



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

CANDLEMAS
Sunday 29 January 2017

A warm welcome to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Eucharist Fr Geoff celebrates and Martin Heath preaches. Violet Allen-Smith leads the intercessions

Hymns: 516 (ii), 360, 94 and 80 vv 1-6,13

Setting: Thorne

Children's Church in Littlebury Hall.

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

(Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church 1.00 – 5.00pm)

Evening Prayer at 6.00 pm.

For your prayers this week:

- The Church:** The Parish of Shefford in our Diocese.
The Diocese of Lichfield, Michael Igrave its Bishop, and all its people.
The Anglican Church in Malawi, helping local farmers.
- The World:** People who have to walk long distances for water or other necessities.
Victims of anti-Semitism (last Friday was Holocaust Memorial Day).
The fight against Leprosy (today is World Leprosy Day).
- The Community and Parish:** Grantley and Gladly Finlayson, Church Army Ordained Evangelists.
Residents and Staff at Fairhaven Care Home.
Members and leaders of Uniformed Organisations 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:** Susan Honour.
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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	30	Jan	Toddlers' Group 10 – 11.30am
Wed	1	Feb	Food Bank 10.00am – 12 noon
			Coffee in Church 10.30am – 12 noon
			Beaver Group visiting Church 6.00pm – 7.30pm
Thur	2	Feb	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language) 10.00am
			Choir Practice 7.00 – 8.30pm
Sun	5	Jan	<u>Fourth Sunday before LENT</u>
			Holy Communion (Pres: Fr George) 8.00am
			FIRST SUNDAY of MONTH SUNG EUCHARIST 9.30am
			(President: Fr Geoff; All-Age Presentation)
			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.

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.

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