

The Church of St Mary the Virgin, Great Brickhill

CHRISTMAS EVE, 24th DECEMBER 2019

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) of St Mary's Great Brickhill would like to welcome you to our Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols.

Our Parish Church:

We have so much to be thankful for – this magnificent church in our lovely village; our choir and organists; our bell ringers; the young families who come and use the church for their Monday Coffee Club; all the volunteers who keep the church going, giving their time to help with the services or maintaining the church and churchyard in good condition.

The cost of keeping the church going:

We rely on the generosity of our parishioners to keep the church in good order, and ultimately to keep it open. We have benefitted in recent years on a small number of our congregation who have been incredibly generous to us but sadly most of them are no longer with us. An additional problem is that just like other parishes nationally, our weekly attendance is falling and we no longer have the same number of regular worshippers on whom we could rely upon for the income required to cover our costs. The thought that “the church has lots of money” is a myth, which we would like to dispel.

Where does our money go:

We keep our running costs to a minimum through the support of volunteers who give their time for free to carry out various tasks. Our biggest cost is the payment of the Parish Share to the Oxford Diocese, over which we have no control. This year's Share allocated to St Mary's is £25,243. The running cost of the church is approximately £90 per day, excluding any restoration costs.

P.T.O.

The money we receive:

In addition to our regular givers through bank donations or church collections we hold fundraising events throughout the year. (Some of these are for specific projects such as our proposed new facilities for which we are now seeking grants to go forward with the installation next year).

The reality is that:

We are now unable to pay our Parish Share in full and for the second year running there is a shortfall in the region of £10k. We have fewer regular worshippers to contribute to the church but the costs remain the same. Change in life-style has meant that it is no longer the case that families regularly attend church on a Sunday morning. It is the case however that there are many who like to come to special services such as this evening, or to come for a baptism service, or want to have their wedding here, and of course the inevitable funeral. If nothing else, everyone living in the village wants the church as the oldest building in the village, to be kept open and in good order.

What can you do to help with the shortfall:

If you already contribute to the church, maybe it is time that you could review your level of giving?

If you do not currently contribute but would like to support the church, please consider making either regular donations through the bank or a one-off contribution. Gift aid is encouraged for those who are able to do so.

If you would like to know more about how you might be able to give financial support to the church please contact the Treasurer:-

Neil Cook

01525 261521

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We wish you a Happy and Peaceful Christmas with best wishes for a healthy and prosperous New Year.

For more information about services and events, please visit:-

www.brickhillchurches.org.uk