



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

NAMING OF JESUS
Sunday 1 January 2017

We wish you a warm welcome to our services today and a very Happy New Year. At 9.30 am there is our First Sunday of the Month Eucharist; Fr Geoff celebrates and Vicki Mathews leads the intercessions. There is an all-age presentation.

Hymns: 444, 67, 453 and 81

Setting: Thorne

Refreshments will be served in church afterwards – please stay on.

No evening service.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: Archbishop Justin Welby, Pope Francis, and Bartholomew, Patriarch of the Orthodox Churches.

Leaders of the Free Churches and all our Christian brothers and sisters.
All Christian leaders making New Year addresses.

The World: Peace in Syria, Iraq, Yemen, South Sudan, Libya, and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Peace in all the troubled areas of our World.

The United Nations, and everyone working to bring peace and reconciliation.

The Community and Parish: A year of Love, Joy, and Peace for our Church family.

Help for local people who are homeless, jobless, housebound or in poverty.

Young people who will enter the world of work in 2017.

The Ill and the Housebound: Especially Bruce Alexander, Sonia Anderson, Gavin Ashenden, Christopher Bilson, Janet Bridge, Robert Caton, Peter Coley, Marion Craddock-Jones, Judith Degen, Audrey Dixon, Claire Dunning, Peter Hinchey, Kristine Jenkins, Mary Kearns, Lesley Kinch, Loretta Lynch, Dorcas Ochola, Brian O'Riordan, Helen Perry, Michele Rodford, Christina Simon, Mark Simon, Michael Wright, and all who care for them.

The Departed: Members of our families, and of our Church Family who died in 2016, may they rest in peace and rise in glory.

THE NAMING AND CIRCUMCISION OF JESUS

Collect

Almighty God,
whose blessed Son was circumcised
in obedience to the law for our sake
and given the Name that is above every name:
give us grace faithfully to bear his Name,
to worship him in the freedom of the Spirit,
and to proclaim him as the Saviour of the world;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING Numbers 6.22–27

A reading from the book of Numbers.

²² The LORD spoke to Moses, saying

²³ ‘ Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, “Thus you shall bless the
Israelites: You shall say to them,

²⁴ The LORD bless you and keep you;

²⁵ the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;

²⁶ the LORD lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.”

²⁷ So they shall put my name on the Israelites, and I will bless them.’

SECOND READING Galatians 4.4–7

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Galatians.

- ⁴ When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law,
⁵ in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children.
⁶ And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba! Father!'
⁷ So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

GOSPEL Luke 2.15–21

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

- ¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.'
¹⁶ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.
¹⁷ When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child;
¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them.
¹⁹ But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.
²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.
²¹ After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel.

THIS WEEK

Mon	2	Jan	<i>Bank Holiday</i> NO Toddlers' Group NO Discovering the Bible	
Tue	3	Jan	Service at River Court	2.30pm
Wed	4	Jan	Food Bank	10.00am – 12 noon
			Coffee in Church	10.30am – 12 noon
Thur	5	Jan	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
			Choir Practice	7.00-8.30pm
Sun	8	Jan	<u>EPIPHANY</u> Holy Communion (Pres: Fr George)	8.00am
			SUNG EUCHARIST	9.30am
			(President: Fr Geoff; Preacher Violet Allen-Smith)	
			Children's Church in Littlebury Hall	
			(Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church)	1.00 – 5.00pm)
			Evening Prayer	6.00pm

NOTICES

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS BOOKLETS: Thank you to everyone who has made a donation to Christian Aid for this. If anyone still wishes to give a donation, would they please let Vicki know within the next few days as the donations need to be sent to Christian Aid.

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS: Thank you to everyone who contributed to the decoration of the church for Christmas by providing plants, greenery and so on. We also thank Fay for the time and thought that she gives to making our beautiful building look so special at this time.

WE WILL NOT BE HAVING THE “ANGEL TREE” THIS YEAR, but if people would like to continue the tradition of bringing presents for needy children and adults, they are very welcome. The presents will be given to families who are being supported by the Watford and Three Rivers Refugee Partnership at their party in February, so presents should be marked with who they are for, i.e. adult, child age, male/female etc., and not Christmas-specific. More details from Sue Ellison.



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