and a chat.

The readings this morning are:-

Isaiah 60: 1 - 6; Ephesians 3: 1 - 12; Matthew 2: 1 – 12

THE BIBLE COURSE AT STOKE HAMMOND:

The eight-week Bible Course is being held in Stoke Hammond at the Methodist Chapel, Newton Road. All will be welcome at the introductory session this Tuesday, 7th January - supper at 7pm with the course starting at 8pm. For catering purposes please contact Diane Webber 01525, 270409.

THIS WEEK AND NEXT:-

The Happy Cup Coffee Club, the child-friendly drop-in coffee morning for parents and carers **is held every Monday morning during term time, in the church from 9.15am to 11.15am. Tomorrow, Monday 7th January** will be the first session of the new term.

The Village Drop-In is held on Monday afternoons at the Parish Hall, from **1.30 - 3.30pm**, so please call in for a cup of tea, slice of cake and a chat. **The Post Office in the Parish Hall is open on Mondays, from 1pm to 3pm** in the small meeting room.

The Prayer Group is held in church on the second and fourth Mondays of each month. Meet around 11.00am for a coffee with those at the Coffee Club. **The next meetings of the Prayer Group will be on Mondays 14th and 28th January.**

NEWS AND EVENTS:

The Christmas Services:-

High Ash held end of term **School Christingle Services** on 17th December for the younger children and 18th December for the older children.

Thank you to all those who helped with the preparation or took part in all the Christmas services and to those who decorated the church so beautifully.

Thank you to Helen Ivory at The Old Red Lion for hosting **The Nativity** on Sunday 23rd December. Thank you to all the children who took part and to Andrew and Margretta for providing the music.

The church was as usual full for the traditional **Christmas Eve Carol Service**. Thanks to the choir and to Jerry Breslin for their magnificent contribution to the musical content of the service.

The Christmas Fundraising Events:-

Carol Singing around the village could only take place on Saturday 22nd December due to the poor weather the previous week. Thank you to the singers and collectors. A total of **£389** was raised.

Our Christmas Charity Appeal was for “**Willen Hospice**”. The donations collected at the Charity Songs of Praise service on 18th November amounted to £160, most of which was gift aided. **With the later donations received a cheque for £170 has been sent to the charity.**

SAVE A PENNY.....TO SPEND A PENNY!”:

As you will know we are saving to build a toilet and have started this new initiative – if you would like to help, please take an empty jar that you will find in the church porch. Please return the jar when full of coins via Phillipa to the Church Treasurer, Neil Cook who will count the coins and let you know how much was in your jar, and issue you with a new jar if you wish to continue supporting the scheme.

SERVICES ON SUNDAY, 13th JANUARY:

There will be a service of Holy Communion (Common Worship) at 9.30am in Great Brickhill, led by the Rector.

Other Services across the Benefice:-

Bow Brickhill:- Family Service at 11.00am

Little Brickhill:- No Service

Stoke Hammond:- Morning Worship at 9.00am

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To contact the Rector, Revd John Waller:

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The address of the Benefice website:

www.brickhillschurches.org.uk