

The Church of St Mary the Virgin, Great Brickhill

Sunday 8th January– THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST and the First Sunday of Epiphany and Plough Sunday

I would like to wish you all a Happy New Year.

Welcome to you all for our services of **Morning Worship** this morning and **Evensong** this evening.

Morning Worship

The theme for the service is ***"The Baptism of Christ"***

Today's Psalm is **Psalm 29**

The response for the congregation is

***"The voice of the Lord is upon the waters;
the God of glory thunders"***

The readings are: **Acts 19 vs. 1 - 7;** and
Mark 1 vs. 4 – 11.

You are very welcome to stay for coffee and a chat after the service.

Evensong

The readings are: **Isaiah 42 vs. 1 - 9;** and
Mark 1 vs. 4 – 11.

THIS WEEK

House Communion and Bible Study is planned to commence this Wednesday, 11th January after the Christmas Break. However, there is some uncertainty about the arrangements so please check with the Rector or with Betty Kinsey about the venue and time.

SIR PHILIP DUNCOMBE

You will all know by now that Sir Philip has died. There will be a strictly private funeral next week followed by a **Memorial Service** here at St. Mary's, Great Brickhill. Lady Rachel has

warmly invited all members of the church community in Great Brickhill and from across the Benefice to attend the Memorial Service and the reception that will follow. Representatives from the many organisations with which Sir Philip was associated will be attending the Memorial Service, so there will be overflow seating arrangements made available in a heated marquee adjacent to the church to which the service will be relayed.

It is hard to express in a few words the sense of loss and sorrow that Sir Philip's passing has brought to everyone who is associated with the church here in Great Brickhill. Sir Philip was its Patron, taking over the role from his father and only relinquishing it to David, his son, just a few years ago. Sir Philip was also the Church Warden for many years and, throughout his Patronage, was a constant source of advice and support when the church building and its fabric were in need of urgent action. There is so much for which to give thanks, and to celebrate in his devoted and devout contribution to the life of this village and Church and we all send our thoughts and prayers to Lady Rachel and her family.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES & EVENTS:

The "Spirit of Christmas" Bazaar: Additional money has been raised by this most successful event and the total is now £1806.35.

The Carol Singing around the village raised £229.97 towards church funds.

The Nativity Thank you to all who helped with the organisation, and to all the musicians and those who played the various parts.

The Sponsor a Light in aid of St Mary's 2000 raised £175. Thank you to Emily Hudson for writing the messages of dedications into the Memorial Book and to Steve for setting up the lights on the tower, which were a huge success and could be seen from Leighton Buzzard by-pass!

The total collected for **The Magical Taxi Tour** (our chosen Christmas Charity) was £339 – this included the collection at the Charity Evensong and the donations from the Christmas Greetings Card Tree. Gill Wilson has sent a note of thanks for the money raised – it will all go towards the 2012 trip to Disneyland, Paris for children with life threatening illnesses.

The **service of Nine Lessons and Carols on Christmas Eve** and the service of **Holy Communion on Christmas Day** were both very well attended. Thank you to all who helped to decorate the church, to the choir, and to Jerry and Paul for playing the organ and the Bell Ringers. Also thanks to Robin for again producing the Carol Service Sheets.

DATES FOR YOUR NEW DIARY

Thursday Group recommences its programme on **Thursday January 19th** with a talk given by Phillipa Cook about the work of the Magistrates Court. The **Lent Lunches and Bible Study** begins on **Thursday 1st March**. More details of the Lent Course will follow soon. Contact Betty Kinsey (on 261836) for details.

The next **PCC meeting** will be held at Green Farm at 8pm on **Tuesday 24th January**.

Next Sunday, 15th January there will be a service of **Holy Communion at 9.30am**, led by the Rector.

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The address of the Benefice website: www.brickhillschurches.org.uk