



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

EPIPHANY 3

Sunday 22 January 2017

A warm welcome to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Eucharist Fr George celebrates and Fr Geoff preaches. Phil Gough leads the intercessions

Hymns: 38, 590, 386 and 622

Setting: Thorne

Children's Church in Littlebury Hall.

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

(Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church 1.00 – 5.00pm)

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Service at Beechen Grove 4.00pm.

NO Evening Prayer at St Michael's.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: The Unity of all Christians.
The Parish of Langford in our Diocese.
The Diocese of Lake Rukwa (Tanzania), Mathayo Kasagara its Bishop,
and all its people.

The World: Churches across the world praying and working together for peace.
USPG's "Journey with Us" volunteers in Churches around the world.
The people of Northern Ireland, and the people of the Holy land.

The Community and Parish: Churches Together in Central, South, and West Watford.
Christians Across Watford.
Christians meeting in Church and Community Halls in our Parish.

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, 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 Isaiah 9.1–4

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

- ¹ There will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.
- ² The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them light has shined.
- ³ You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder.
- ⁴ For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

SECOND READING I Corinthians 1.10–18

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

- ¹⁰ I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same purpose.
- ¹¹ For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters.
- ¹² What I mean is that each of you says, 'I belong to Paul,' or 'I belong to Apollos,' or 'I belong to Cephas,' or 'I belong to Christ.'
- ¹³ Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?
- ¹⁴ I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius,
- ¹⁵ so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name.

- ¹⁶ I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.
- ¹⁷ For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power.
- ¹⁸ For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

GOSPEL Matthew 4.12–23

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

- ¹² When Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee.
- ¹³ He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali,
- ¹⁴ so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:
- ¹⁵ ‘Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles –
- ¹⁶ the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned.’
- ¹⁷ From that time Jesus began to proclaim, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.’
- ¹⁸ As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the lake – for they were fishermen.
- ¹⁹ And he said to them, ‘Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.’
- ²⁰ Immediately they left their nets and followed him.
- ²¹ As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them.
- ²² Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him.
- ²³ Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

THIS WEEK

Mon	23	Jan	Toddlers' Group	10 – 11.30am
Tue	24	Jan	Intercessory Prayer Group (Choir Vestry)	2.30pm
Wed	25	Jan	Food Bank	10.00am – 12 noon
			Coffee in Church	10.30am – 12 noon
Thur	26	Jan	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
			Choir Practice	7.00 – 8.30pm
Sun	29	Jan	<u>CANDLEMAS</u>	
			Holy Communion (Pres: Fr Geoff)	8.00am
			SUNG EUCHARIST	9.30am
			(President: Fr Geoff and Preacher: Martin Heath)	
			Children's Church in Littlebury Hall	
			Followed by a Bring-&-Buy Sale	
			(Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church)	1.00 – 5.00pm)
			Evening Prayer	6.00pm

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.

RADIATORS: could people please refrain from placing tables and other items in front of the radiators. Keeping the church heated is very expensive anyway and obstacles prevent the flow of heat into the body of the church. Thank you.

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY is 18 to 25th January. Services: 22nd at Beechen Grove Baptist Church at **4 pm**. (Please note change of original 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.

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

SWORD SUBSCRIPTIONS for 2017 are now due. Valerie Alvarez has kindly agreed to collect subscriptions for the coming year. The cost of Sword is 60p per month. If you pay for the year in advance an annual subscription for 12 issues will be £6.00, thus giving you 12 issues for the price of 10!

DATES FOR THE DIARY:

11th March Table-Top Sale

18th March Lent Lunch

19th March The Bishop of Hertford will be with us for the 9.30 Sung Eucharist

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