

The Church of St Mary the Virgin, Great Brickhill

SUNDAY 9 January – THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST and the First Sunday of Epiphany and Plough Sunday, coinciding with the start of the ploughing season.

We would like to wish you a Happy New Year.

Welcome to you all for our **Morning Worship** this morning, and especially to Jeremy who is leading our worship, together with Susan Noon who is playing the organ. You are very welcome to stay for coffee and a chat after the service.

As a special treat we will serve pieces of Guatemalan chocolate with the coffee. This is a gift sent by the staff of Nuevo Reto to say thank you to us.

The bible readings for this morning are:

Acts 10 vs. 34 - 43 & Matthew 3 vs. 13 - 17.

Welcome to you all for **Evensong** this evening, and especially to the Rector, who is leading our worship, together with Jerry Breslin and the choir for leading our singing.

The bible readings for this evening are:

Joshua 3 vs. 1 – 8 & 14 - end & Luke 3 vs. 15 – 22.

THIS WEEK

Midweek House Communion recommences this Wednesday morning, **Wednesday 12th January at 10.30am** at Knightleys, Heath Road. Everyone is very welcome.

DATES FOR YOUR NEW DIARY!

Thursday Group recommences its programme on **Thursday January 20th** with a New Year lunch. Usual meetings begin on **Thursday, 3rd February** and the **Lent Lunches and Bible Study** begins on **Thursday 17th 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 **Thursday 20th January**.

NEWS OF CHRISTMAS SERVICES & EVENTS

As this is the first non-Benefice service held after Christmas we would like to thank everyone for all they did to make this Christmas season so joyful and well-attended.

Due to the heavy snowfall the **Carol Singing** around the village was delayed until the evening of Tuesday 21st December. Well done to the band of singers and collectors - despite the limited area that they were able to cover in the time available, they managed to raise £235.35 towards church funds.

The Nativity was able to go ahead on the Sunday before Christmas despite the cold and snowy conditions. Thank you to all who helped with the organisation, and to all the musicians and those who took part. There was a lovely picture of the stable and the Holy Family in last week's Citizen and LBO, together with articles about the occasion.

The Sponsor a Light in aid of St Mary's 2000 raised £85. Thank you to Emily Hudson for writing the messages of dedications into the Memorial Book.

The total collected for **Nuevo Reto** was £912 – this includes the collection at the “Evensong for Kay”, the donation in recognition of Kay's work for the PCC and St Marys 2000, and the donations from the Christmas Greetings Card Tree. £500 was sent out in advance with Charlotte Pritchard when she visited the orphanage in October. The balance is being sent out. The additional money will be used to help with the forthcoming school fees

Both the **Service of Nine Lessons and Carols on Christmas Eve** and the service of **Holy Communion on Christmas Day** were 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. Also thanks to Robin for again producing the Carol Service Sheets.

Almost 50 photos have been added to the church website to cover recent events. Do visit the site to view the four new Photo galleries covering the recent snow scenes, the Nuevo Reto, the Nativity and the Christmas decorations / flower arrangements around the church:-
www.brickhillschurches.org.uk

Thank you, also, to the Bell ringers who rang for all the services over Christmas.

Next Sunday, 16th 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