



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

EPIPHANY 2
BAPTISM of CHRIST
13 January 2019

A warm welcome to our services today.

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

Hymns: 334, 612, 444 and 558

Setting: Thorne

Children's Church in Littlebury Hall.

Coffee and tea will be served in church after the 9.30 service – please stay on.

(Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church 1.00 – 5.00 pm)

Evening Prayer at 6.00pm.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: The Parish of Eversholt in our Diocese.
The Anglican Church of Australia, Philip Freier its Archbishop and all its People.

The World: People preparing for the Sacrament of Baptism.
Victims of conflict in the Central African Republic.
Communities in Malawi being helped by USPG to become self-supporting.
Displaced people and refugees in Iraq supported by Christian Aid partners.

The Community and Parish: Our PCC members.
Watford Interfaith Association.
The Mothers' Union.

The Ill and the Housebound: Especially Christopher Bilson, Fr John Brown, Juliette Cottam, Marion Craddock-Jones, Audrey Dixon, Cynthia Dixon, Claire Dunning, Fr Robert Featherstone, Jemima Hill, Peter Hinchey, Michael Jennings, Mary Kearns, Lesley Kinch, Loretta Lynch, Craig McKay, Lisa Mills, Sylvia Obeng, Dorcas Ochola, Martin Ranson, Christina Simon, Mark Simon, Baby Adelaide Tonkin, Peter White; and all who care for them.

The Departed:

Collect

Eternal Father, who at the baptism of Jesus revealed him to be your Son, anointing him with the Holy Spirit:
grant to us, who are born again by water and the Spirit, that we may be faithful to our calling as your adopted children;
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 43.1-7

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

- ¹ Thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.
- ² When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.
- ³ For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.
- ⁴ Because you are precious in my sight, and honoured, and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life.
- ⁵ Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you;
- ⁶ I will say to the north, 'Give them up,' and to the south, 'Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth –
- ⁷ everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.'

SECOND READING Acts 8.14–17

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

- ¹⁴ When the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them.
- ¹⁵ The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit
- ¹⁶ (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus).
- ¹⁷ Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

GOSPEL Luke 3.15–17, 21–22

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

In the wilderness John proclaimed a baptism of repentance.

- ¹⁵ As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah,
- ¹⁶ John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.
- ¹⁷ His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'
- ²¹ Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened,
- ²² and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

THIS WEEK

Mon	14	Jan	Toddlers' Group	10.00 – 11.30am
Wed	16	Jan	Food Bank	10.00am – 12 noon
			Coffee in Church	10.30am – 12 noon
			Funeral of Norma Stone in church	1.00pm
			PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL	7.25pm
Thur	17	Jan	Holy Communion	10.00am
			followed by coffee in Choir Vestry	
Sat	19	Jan	Planning Morning (see Notices)	9.30am – 12.30pm
Sun	20	Jan	<u>EPIPHANY 3</u>	
			Holy Communion	8.00am
			SUNG EUCHARIST (Pres and preacher: Fr Geoff)	9.30am
			Evening Prayer	6.00pm

NOTICES

WE NEED YOUR INPUT! Come along to our Planning Morning on Saturday 19th January and tell us what you have liked about St Michael's in 2018, what we are doing well, and how we could do better in 2019.

Continental Breakfast 9.30am, Planning Morning finishes 12.30pm.

There is a sign-up list at the back of Church

SWORD. Please note that subscriptions for 2019 are now due. These should be paid to Valerie Alvarez. The cost is £7.50 for the year, ie 12 copies for the price of 10. The January Sword is available for collection at the back of the Church.

THE FUNERAL SERVICE OF NORMA STONE will be at 1.00 pm on Wednesday 16th January at St Michael's. The following committal will be family only.

PERSONAL CHRISTMAS CARD delivery –Please check and take any cards addressed to you.