



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST

10 January 2016

We wish you a warm welcome to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Service Fr Geoff celebrates and preaches. Violet Allen-Smith leads the intercessions.

Hymns: 87, 92, 89 and 513

Setting: Thorne

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

(Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church 1.00-5.00pm)

Evening prayer at 6.00pm.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: The Parish of Campton in our Diocese.
The Anglican Church of Australia; Philip Leslie Freier
Archbishop of Melbourne & Primate of Australia.
The Church Army's Marylebone Project.

The World: The children of Gaza.
The reconciliation of countries in the Middle East.
GP surgeries, their doctors, nurses and other staff.

The Community and Parish: Residents and Staff at Home Manor and St
Anthony's.
The work of New Hope with homeless people in Watford.
The work of the Peace Hospice.

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

Eternal Father, who at the baptism of Jesus revealed him to be your Son, anointing him with the Holy Spirit:
grant to us, who are born again by water and the Spirit, that we may be faithful to our calling as your adopted children;
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 43.1-7

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

- ¹ Thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.
- ² When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.
- ³ For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.
- ⁴ Because you are precious in my sight, and honoured, and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life.
- ⁵ Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you;
- ⁶ I will say to the north, 'Give them up,' and to the south, 'Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth –
- ⁷ everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.'

SECOND READING Acts 8.14–17

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

- ¹⁴ When the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them.
- ¹⁵ The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit
- ¹⁶ (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus).
- ¹⁷ Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

GOSPEL Luke 3.15–17, 21–22

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

In the wilderness John proclaimed a baptism of repentance.

- ¹⁵ As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah,
- ¹⁶ John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.
- ¹⁷ His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'
- ²¹ Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened,
- ²² and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

THIS WEEK

Mon	11	Jan	Toddlers' Group	10.00am – 11.30am
			Discovering the Bible (Choir Vestry)	2.30pm
			Publicity Committee	8.00pm
Wed	13	Jan	Food Bank	10.00am – 12 noon
			Coffee in Church	10.30am-12 noon
			Service at Home Manor	2.30pm
Thu	14	Jan	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
			St Anthony's	morning
			NO Choir Practice	
Sun	17	Jan	<u>EPIPHANY 2</u>	
			Holy Communion (Pres: Fr George)	8.00am
			SUNG EUCHARIST (Pres and preacher: Fr Geoff)	9.30am
			Messy Church	11.15 am – 12.45pm
			Evening Prayer	6.00pm

NOTICES

THANKS TO Jean Alexander and Fay Storey for the many flower decorations in the church 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. Thanks to Pat & Dennis Beach for the Christmas trees in the west porch.

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.