



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

BAPTISM OF CHRIST / EPIPHANY 1

12 January 2020

A warm welcome to our services.

At the 9.30 am Sung Eucharist Fr Geoff celebrates and preaches. Vicki Matthews leads the intercessions.

Hymns: 89, 85, 87 and 444

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 – 5.00pm

Evening Prayer at 6.00pm.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: The Parish of Clophill in our Diocese.

The Anglican Church of Australia, Philip Freier its Primate and all its people.

The work of the Anglican Council of Malawi.

The World: Victims of, and people threatened by, wildfires in Australia.

Struggling rural communities in Malawi and elsewhere in Africa.

The eradication of racism.

The Community and Parish: Our PCC members.

Our engagement with the work of the Mothers' Union.

The work of caring for our buildings.

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

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 42.1–9

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Thus says the LORD:

- 1 Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations.
- 2 He will not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street;
- 3 a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice.
- 4 He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his teaching.
- 5 Thus says God, the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it:
- 6 I am the LORD, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations,
- 7 to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness.
- 8 I am the LORD, that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols.
- 9 See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

SECOND READING Acts 10.34–43

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

- ³⁴ Peter began to speak to those assembled in the house of Cornelius. ‘I truly understand that God shows no partiality,
³⁵ but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him.
³⁶ You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ – he is Lord of all.
³⁷ That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced:
³⁸ how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.
³⁹ We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree;
⁴⁰ but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear,
⁴¹ not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.
⁴² He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead.
⁴³ All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.’

GOSPEL Matthew 3.13–17

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

- ¹³ Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him.
¹⁴ John would have prevented him, saying, ‘I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?’
¹⁵ But Jesus answered him, ‘Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfil all righteousness.’ Then he consented.
¹⁶ And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him.
¹⁷ And a voice from heaven said, ‘This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.’

THIS WEEK

Mon	13	Jan	Toddlers' Group	10 – 11.30am
Tue	14	Jan	Funeral in church	11.00am
Wed	15	Jan	Food Bank and Coffee in Church	10.00am – 12 noon
			PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL	7.25pm
Thu	16	Jan	Holy Communion	10.00am
			followed by coffee for all in Choir Vestry	
			Estates Committee	2.30pm
Sat	18	Jan	Start of Week of Prayer for Christian Unity	
			The theme for 2020 is "They showed an unusual kindness"	
Sun	19	Jan	<u>EPIPHANY 2</u>	
			Holy Communion	8.00am
			SUNG EUCHARIST (Pres and preacher: Fr George)	9.30am
			CHRISTINGLE SERVICE	11.00am
			followed by a Bring-and-Share lunch. Everyone welcome.	
			No Evening Prayer	

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.

Copies of the January Sword are available to pick up at the back of church.

FINAL COPY DATE for February Sword is next Sunday, 19 January. Hard copy to Rob White or email to swordparishmagazine@googlemail.com

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

Services for Week of Prayer for Christian Unity: (Please check individual events in case of alterations)

- 15th Holy Rood; 12 noon (refreshments, bring sandwiches); 1.00pm Service
- 20th St Peters 7.30pm
- 21st Garston Community Church: 7.30pm
- 22nd The Scroll Church 12 noon; followed by soup
- 22nd St Mary's 12.30pm Service; followed by refreshments, bring sandwiches
- 23rd Christ Church 7.30pm
- 24th Stanborough Park SDA 7.30pm
- 25th St Peters 10.30am Grace Communion followed by brunch
- 26th Beechen Grove 3.30pm Songs of Praise with Christians Across Watford; followed by refreshments, bring sandwiches.