



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

CONVERSION OF ST PAUL
25 January 2015

We wish you a warm welcome to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Sung Eucharist, Fr Geoff celebrates and preaches. Pat Beach leads the intercessions.

Hymns: 237, 508 (t507), 501 and 581 (t. Wilson) Setting: Rawsthorne

Coffee and tea will be served in church after the 9.30 service and there will be a Bring-&-Buy Sale – please stay on.

(Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church 1.00 – 5.00pm)

United Service - Songs of Praise at Christchurch St Albans Road at 4.00pm

Burns Night Supper at the Vicarage at 7.30pm

For your prayers this week:

The Church: The Parish of Millbrook in our Deanery.
 The Diocese of Long Island (USA), Lawrence Provenzano, its
 Bishop and all its people.
 The work of Us with Churches in Britain and Ireland.

The World: The prevention of cervical cancer.
 The Royal National Lifeboat Institution.
 All people observing Holocaust Memorial Day (27th).

The Community and Parish: Thanksgiving for our Parish Planning Awayday.
 The Churches of Watford Deanery.
 The people of Scotland.

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, Anne Wightman and Daniel Williamson (age 3).

The Departed: Gill King

Collect

Almighty God, who caused the light of the gospel to shine throughout the world through the preaching of your servant Saint Paul:
grant that we who celebrate his wonderful conversion may follow him in bearing witness to your truth;
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 Acts 9.1–22

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

- ¹ Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest
- ² and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.
- ³ Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him.
- ⁴ He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, ‘Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?’
- ⁵ He asked, ‘Who are you, Lord?’ The reply came, ‘I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting.
- ⁶ But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.’
- ⁷ The men who were travelling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one.
- ⁸ Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus.
- ⁹ For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.
- ¹⁰ Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, ‘Ananias.’ He answered, ‘Here I am, Lord.’
- ¹¹ The Lord said to him, ‘Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying,
- ¹² and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight.’
- ¹³ But Ananias answered, ‘Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem;
- ¹⁴ and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name.’
- ¹⁵ But the Lord said to him, ‘Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel;
- ¹⁶ I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.’

¹⁷ So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, 'Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.'

¹⁸ And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized,

¹⁹ and after taking some food, he regained his strength. For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus,

²⁰ and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, 'He is the Son of God.'

²¹ All who heard him were amazed and said, 'Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem among those who invoked this name? And has he not come here for the purpose of bringing them bound before the chief priests?'

²² Saul became increasingly more powerful and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Messiah.

SECOND READING Galatians 1.11–16a

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Galatians.

¹¹ I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that the gospel that was proclaimed by me is not of human origin;

¹² for I did not receive it from a human source, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ.

¹³ You have heard, no doubt, of my earlier life in Judaism. I was violently persecuting the church of God and was trying to destroy it.

¹⁴ I advanced in Judaism beyond many among my people of the same age, for I was far more zealous for the traditions of my ancestors.

¹⁵ But when God, who had set me apart before I was born and called me through his grace, was pleased

¹⁶ to reveal his Son to me, so that I might proclaim him among the Gentiles, I did not confer with any human being.

GOSPEL Matthew 19.27–30

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

²⁷ Peter said to Jesus: 'Look, we have left everything and followed you. What then will we have?'

²⁸ Jesus said to them, 'Truly I tell you, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man is seated on the throne of his glory, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

²⁹ And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or fields, for my name's sake, will receive a hundredfold, and will inherit eternal life.

³⁰ But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.'

THIS WEEK

Mon	26	Jan	Toddlers' Group	10.00 – 11.30am
Tue	27	Jan	Funeral of Ricky Vidler in church (Deanery Synod at Langleybury Social Committee (Choir Vestry)	11.15am 7.45pm) 8.00pm)
Wed	28	Jan	Coffee in Church and Food Bank	10.30am-12 noon
Thu	29	Jan	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language) Choir Practice	10.00am 7.00 – 8.30pm
Sun	1	Feb	<u>CANDLEMAS</u> Holy Communion (Pres: Fr Geoff) SUNG EUCHARIST: President Fr Geoff with a speaker from the Leprosy Mission Baptism of Patrick Ronan United Service at Trinity Methodist	8.00am 9.30am 6.30pm

NOTICES

FINAL COPY DATE for February Sword is today Sunday 25 January. Hard copy or floppy disc to Rob White or email to robwhite.watford@tiscali.co.uk

SWORD SUBSCRIPTIONS for 2015 are now due. Valerie Alvarez has kindly agreed to collect subscriptions for the coming year. The cost of Sword is 60p per month. If you pay for the year in advance an annual subscription for 12 issues will be £6.00, thus giving you 12 issues for the price of 10!

COFFEE MORNING AND SALE: 7 February 2015 from 10.30 to 12 noon. Handbills and posters available for display. If you have any items that could be sold or used as raffle prizes please let us have them. All proceeds to church funds. Norma, Iola and Sylvia

FOOD BANK: Don't forget that we are still collecting food as well as acting as a distribution centre. There is a list at the back of church of the items of food that can be included in the parcels. If you would like to donate any of these items please bring them to church and put them in the box at the west end.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

7 February: Coffee morning and Bring-and-Buy Sale in aid of Church Funds.
10.30 - 12 noon. Everyone welcome.

18 February: Ash Wednesday

7 March: Lent Lunch served by St Michael's Brownies.