



# THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

*St Michael and All Angels*

Watford

**EPIPHANY**

**4 January 2015**

We wish you a Happy New Year and a warm welcome to our services today. At the 9.30 am Sung Eucharist, Fr Geoff celebrates and preaches. Sylvia Moring leads the intercessions.

**Hymns: 84, 74, 88 and 83**

**Setting: Rawsthorne**

Coffee and tea will be served in church after the 9.30 service – please stay on.

Joint Evening Service with Trinity Methodist at St Michael's at 6.00 pm.

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## **For your prayers this week:**

**The Church:** The Parish of Ampthill in our Diocese.  
The Dioceses of Lagos West (James Odedeji, Bishop) and Lagos Mainland (Adebayo Akinde, Bishop), both in Nigeria.

The Healthcare work of the Church in Myanmar (Burma) .

**The World:** All those affected by the crash of AirAsia flight QZ8501.  
The Christian people of the Middle East.  
People in countries celebrating Christmas this week.

**The Community and Parish:**... Residents and Staff at River Court and St Anthony's.  
Staff and pupils at our local schools.  
The work of New Hope, Peace Hospice, Food Bank and Town Centre Chaplaincy in 2015.

**The Ill and the Housebound:** Especially Bruce Alexander, Tina Bennett, Janet Bridge, Jean and Robert Caton, Peter Coley, Marion Craddock-Jones, Pamela Cutler, Audrey Dixon, Claire Dunning, Sandra Fullerton, Jenny Houghton, Audrey Jaquest, Mary Kearns, Lesley Kinch, Loretta Lynch, Audrey Morgan, Dorcas Ochola, Brian O'Riordan, Helen Perry, Mark Pritchard, Christina Simon, Mark Simon, Karen Stride, Ricky Vidler, Anne Wightman and Daniel Williamson (age 3).

**The Departed:** .

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**Collect**

O God, who by the leading of a star manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth:  
mercifully grant that we, who know you now by faith, may at last behold your glory face to face;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**FIRST READING Isaiah 60.1–6**

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

- <sup>1</sup> Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.
- <sup>2</sup> For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you.
- <sup>3</sup> Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.
- <sup>4</sup> Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.
- <sup>5</sup> Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you.
- <sup>6</sup> A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

**SECOND READING Ephesians 3.1–12**

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians.

- <sup>1</sup> I, Paul, am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles –
- <sup>2</sup> for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you,
- <sup>3</sup> and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words,
- <sup>4</sup> a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ.
- <sup>5</sup> In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit:
- <sup>6</sup> that is, the Gentiles have become fellow-heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

7 Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was  
given me by the working of his power.  
8 Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to  
the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ,  
9 and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God  
who created all things;  
10 so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be  
made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.  
11 This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ  
Jesus our Lord,  
12 in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

## **GOSPEL Matthew 2.1–12**

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

1 In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men  
from the East came to Jerusalem, asking,  
2 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star  
at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.'  
3 When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him;  
4 and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of  
them where the Messiah was to be born.  
5 They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:  
6 "And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers  
of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel."  
7 Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time  
when the star had appeared.  
8 Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child;  
and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him  
homage.'  
9 When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the  
star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child  
was.  
10 When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy.  
11 On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt  
down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him  
gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.  
12 And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own  
country by another road.

## THIS WEEK

Mon	5	Jan	<i>Schools return during this week</i>	
			Toddlers' Group	10.00 – 11.30am
			Discovering the Bible (Vicarage)	2.30pm
Tue	6	Jan	Service at River Court	3.00pm
			Discovering the Bible (Vicarage) – repeat of yesterday	7.30pm
Wed	7	Jan	Coffee in Church and Food Bank	10.30am-12 noon
			Intercessory Prayer Group (Choir Vestry)	2.30 – 4.00pm
			Messy Church planning meeting (venue tba)	8.00pm
			Guild of Servants of the Sanctuary (in Church)	8.00pm
Thu	8	Jan	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
			Choir Practice	7.00 – 8.30pm
Sun	11	Jan	<b><u>BAPTISM of CHRIST</u></b>	
			Holy Communion (Pres: Fr George)	8.00am
			<b>SUNG EUCHARIST:</b>	9.30am
			President and Preacher Fr George	
			(Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church)	1.00-5.00pm)
			Evening Service	6.00pm)

## **NOTICES**

**CHRISTMAS GREETINGS BOOKLETS:** These are available for all at the back of church, as is a tub for donations for those who have an entry in the booklet.

**PERSONAL CHRISTMAS CARDS.** Please check and take any cards from the table that are addressed to you.

**GIVING ENVELOPES FOR 2015** are on a table in the south aisle. Please collect yours. If you wish to join the envelope giving scheme please see Valerie Alvarez.

### **DATE FOR YOUR DIARY:**

Saturday 24th January: Parish Awayday for planning, with John Kiddle, Diocesan Mission Advisor. Please put the date in your diary.

18 January: Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins.

1 February: The preacher at the 9.30 Sung Eucharist will be from The Leprosy Mission.

18 February: Ash Wednesday