



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

CANDLEMAS
THE PRESENTATION OF CHRIST
3 February 2019

Welcome to our services today.

There is our monthly “First Sunday of the Month Service” at 9.30 am. Fr Geoff celebrates and there will be an All-age Presentation. The children lead the intercessions.

Hymns: 80, 360, 94 and 557

Setting: Thorne

Evening Prayer at 6.00 pm.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: The Ven. Jonathan Smith, Archdeacon of St Albans.
The Anglican Church of Burundi, Martin Blaise Nyaboho its Archbishop, and all its people.

USPG-supported educational work with the Church of Ceylon.

The World: People affected by severe low temperatures in America.
Christian Aid’s work with communities in the Amazon area of Bolivia.

People in the UK vulnerable to cold weather.

The Community and Parish: Residents and Staff at River Court.

The Watford Celebration Committee.

Our Estates Committee.

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, 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: Michael Jennings.

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.

Reading: Haggai 2: 1, 3-9 (Good News Version)

A reading from the Prophet Haggai

On the twenty-first day of the seventh month of that same year, the Lord spoke again through the prophet Haggai. "Is there anyone among you who can still remember how splendid the Temple used to be? How does it look to you now? It must seem like nothing at all. But now don't be discouraged, any of you. Do the work, for I am with you.

When you came out of Egypt, I promised that I would always be with you. I am still with you, so do not be afraid. "Before long I will shake heaven and earth, land and sea. I will overthrow all the nations, and their treasures will be brought here, and the Temple will be filled with wealth. All the silver and gold of the world is mine. The new Temple will be more splendid than the old one, and there I will give my people prosperity and peace." The Lord Almighty has spoken.

This is the Word of the Lord

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, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

²⁸ ‘Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word;

²⁹ for my eyes have seen your salvation,

³⁰ which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

³¹ a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.’

³² And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him.

³³ 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

³⁴ so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed – and a sword will pierce your own soul too.’

³⁵ 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,

³⁶ 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.

³⁷ 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.

³⁸ When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth.

³⁹ The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

THIS WEEK

Mon	4	Feb	Toddlers' Group	10.00 – 11.30am
Tue	5	Feb	Estates Committee	9.30pm
			Service at River Court	2.30pm
Wed	6	Feb	Food Bank	10.00am – 12 noon
			Coffee in Church	10.30am – 12 noon
Thur	7	Feb	Holy Communion	10.00am
Sun	10	Feb	<u>FOURTH SUNDAY BEFORE LENT</u>	
			Holy Communion	8.00am
			SUNG EUCHARIST (Pres and preacher: Fr George)	9.30am
			(Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church	1.00-7.00pm)
			Evening Prayer (Littlebury Hall)	6.00pm

NOTICES

THERE WILL BE A QUIET DAY, in preparation for Lent, on Saturday 16th February, 10.00am – 4.00pm. It will take place at the Church of the Ascension, Bedmond.

There is a sign – up list and more information 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.

LAST SUNDAY'S BRING-&-BUY SALE raised £42.50. Many thanks.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Ash Wednesday 6 March: Services at 10 am and 8 pm, both with Imposition of Ashes.

Lent Lunch 23 March: Sale at 11.am; Lunch of homemade soup and bread and cheese from 12 noon to 1.30 pm. Proceeds to mission.

Mothering Sunday 31 March: Service at 9.30 am.

Annual Meetings: Wednesday 24 April, 7 pm