



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

<p>CANDLEMAS THE PRESENTATION OF CHRIST 31 January 2016</p>
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We wish you a warm welcome to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Service Fr Geoff celebrates and Martin Heath preaches. Sylvia Moring leads the intercessions.

Hymns: 2, 360, 80 (vv 1-6,13) and 429

Setting: Thorne

Refreshments will be served in church after the 9.30 service and there will be a Bring-&-Buy Sale - please stay on.

There is a Baptism at 3 pm

Evening prayer at 6.00 pm.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: The Parish of Silsoe in our Diocese.
The Anglican Church of Burundi, Bernard Ntahoturi its Archbishop and all its people.

The World: The work of Us with the Episcopal Church of the Philippines.
The work of Christian Aid with refugees in South Sudan.
The work of Church Army with vulnerable women in the north of England.

Victims of the Zika virus in the Americas and Caribbean.

The Community and Parish: Residents and Staff at River Court and Fairhaven.
Our PCC Members.

The Churches 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: Madge Anderegg (Fairhaven)

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

³⁵ 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,

³⁷ 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	1	Feb	Toddlers' Group	10.00am – 11.30am
Tue	2	Feb	Service at River Court	2.30pm
Wed	3	Feb	Food Bank	10.00am – 12 noon
			Coffee in Church	10.30am-12 noon
			PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL	7.55pm
Thu	4	Feb	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
			Fairhaven	morning
			Choir Practice	7.00 – 8.30pm
Sun	7	Feb	<u>SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE LENT</u>	
			Holy Communion (Pres: Fr Geoff)	8.00am
			SUNG EUCHARIST (Pres and Preacher: Fr George)	9.30am
			Sunday School	
			United Service at Trinity Methodist	6.30pm

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?

LENT PRAYER DIARY: US(PG) has produced a (free) booklet on the theme of migration with stories, reflections and prayers from around the world. If you would like one please see Gillian Heath.

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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

10 February Ash Wednesday –
Holy Communion with Imposition of Ashes at 10am and 7.30pm.
15 February at 2.30pm and 16 February at 7.30pm: Lent Study Groups
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

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