



# THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

*St Michael and All Angels*

Watford

**EPIPHANY 3**  
**24 January 2016**

We wish you a warm welcome to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Service Fr Geoff celebrates and we welcome a preacher from the Watford and Three Rivers Refugee Partnership. Jamie Wareham leads the intercessions.

**Hymns: 584 (t 357), 515, 448 and 591**

**Setting: Thorne**

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

(The Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church 1.00 – 5.00pm)

Service at Trinity Methodist Church for Week of Prayer for Christian Unity at 5pm.

(No evening prayer at St Michael's.)

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## **For your prayers this week:**

### **The Church:**

Greater unity between Christians of all denominations,  
Greater unity with our fellow Christians in the Anglican Communion,  
Persecuted Christians across the world,  
The Parish of Meppershall in our Diocese,  
The Anglican Church in Brazil; Francisco De Assis Da Silva, primate,  
and all the people,  
Us-supported Church work in West Africa in the aftermath of the Ebola outbreak.

**The Community and Parish:** The work of the Watford and Three Rivers Refugee Partnership.

The work of New Hope on Homelessness Sunday.

Our fellow Christians at Trinity Methodist Church and West Watford Free Church.

**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:** Richard Mein (Cousin of Bob Bilson)

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**Collect**

Almighty God, whose Son revealed in signs and miracles the wonder of your saving presence:

renew your people with your heavenly grace, and in all our weakness sustain us by your mighty power;

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 Nehemiah 8.1–3, 5–6, 8–10**

A reading from the book of Nehemiah.

- 1 All the people gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the LORD had given to Israel.
- 2 Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month.
- 3 He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law.
- 5 And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up.
- 6 Then Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God and all the people answered, 'Amen, Amen,' lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshipped the LORD with their faces to the ground.
- 8 So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.
- 9 And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, 'This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep.' For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law.
- 10 Then he said to them, 'Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our LORD; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.'

**SECOND READING I Corinthians 12.12–31a**

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

- 12 Just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.
- 13 For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body – Jews or Greeks, slaves or free – and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.
- 14 Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many.
- 15 If the foot would say, 'Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,' that would not make it any less a part of the body.
- 16 And if the ear would say, 'Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,' that would not make it any less a part of the body.

17 If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be?  
18 But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose.  
19 If all were a single member, where would the body be?  
20 As it is, there are many members, yet one body.  
21 The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I have no need of you,' nor again the head to the feet, 'I have no need of you.'  
22 On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and those members of the body that we think less honourable we clothe with greater honour, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honour to the inferior member, that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another.  
26 If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honoured, all rejoice together with it.  
27 Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.  
28 And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership various kinds of tongues.  
29 Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles?  
30 Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret?  
31 But strive for the greater gifts.

## **GOSPEL Luke 4.14–21**

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

14 Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country.  
15 He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.  
16 When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:  
18 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.'  
20 And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him.  
21 Then he began to say to them, 'Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.'

## THIS WEEK

Mon	25	Jan	Toddlers' Group	10.00am – 11.30am
Tue	26	Jan	Burns Night Supper at West Herts College	6.30pm
Wed	27	Jan	Food Bank	10.00am – 12 noon
			Coffee in Church	10.30am-12 noon
Thu	28	Jan	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
			Choir Practice	7.00 – 8.30pm
Sat	30	Jan	Baptism	3.00pm
Sun	31	Jan	<b>CANDLEMAS</b>	
			<i>(World Leprosy Day – see Pat Beach for more information)</i>	
			Holy Communion (Pres: Fr George)	8.00am
			<b>SUNG EUCHARIST (Pres: Fr Geoff; Preacher: Martin Heath)</b>	
			<b>(followed by a Bring-&amp;-Buy Sale)</b>	<b>9.30am</b>
			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 Sylvia Moring. There are lists at the back of the church asking for help for Pancakes and Prayers.

- Could you sign if you are able to deliver some flyers to local roads?
- Could you sign if you are able to help by making fillings for the pancakes?
- Could you help put up some tables after the 9.30 service on 7 February?

FINAL COPY DATE for February Sword is today, 24 January. Hard copy or floppy disc to Rob White or email to robwhite.watford@tiscali.co.uk.

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. Proceeds for mission.  
 6 March Mothering Sunday