



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

EPIPHANY 2
17 January 2016

We wish you a warm welcome to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Service Fr Geoff celebrates and preaches. Vicki Matthews leads the intercessions.

Hymns: 90(i), 183, 581(ii) and 170

Setting: Thorne

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

Messy Church 11.15 am – 12.45pm

Evening prayer at 6.00pm.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: The Parish of Haynes in our Diocese.

The Church of Bangladesh; Paul Shishir Sarker, its Moderator and Bishop of Dhaka.

The Anglican Church in Zimbabwe and its Us-supported programmes.

The World: Church Army evangelists working in Northern Ireland.

The work of Christian Aid in Guatemala, teaching young people alternatives to violence.

Victims of recent terrorist attacks in several countries.

The Community and Parish: Our Mothers' Union Members.

The leaders of faith communities in Watford.

Our Churchwardens Kristine and Elizabeth.

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, Richard

Mein, Dorcas Ochola, Brian O'Riordan, Helen Perry, Christina

Simon, Mark Simon, Karen Stride and Nicholas Weeks.

The Departed:

Collect

Almighty God, in Christ you make all things new:
transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the
renewal of our lives make known your heavenly glory;
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 62.1–5

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

The LORD says this:

- 1 For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch.
- 2 The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give.
- 3 You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.
- 4 You shall no more be termed Forsaken, and your land shall no more be termed Desolate; but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her, and your land Married; for the LORD delights in you, and your land shall be married.
- 5 For as a young man marries a young woman, so shall your builder marry you, and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you.

SECOND READING I Corinthians 12.1–11

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

- 1 Concerning spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed.
- 2 You know that when you were pagans, you were enticed and led astray to idols that could not speak.
- 3 Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says 'Let Jesus be cursed!' and no one can say 'Jesus is Lord' except by the Holy Spirit.
- 4 Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit;
- 5 and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord;

- 6 and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone.
- 7 To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.
- 8 To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit,
- 9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit,
- 10 to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.
- 11 All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

GOSPEL John 2.1-11

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

- 1 There was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there.
- 2 Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding.
- 3 When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.'
- 4 And Jesus said to her, 'Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come.'
- 5 His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.'
- 6 Now standing there were six stone water-jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons.
- 7 Jesus said to them, 'Fill the jars with water.' And they filled them up to the brim.
- 8 He said to them, 'Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward.' So they took it.
- 9 When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him,
- 10 'Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.'
- 11 Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

THIS WEEK

Mon	18	Jan	<i>Start of Week Prayer for Christian Unity</i>	
			Toddlers' Group	10.00am – 11.30am
Tue	19	Jan	Intercessory Prayer Group	2.30pm
Wed	20	Jan	Food Bank	10.00am – 12 noon
			Coffee in Church	10.30am-12 noon
			Social Committee	8.00pm
Thu	21	Jan	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
			followed by coffee in Choir Vestry	
			Choir Practice	7.00 – 8.30pm
Sun	24	Jan	<u>EPIPHANY 3</u>	
			Holy Communion (Pres: Fr Geoff)	8.00am
			SUNG EUCHARIST (Pres: Fr Geoff;	
			preacher from the Refugee Partnership)	9.30am
			(The Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church	1.00 – 5.00pm)
			Evening Prayer	6.00pm

NOTICES

PANCAKES AND PRAYERS A social occasion on Shrove Tuesday, 9 February 2016, starting at 7 pm in Church. Pancakes, with savoury or sweet fillings, and hot drinks will be served. The evening will end with Compline. In-between we will hear about traditions which lead us to serve pancakes on Shrove Tuesday and other traditions that happen at this time in the Church's year. Tickets: £5 available from members of the Publicity and Social Committees.

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

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 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.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

10 February Ash Wednesday.

27 February Lent Lunch: Coffee morning and Bring-& Buy Sale. Frugal lunch served by St Michael's Brownies.

6 March Mothering Sunday