



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

EPIPHANY
5 January 2020

Welcome to our services today and a very Happy New Year.

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.

Hymns: 91, 84, 83 and 41

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

Evening Prayer at 6.00pm.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: The Parish of Arlesey in our Diocese.
The Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia.

Christian ministers suffering from depression.

The World: Victims of, and people threatened by, wild fires in Australia.
Victims of alcoholism and substance abuse.

The work of the Alzheimer's Society.

The Community and Parish: Our toddlers, children and young people.
Residents and Staff at River Court and St Anthony's.
Deepening of our prayer lives.

The Ill and the Housebound: Especially Christopher Bilson, Marion Craddock-Jones, Audrey Dixon, Cynthia Dixon, Claire Dunning, Fr Robert Featherstone, Jemima Hill, Peter Hinchey, Mary Kearns, Keith Levinson, Loretta Lynch, Craig McKay, Lisa Mills, Sylvia Obeng, Dorcas Ochola, Brian Rees, Michelle Rodford, Christina Simon, Mark Simon, Adelaide Tonkin, Peter White; and all who care for them.

The Departed:

Collect

O God, who by the leading of a star manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth:
mercifully grant that we, who know you now by faith, may at last behold your glory face to face;
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 Ephesians 3.1-12**A reading from St Paul's Letter to the Ephesians**

Let us give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! For in our union with Christ he has blessed us by giving us every spiritual blessing in the heavenly world.

Even before the world was made, God had already chosen us to be his through our union with Christ, so that we would be holy and without fault before him. Because of his love God had already decided that through Jesus Christ he would make us his children - this was his pleasure and purpose.

Let us praise God for his glorious grace, for the free gift he gave us in his dear Son! For by the blood of Christ we are set free, that is, our sins are forgiven. How great is the grace of God, which he gave to us in such large measure!

In all his wisdom and insight God did what he had purposed, and made known to us the secret plan he had already decided to complete by means of Christ. This plan, which God will complete when the time is right, is to bring all creation together, everything in heaven and on earth, with Christ as head.

This is the word of the Lord

GOSPEL Matthew 2.1–12

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

- 1 In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking,
- 2 ‘Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.’
- 3 When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him;
- 4 and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born.
- 5 They told him, ‘In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:
- 6 “And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.”’
- 7 Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared.
- 8 Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, ‘Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.’
- 9 When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was.
- 10 When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy.
- 11 On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.
- 12 And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

THIS WEEK

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| Mon | 6 | Jan | Toddlers' Group | 10 – 11.30am |
| Wed | 8 | Jan | Food Bank and Coffee in Church | 10.00am – 12 noon |
| | | | GSS | 8.00pm |
| Thu | 9 | Jan | NO Holy Communion at 10.00am | |
| Sun | 12 | Jan | <u>BAPTISM OF CHRIST / EPIPHANY 1</u> | |
| | | | Holy Communion | 8.00am |
| | | | SUNG EUCHARIST (Pres and preacher: Fr Geoff) | 9.30am |
| | | | (Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church | 1.00-5.00pm) |
| | | | Evening Prayer | 6.00pm) |

NOTICES

SWORD. Please note that subscriptions for 2020 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.

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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Parochial Church Council - Wednesday 15th, 7.25pm

Christingle is on Sunday 19th, 11.00am

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity starting Sunday 19th.