



# THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

*St Michael and All Angels*

Watford

**EPIPHANY 3**  
**21 January 2018**

A warm welcome to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Eucharist Fr Geoff celebrates and preaches. Sarah Dunning leads the intercessions.

Hymns: 90 (i), 477, 396 (t530) and 442 (t278)

Setting: Thorne

Children's Church in Littlebury Hall.

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

(Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Service at Beechen Grove Baptist Church at 3.30pm)

NO Evening Prayer at St Michael's.

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## **For your prayers this week:**

### **The Church:**

The Parish of Husborne Crawley in our Diocese.

The Church of Bangladesh; Paul Shishir Sarker - Moderator, Church of Bangladesh & Bishop of Dhaka.

The USPG-supported work of the Diocese of the Amazon against human trafficking.

Christian Unity.

### **The World:**

All who have lost jobs through the collapse of Carillion.

Unity between communities in Myanmar.

### **The Community and Parish:** Trinity Methodist Church and West Watford Free Church.

Churches Together in Central South and West Watford.

Christians across Watford.

### **The Ill and the Housebound:**

Especially Christopher Bilson, Janet Bridge, Peter Coley, Marion Craddock-Jones, Kate Dickinson, Audrey Dixon, Cynthia Dixon, Sister Dominic, Claire Dunning, Jemima Hill, Peter Hinchey, Blossom Hutchinson, Kristine Jenkins, Mary Kearns, Lesley Kinch, Loretta Lynch, Dorcas Ochola, Brian O'Riordan, Michele Rodford, Rick Sear, Christina Simon, Mark Simon, Peter White; and all who care for them.

### **The Departed:**

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**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 Genesis 14.17–20**

A reading from the book of Genesis.

- <sup>17</sup> After Abram's return from the defeat of Chedorlaomer and the kings who were with him, the king of Sodom went out to meet him at the Valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley).  
<sup>18</sup> And King Melchizedek of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was priest of God Most High.  
<sup>19</sup> He blessed him and said, 'Blessed be Abram by God Most High, maker of heaven and earth;  
<sup>20</sup> and blessed be God Most High, who has delivered your enemies into your hand!' And Abram gave him one-tenth of everything.

**SECOND READING Revelation 19.6–10**

A reading from the book of Revelation.

- <sup>6</sup> I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the sound of many waters and like the sound of mighty thunder-peals, crying out, 'Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns.  
<sup>7</sup> Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready;  
<sup>8</sup> to her it has been granted to be clothed with fine linen, bright and pure' – for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.

- <sup>9</sup> And the angel said to me, ‘Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.’ And he said to me, ‘These are true words of God.’
- <sup>10</sup> Then I fell down at his feet to worship him, but he said to me, ‘You must not do that! I am a fellow-servant with you and your comrades who hold the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.’

## **GOSPEL John 2.1-11**

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

- <sup>1</sup> There was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there.
- <sup>2</sup> Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding.
- <sup>3</sup> When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, ‘They have no wine.’
- <sup>4</sup> And Jesus said to her, ‘Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come.’
- <sup>5</sup> His mother said to the servants, ‘Do whatever he tells you.’
- <sup>6</sup> Now standing there were six stone water-jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons.
- <sup>7</sup> Jesus said to them, ‘Fill the jars with water.’ And they filled them up to the brim.
- <sup>8</sup> He said to them, ‘Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward.’ So they took it.
- <sup>9</sup> When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him,
- <sup>10</sup> ‘Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.’
- <sup>11</sup> Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

## **THIS WEEK**

Mon	22	Jan	Toddlers' Group	10 – 11.30am
Wed	24	Jan	Food Bank	10.00am – 12 noon
			Coffee in Church	10.30am – 12 noon
Thur	25	Jan	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
Fri	26	Jan	Funeral in church	10.00am
Sun	28	Jan	<b><u>CANDLEMAS</u></b>	
			Holy Communion (Pres: Fr George)	8.00am
			<b>SUNG EUCHARIST</b> (Pres & Preacher: Fr Geoff)	9.30am
			Children's Church in Littlebury Hall	
			Followed by Bring-&-Buy Sale	
			(Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church)	1.00 – 5.00pm)
			Evening Prayer	6.00pm)

## **NOTICES**

**SWORD SUBSCRIPTIONS** for 2018 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!

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

- *Sunday 21 January* – Beechen Grove at 3.30pm (United Service with Churches Across Watford)
- *Wednesday 24 January* - Holy Rood at 1pm for lunch (bring packed lunch) and 2pm service

**THERE WILL BE LENT GROUPS** on Monday afternoons in Lent at 2.30 pm, jointly led by Fr Geoff and the Revd Ruth Reynolds-Tyson, using the course “On the Third Day”, by Bishop John Pritchard (York Courses), and taking place at Trinity Methodist Church. There is a sign-up list at the back of Church. An evening group can take place if enough people request one.

**FINAL COPY DATE FOR THE FEBRUARY SWORD** is MIDDAY next Sunday, 28 January. Hard copy to Rob White or email to [swordparishmagazine@googlemail.com](mailto:swordparishmagazine@googlemail.com).

**IF YOU HAVE ANY OUTSTANDING BILLS OR PAYMENTS** for the church accounts for 2017, could you please give them to the Treasurer, Duncan Turton, as soon as possible.

**ANDY AND PAT BENOY** have moved. If you would like their new address, please ask Sylvia.

### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:**

Ash Wednesday                      14 February  
 The Lent Lunch will be on the 24th February.