



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

CANDLEMAS
1 February 2015

We wish you a warm welcome to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Sung Eucharist, Fr Geoff celebrates. We welcome a speaker from the Leprosy Mission. Valerie Alvarez leads the intercessions.

Patrick Ronan will be baptised during the service.

Hymns: 44, 360, 94 and 429

Setting: Wilson

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

United Service at Trinity Methodist at 6.30 pm.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: The Archdeacon of Bedford.

The Diocese of Luwero (Uganda): Evans Kisekka its Bishop and all its people.

The United Society's "Journey with Us" programme.

The World: Care services for elderly people.

The work of the Leprosy Mission.

Sufferers from Tinnitus.

The Community and Parish: Our Messy Church planning team.

Plans for Celebration 2015 and the Big Lunch.

Residents and Staff at River Court and Fairhaven.

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:

Collect

Almighty and ever-living God, clothed in majesty, whose beloved Son was this day presented in the Temple, in substance of our flesh:
grant that we may be presented to you with pure and clean hearts, by your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING Malachi 3.1–5

A reading from the book of the prophet Malachi. Thus says the LORD God:

- ¹ See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight – indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts.
- ² But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap;
- ³ he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness.
- ⁴ Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.
- ⁵ Then I will draw near to you for judgement; I will be swift to bear witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired workers in their wages, the widow, and the orphan, against those who thrust aside the alien, and do not fear me, says the LORD of hosts.

SECOND READING Hebrews 2.14–18

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

- ¹⁴ Since the children share flesh and blood, Jesus himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil,
- ¹⁵ and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death.
- ¹⁶ For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham.
- ¹⁷ Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people.
- ¹⁸ Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

GOSPEL Luke 2.22–40

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

²² When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, Mary and Joseph brought Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord.

²³ (as it is written in the law of the Lord, ‘Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord’),

²⁴ and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, ‘a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.’

²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him.

²⁶ It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah.

²⁷ Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law,

²⁸ Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

²⁹ ‘Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word;

³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation,

³¹ which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.’

³³ And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him.

³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, ‘This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed – and a sword will pierce your own soul too.’

³⁶ There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day.

³⁸ At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

³⁹ When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth.

⁴⁰ The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

THIS WEEK

Mon	2	Feb	Toddlers' Group	10.00 – 11.30am
			Discovering the Bible (Vicarage)	2.30pm
Tue	3	Feb	Service at River Court	3.00pm
			Discovering the Bible (Vicarage) (repeat)	7.30pm
Wed	4	Feb	Coffee in Church and Food Bank	10.30am-12 noon
Thu	5	Feb	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
			Fairhaven	morning
			Choir Practice	7.00 – 8.30pm
Sat	7	Feb	COFFEE MORNING AND MINI MARKET in aid of Church Funds	10.30am – 12 noon
Sun	8	Feb	<u>SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE LENT</u>	
			Holy Communion (Pres: Fr George)	8.00am
			SUNG EUCHARIST: Pres: Fr George; Preacher: Fr Geoff	9.30am
			(The Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church	1.00 – 5.00pm)
			Evening Prayer	6.00pm

NOTICES

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.

SUMMER OUTINGS: The Social Committee held a meeting recently and started to think about summer, sunshine and outings. Members wonder if St Michael's people would be at all interested in going on a coach outing; we thought t one of the following places might be of interest - Chichester, Bedford (with Bunyan associations), Gloucester, or can you suggest anywhere else? At this stage no one is committing to anything but if you would be interested in joining an outing and have suggestions of places we could go to could you please sign the list at the back of the church and we will see if it is worthwhile arranging something. It goes without saying that friends and family would be welcome to join in.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

18 February: Ash Wednesday

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

St Michael and All Angels PCC is a Registered Charity No 1132010