



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

EPIPHANY 3

26 January 2020

A warm welcome to our services.

At the 9.30 am Sung Eucharist Fr Geoff celebrates and preaches. Stephen Mephram leads the intercessions.

Hymns: 401, 386, 308 and 418

Children's Church in Littlebury Hall.

Coffee and tea will be served in church after the 9.30 service and there will be a Bring-&-Buy Sale – please stay on.

Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church 1.00 pm – 5.00 pm

NO Evening Prayer tonight.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: The Parish of Milton Bryan in our Diocese.
The Anglican Church of Brazil, Naudal Alves Gomez its Bishop, and all its people.

The World Council of Churches.

The World: The prevention of Mother to Child AIDS transmission in Tanzania.
All those whose way of life is vulnerable to climate change.
Christian Aid's work with displaced people in Myanmar.

The Community and Parish: Trinity Methodist Church, West Watford Free Church, and Holy Rood Roman Catholic Church.
Churches Together in North Watford, and in Central, South and West Watford.

Work done by Christians of all denominations for needy people in Watford.

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

Almighty God, whose Son revealed in signs and miracles the wonder of your saving presence:

renew your people with your heavenly grace, and in all our weakness sustain us by your mighty power;

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 9.1–4

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

- ¹ There will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.
- ² The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them light has shined.
- ³ You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder.
- ⁴ For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

SECOND READING I Corinthians 1.10–18

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

- ¹⁰ I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same purpose.
- ¹¹ For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters.
- ¹² What I mean is that each of you says, 'I belong to Paul,' or 'I belong to Apollos,' or 'I belong to Cephas,' or 'I belong to Christ.'
- ¹³ Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?
- ¹⁴ I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius,
- ¹⁵ so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name.

- ¹⁶ I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.
- ¹⁷ For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power.
- ¹⁸ For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

GOSPEL Matthew 4.12–23

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

- ¹² When Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee.
- ¹³ He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali,
- ¹⁴ so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:
- ¹⁵ ‘Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles –
- ¹⁶ the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned.’
- ¹⁷ From that time Jesus began to proclaim, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.’
- ¹⁸ As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the lake – for they were fishermen.
- ¹⁹ And he said to them, ‘Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.’
- ²⁰ Immediately they left their nets and followed him.
- ²¹ As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them.
- ²² Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him.
- ²³ Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

THIS WEEK

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| Mon | 27 | Jan | Toddlers' Church | 10 – 11.30am |
| Wed | 29 | Jan | Food Bank and Coffee in Church | 10.00am – 12 noon |
| Thu | 30 | Jan | Holy Communion | 10.00am |
| Sun | 2 | Feb | <u>CANDLEMAS</u> | |
| | | | Holy Communion | 8.00am |
| | | | FIRST SUNDAY of MONTH SUNG EUCHARIST | 9.30am |
| | | | (President: Fr Geoff; All-Age Presentation) | |
| | | | Followed by refreshments | |
| | | | 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.

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

Final Service at the end of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity:

26th Beechen Grove 3.30pm Songs of Praise with Christians Across Watford;
followed by refreshments, bring sandwiches.