



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

EPIPHANY 2

Sunday 15 January 2017

A warm welcome to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Eucharist Fr Geoff celebrates and preaches. Graham Mordue leads the intercessions

Hymns: 90 (i), 93, 411 and 627 (t 227)

Setting: Thorne

Children's Church in Littlebury Hall.

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

Evening Prayer at 6.00.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: The Parish of Flitwick in our Diocese.

The Diocese of Kyoto, Japan, Stephen Takashi Kochi, its Bishop, and all its people.

Churches in West Africa seeking to help communities recover from the effects of Ebola.

The World: Church Army's work with needy and disadvantaged people.

People living with the legacy of the 2010 earthquake in Haiti.

Donald Trump and the people of the United States.

The Community and Parish: Our Mothers' Union Members.

Our fellow Christian Churches in Watford.

Our PCC members.

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:

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 49.1–7

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

- ¹ Listen to me, O coastlands, pay attention, you peoples from far away! The LORD
called me before I was born, while I was in my mother's womb he named me.
² He made my mouth like a sharp sword, in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he
made me a polished arrow, in his quiver he hid me away.
³ And he said to me, 'You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified.'
⁴ But I said, 'I have laboured in vain, I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity;
yet surely my cause is with the LORD, and my reward with my God.'
⁵ And now the LORD says, who formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring
Jacob back to him, and that Israel might be gathered to him, for I am honoured in
the sight of the LORD, and my God has become my strength.
⁶ The LORD says, 'It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the
tribes of Jacob and to restore the survivors of Israel; I will give you as a light to the
nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.'
⁷ Thus says the LORD, the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One, to one deeply
despised, abhorred by the nations, the slave of rulers, 'Kings shall see and stand up,
princes, and they shall prostrate themselves, because of the LORD, who is faithful,
the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.'

SECOND READING I Corinthians 1.1–9

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

- ¹ From Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our
brother Sosthenes,
² To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus,
called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of
our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:
³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
⁴ I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been
given you in Christ Jesus,
⁵ for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every
kind –
⁶ just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you –

- 7 so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- 8 He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- 9 God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

GOSPEL John I.29–42

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

- 29 John the Baptist saw Jesus coming towards him and declared, 'Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!
- 30 This is he of whom I said, "After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me."
- 31 I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.'
- 32 And John testified, 'I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him.
- 33 I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, "He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit."
- 34 And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God.'
- 35 The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples,
- 36 and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, 'Look, here is the Lamb of God!'
- 37 The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus.
- 38 When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, 'What are you looking for?' They said to him, 'Rabbi' (which translated means Teacher), 'where are you staying?'
- 39 He said to them, 'Come and see.' They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon.
- 40 One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother.
- 41 He first found his brother Simon and said to him, 'We have found the Messiah' (which is translated Anointed).
- 42 He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, 'You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas' (which is translated Peter).

THIS WEEK

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|------|----|-----|---|----------------------|
| Mon | 16 | Jan | Toddlers' Group | 10 – 11.30am |
| Wed | 18 | Jan | Food Bank | 10.00am – 12 noon |
| | | | Coffee in Church | 10.30am – 12 noon |
| | | | Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Service at Holy Rood | 2.00pm |
| | | | PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL | <u>7.25pm</u> |
| Thur | 19 | Jan | Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language) | 10.00am |
| | | | Followed by coffee in Choir Vestry | |
| | | | NO Choir Practice | |
| Sat | 21 | Jan | Wedding | 1.30pm |
| Sun | 22 | Jan | <u>EPIPHANY 3</u> | |
| | | | Holy Communion (Pres: Fr George) | 8.00am |
| | | | SUNG EUCHARIST | 9.30am |
| | | | (President: Fr George and Preacher: Fr Geoff) | |
| | | | Children's Church in Littlebury Hall | |
| | | | (Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church | 1.00 – 5.00pm) |
| | | | Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Service at Beechen Grove | 4.00pm |

NOTICES

PCC SECRETARY: We are looking for people to take the various roles of the PCC Secretary. If you feel you could help in this way, please let us know.

LENT GROUP: We are also looking for people who would be willing to host a Lent Group this year. Please let us know if you could, and we will discuss dates and times.

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY is 18 to 25th January. Services as follows:

18th at Holy Rood (Lunch at 1.00pm, Soup and Drinks provided, bring your own Packed Lunch, service 2.00pm)

22nd at Beechen Grove Baptist Church at **4 pm**. (Please note change of time)

25th at St Mary's Church at 12.30pm.

PASTORAL CARE COURSE taking place at St Luke's on five Thursday Evenings, 23rd February, 2nd, 9th, 16th and 23rd March, 7.45pm – 10.00pm, which is open to members of local Churches. Please let Fr Geoff know if you would like to take part.

CHILDREN AND YOUNG FAMILIES NETWORK meets at 72 Harwoods Road, 4.00pm – 6.00pm on Monday 16 January.

FINAL COPY DATE FOR THE FEBRUARY SWORD is MIDDAY next Sunday, 22 January. Hard copy to Rob White or email to robwhite.watford@googlemail.com.

SWORD SUBSCRIPTIONS are now due, £6 pa. Please see Valerie Alvarez.

DATES FOR THE DIARY:

11th March Table-Top Sale

18th March Lent Lunch