



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

EPIPHANY 2

19 January 2020

A warm welcome to our services.

At the 9.30 am Sung Eucharist Fr George celebrates and preaches. Sylvia Moring leads the intercessions.

Hymns: 334, 97, 604 and 166

Children's Church in Littlebury Hall.

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

At 11.00am there is our Christingle Service which will be shared with the Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church. The service will be followed by a Bring-&-Share Lunch.

Evening Prayer at 6.00 pm.

For your prayers this week:

The Church:

Christian Unity across the world.

The Parish of Hexton in our Diocese.

The United Church of Bangladesh, Samuel Sunil Mankhin its Moderator, and all its people.

The Delhi Brotherhood Society, and its work with abused women.

The World:

The continuing fight against wildfires in Australia.

The Royal Family.

The dead and bereaved from the downed airliner in Iran.

The Community and Parish:

Our support for the Children's Society.

Our brothers and sisters in Churches of other denominations.

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:

In memory of Susan Honour.

Collect

Almighty God, in Christ you make all things new:
transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the
renewal of our lives make known your heavenly glory;
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 49.1–7

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

- 1 Listen to me, O coastlands, pay attention, you peoples from far away! The LORD called me before I was born, while I was in my mother's womb he named me.
- 2 He made my mouth like a sharp sword, in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me a polished arrow, in his quiver he hid me away.
- 3 And he said to me, 'You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified.'
- 4 But I said, 'I have laboured in vain, I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity; yet surely my cause is with the LORD, and my reward with my God.'
- 5 And now the LORD says, who formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, and that Israel might be gathered to him, for I am honoured in the sight of the LORD, and my God has become my strength.
- 6 The LORD says, 'It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the survivors of Israel; I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.'
- 7 Thus says the LORD, the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One, to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations, the slave of rulers, 'Kings shall see and stand up, princes, and they shall prostrate themselves, because of the LORD, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.'

SECOND READING I Corinthians 1.1–9

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

- 1 From Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes,
- 2 To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:
- 3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
- 4 I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus,

5 for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of
every kind –
6 just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you –
7 so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of
our Lord Jesus Christ.
8 He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the
day of our Lord Jesus Christ.
9 God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus
Christ our Lord.

GOSPEL John I.29–42

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

29 John the Baptist saw Jesus coming towards him and declared, ‘Here is the Lamb
of God who takes away the sin of the world!
30 This is he of whom I said, “After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me
because he was before me.”
31 I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that
he might be revealed to Israel.’
32 And John testified, ‘I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it
remained on him.
33 I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said
to me, “He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who
baptizes with the Holy Spirit.”
34 And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God.’
35 The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples,
36 and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, ‘Look, here is the Lamb of
God!’
37 The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus.
38 When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, ‘What are you
looking for?’ They said to him, ‘Rabbi’ (which translated means Teacher),
‘where are you staying?’
39 He said to them, ‘Come and see.’ They came and saw where he was staying,
and they remained with him that day. It was about four o’clock in the
afternoon.
40 One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon
Peter’s brother.
41 He first found his brother Simon and said to him, ‘We have found the Messiah’
(which is translated Anointed).
42 He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, ‘You are Simon son of
John. You are to be called Cephas’ (which is translated Peter).

THIS WEEK

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

The theme for 2020 is "They showed an unusual kindness"

Mon	20	Jan	Toddlers' Church	10 – 11.30am
Wed	22	Jan	Food Bank and Coffee in Church	10.00am – 12 noon
Thu	23	Jan	Holy Communion	10.00am
Sun	26	Jan	<u>EPIPHANY 3</u>	
			Holy Communion	8.00am
			SUNG EUCHARIST (Pres and preacher: Fr Geoff)	9.30am
			Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church	1.00pm – 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.

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

FINAL COPY DATE for February Sword is today, 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)

- 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.