

# St. Mary's Church

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Newsletter January 2016

Dear All,

It was lovely to welcome everyone to our carol service on December 20<sup>th</sup>. At the start of our service we enjoyed hearing Christmas melodies created by our local hand bell team conducted by Kathleen Harris. Our thanks to the team for joining us as we were their second service of the day! Thank you to Heather (with some help from Henry!) for decorating the church and to Lis Morris, Sheila Gibbs and family for the delicious mulled wine served after the service. Thanks also to those who generously donated 'ingredients' towards the refreshments, and to Jane, Alan and Susan for allowing car parking at their residences.

Members of the Bredenbury Primary school choir joined us with their choir mistress Kriss to sing a selection of Christmas tunes. Jake sang the verses of We Three Kings as a solo, his voice clearly heard all around our church what a talent. Thanks to them and their grown-ups for joining us.

The church Christmas card this year produced by Susan looked amazing and the delicious Christmas cake mixed up in November's service was enjoyed by all. Thanks to our readers Tony, Felicity, Susan, Jackie, Maisie, Russell, Jack, Tom and James. They told the Christmas story beautifully. Our thanks to Liz Lane our organist who played tirelessly throughout. Covering at least 6 carols for the service, more to accompany the choir and finally Good King Wenceslas as we had received a special request from a congregation member for that carol. David stepped in as choir master and conducted the congregation splitting us into gents only, females only and 'everyone'. A marvellous way to end our service!

As many of you know the Holm Oak has been removed from the church yard. During the process the car park became in need of some TLC. Rob Read arranged for some stone to be delivered. Martin Read, Phil Read and Robert Darby spread and rolled the stone. Our car park is now much improved our thanks to them for their efforts.

Our last service of the year was on Christmas Eve. We all enjoyed the part candlelit service and the left over Christmas cake and mulled wine!

Best regards Helen Read Church Warden.