



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

EPIPHANY

3 January 2016

We wish you a warm welcome to our services today and a very Happy New Year. At the 9.30 am Service Fr George celebrates and preaches. Valerie Alvarez leads the intercessions.

Hymns: 83, 85, 55 and 84(i)

Setting: Thorne

Refreshments will be served in church after the 9.30 service – please stay on.

United Evening Service here at St Michael's 6.00pm.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: The Rt Revd Michael Beasley, Bishop of Hertford.
The Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand & Polynesia.
Anglican Schools in Swaziland.

The World: Victims of recent flooding and storm damage.
Peace and good government in our world.
All people fleeing from war, persecution and oppression.

The Community and Parish: Residents and staff at River Court and Fairhaven.
Our friends at Trinity Methodist and West Watford Free Church.
Clergy and Readers of Watford Deanery.

The Ill and the Housebound: Especially Bruce Alexander, Sonia Anderson, Tina Bennett, Christopher Bilson, Janet Bridge, Jean and Robert Caton, Peter Coley, Marion Craddock-Jones, Audrey Dixon, Claire Dunning, Sandra Fullerton, Jenny Houghton, Kristine Jenkins, Mary Kearns, Lesley Kinch, Loretta Lynch, Dorcas Ochola, Brian O'Riordan, Helen Perry, Christina Simon, Mark Simon, Karen Stride and Nicholas Weeks.

The Departed:

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.

¹ Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

² 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.

³ Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

⁴ 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.

⁵ 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.

⁶ 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.

¹ I, Paul, am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles –

² for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you,

³ and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words,

⁴ a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ.

⁵ 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:

⁶ 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	4	Jan	<i>Schools return during this week</i>	
			Toddlers' Group	10.00am – 11.30am
Tue	5	Jan	Service at River Court	2.30pm
Wed	6	Jan	Food Bank	10.00am – 12 noon
			Coffee in Church	10.30am-12 noon
Thu	7	Jan	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
			Fairhaven	morning
			Choir Practice	7.00 – 8.30pm
Sun	10	Jan	<u>BAPTISM OF CHRIST</u>	
			Holy Communion (Pres: Fr Geoff)	8.00am
			SUNG EUCHARIST (Pres and preacher: Fr Geoff)	9.30am
			(Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church)	1.00-5.00pm)
			Evening Prayer	6.00pm

NOTICES

THANK YOU to everyone for giving me such a wonderful surprise on my 90th birthday; for all the kind wishes, cards and presents. I was overwhelmed and humbled by you all. Thank you – Pat Ricketts.

THANKS TO Jean Alexander and Fay Storey for the many flower decorations and to everyone who contributed to their cost. Thank you to Pam Hart for her care and attention to all the plants around the church throughout the year..

PERSONAL CHRISTMAS CARD delivery –Please check and take any cards addressed to you.

GIVING ENVELOPES FOR 2016 are on a table in the north aisle. Please collect yours. If you wish to join the envelope giving scheme please see Valerie Alvarez.

I WOULD LIKE TO RUN A SHORT TRAINING COURSE (one or possibly two sessions) for those who lead intercessions during the 9.30 Sunday Morning Service, both for people currently undertaking this role, and anyone who would like to take it on. I will be contacting everyone in due course, but if there is anyone who would like to lead intercessions and doesn't already, I would love to hear from you. Fr Geoff

SWORD for Christmas and the New Year 2016 is available at the back of the Church. Please note that subscriptions for 2016 are now due. These should be paid to Valerie Alvarez. The cost is £6 for the year, ie 12 copies for the price of 10.