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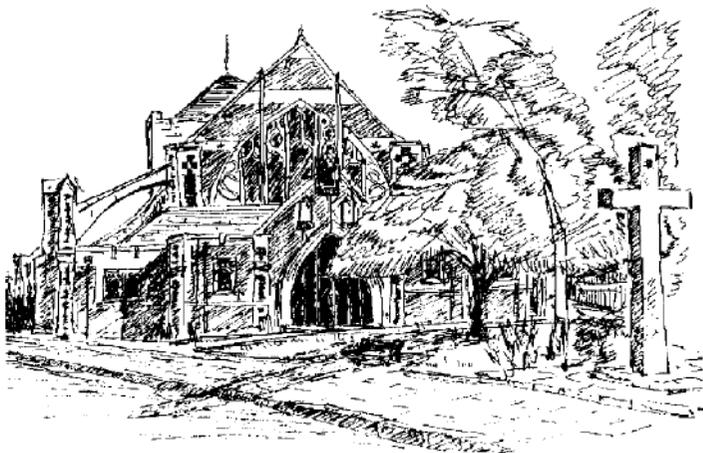
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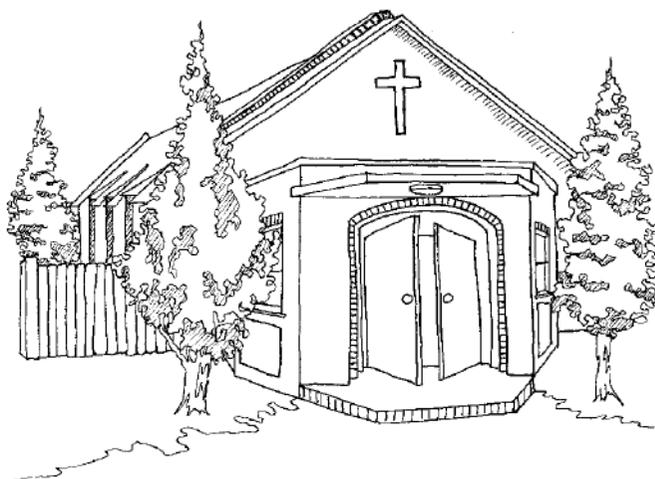
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MAGAZINE

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**ST MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS
CHURCH (Anglican)**
Mildred Ave. / Durban Rd.
Watford



**WEST WATFORD FREE CHURCH
(Baptist)**
'Church by the Zebra Crossing'
Tolpits Lane, Watford

A Pastoral Letter.....

Dear Friends,

This letter takes us on a journey from the Old Year into the New Year. It takes us from the celebrations for Christmas and our Lord's birth into the celebrations for Epiphany when, with the coming of the Wise Men, we think of our Lord being shown to the Gentile world.

We know that this year's celebrations may be a little muted for many people and for a variety of reasons. It could be the loss of a loved one, the very worrying news which comes daily from different parts of the world and the difficult financial situation which causes concern to many of us. But there were good times in the past year to remember –times of rejoicing and happiness and of unexpected benefits.

And so, as 2008 passes we can look back and remember and give thanks for the good that was there. Now we can look forward to the New Year – look forward with hope and with prayer that 2009 will be a year of greater understanding between nations, of more help given where it is needed most, and of a greater co-operation and growing friendship between people of different faiths.

There is no magic formula, no wand to wave to put all things right, but we can each of us, in our own way, make a difference to the world around us.

As he made his Christmas broadcast in 1939, King George VI – and the entire nation too – knew that they faced a difficult and uncertain future. The King finished his broadcast with the words of Minnie Louise Haskins,

“And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:
‘Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown,’
And he replied: ‘Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God.
That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way’.”

As I was writing this letter I looked out of the window and saw a beautiful rainbow lighting up the sky.

Father George, Martin and I wish you all a very joyful Christmas and a peaceful New Year

With my love,

Violet

WHERE WE CAN HELP YOU

During the vacancy, St. Michael's Parish Office is open from 10:30 am - 13:00 every Thursday. Fr. George is available to speak to you in the office or on the phone, about any Spiritual, Pastoral or Religious needs you may have.

For more information contact us through our office tel: 01923 247090 or out of office hours contact Number 07866359120

Please let us know how best to communicate, because we want to make sure that every one can use our service.

Fr. George



MONTHLY BRING & BUY SALES

We would like to thank everyone who supported these sales in any way – either making cakes or preserves – or those who came along and bought things. Thanks also to Bob Bilson who helped when needed.

This year you helped to raise the sum of £634, which is £102.50p up on last year. This will help towards heating the church this winter.

- ALSO -

Thank you to those who supported the 'Christingle' Bring & Buy, and helped to raise the sum of £75. Any money left over after the purchase of oranges etc., will go to the Children's Society, as does the Christingle collection.

We are very grateful for your continued help in raising this money.

Yours sincerely,

Norma Twitchin & Sylvia Moring

PS The next Bring & Buy sale will be on Sunday 25th January

Prayers for Bethlehem during Advent and Christmas:

The World Council of Churches has invited Christians around the world preparing to celebrate Advent and Christmas in the security of their homes and communities, to pray for justice, peace and security for **Palestine and Israel** - and to send a prayer or a peace message **to Bethlehem**.

Once again this year, Christmas celebrations will take place in a difficult climate for people in the Holy Land. However, Bethlehem, the birthplace of Jesus Christ, is still first and foremost a city of peace. And even in these trying times, many individuals and groups living there refuse to give up hope. They continue to search for non-violent ways to voice their rights and work for a peaceful and just future for both Palestinians and Israelis.

Since December 2000, a new Christmas tradition has been taking shape: sending peace messages to people in Bethlehem. Once again, individuals, communities, churches and congregations, organisations and partners from across the world are invited to e-mail Advent and Christmas wishes and prayers for justice and peace to Bethlehem. This year, the project is being carried out in collaboration with the World Council of Churches and its Palestine Israel Ecumenical Forum (PIEF).

Wishes and prayers will be printed and handed out as personal messages, educational materials (e.g. at schools), and in the context of interfaith prayers (in places of worship) and in the newly established peace house of the Arab Educational Institute opposite the Israeli "separation wall" at Rachel's Tomb in Bethlehem. The wishes and prayers could also include ideas for non-violent actions. The action will be launched at the beginning of Advent.

Please e-mail your Christmas messages and prayers for peace before the 25th of December 2008 . Messages can be e-mailed to the Arab Educational Institute at the following address:

aei@p-ol.com

Read all messages at

www.aeicenter.org and www.paxchristi.net

For more information see this link:

<http://www.oikoumene.org/en/news/news-management/eng/a/article/1722/prayers-for-bethlehem-dur.html>

St Albans to Taizé 2009

With The Bishop of Hertford

Join this year's pilgrimage
18th - 27th July

For young people and adults
between the ages of 15 and 29

*Travel is by bus, accommodation is camping
The week is a time for prayer, reflection on faith; it
is a time to make new friends from all over the
world, and have a good time together in wonderful
surroundings*

The community at Taizé also runs an excellent programme for under 12s so if you are under 29 and have small children you are welcome to join us

To find out more

Contact:

Revd Ysmena Pentelow 01923 270634 ysmenapentelow@tiscali.co.uk

Mr Clive Bell clive@cliverbell@me.uk

Come along: to St Michael's Church Hatfield, 23rd November, 18th January, 15th March - all at 6pm

Have a look at:

www.taize.fr (the Taize website)

www.gotaize.org.uk (our website)

Pilgrimage to Taizé

Each summer, a group of young people from the Diocese spent a week in Taizé, a monastic village in Burgundy, France. It is an opportunity to meet and to worship with other young people from all over the world, as well as find time to see the beautiful village, relax by the natural source of St Étienne, or just play cards outside the tents.

Taizé is home to a group of Brothers who have taken monastic vows and now spend much of their lives looking after the thousands of young people who journey to Taizé for the peace and spirituality that it offers.

A normal day at Taizé includes prayer in the church, bible study and group discussions, practical work around the site and plenty of food, socialising and time to soak up the sun!

There are so many reasons to go to Taizé: the worship is so different from 'normal church' the Taizé chants, make the services seem so beautiful and so peaceful that you can just sit and listen for hours. It is also a great experience to meet new people and make new friends, not just within the group but from all over the world. A group of us will be going again between 18th and 27th July next summer, and it'd be great to get as many people along as possible. If you're between 15 and 30 and interested in coming have a look at the information below and get in touch to find out more. Hope to see you there!
(Josh Young - Pilgrim)

Taize 2009 - with the Bishop of Hertford

We will travel by bus from St Albans leaving mid-afternoon on Saturday 18th and returning around 6am on Monday 27th. The pilgrimage is open to young adults between the ages of 15 and 29. You are welcome to bring your children and there is a special families' programme and camping area. Costs will be around £175 (please ask for costs for families) which includes travel and all food. Accommodation is in tents, and for those who do not have their own tent there are big dormitory tents available. For information, or to request a booking form, please contact:

The Revd Ysmena Pentelow on 01727 818151 or
ysmenapentelow@tiscali.co.uk
www.taize.fr (the Taize website); www.gotaize.org.uk (our website)



ST MICHAEL'S MOTHERS' UNION DIARY



We thank those who supported our Christmas Coffee Morning and especially a big thank you to Norma, who produced her wonderful sales table, and donated the proceeds to the MU for their work overseas.

Future Programme

Thursday 8th January 10.30am Communion followed by coffee and chat in the choir vestry.

Thursday 12th February 10.30am Communion and AGM.

Women's World Day of Prayer

Friday 6th February 2.00pm Bible Study at Beechen Grove Baptist Church, led by Mrs Ann Peat, reader of St Andrew's Church, in preparation for the Women's World Day of Prayer.

Friday 6th March 2.00pm at Beechen Grove for the annual service. This year it is being prepared by the the women of Papua New Guinea. The theme 'In Christ there are many many members yet only one body'.

Pat Gandy



CHRISTIANS ACROSS WATFORD

The role of Christians Across Watford is going to be discussed at an open meeting which has been arranged to take place at St Luke's Church on 28 January 2009 (at 7.30 pm or 8 pm). We hope that some members of St Michael's will be interested and wish to go to this meeting. If anyone would like a lift to St Luke's please see Sylvia Moring.

DIARY OF EVENTS: CHRIST

DECEMBER

21st	Sun	ADVENT 4 SUNG EUCHARIST (Pres: Fr George; Preacher: Violet Allen Smith) (crèche available) Sunday School in Littlebury Hall Service of 9 lessons and carols followed by coffee and mince pies	9.30 am 6.00 pm
24th	Wed	CHRISTMAS EVE <i>(No coffee in church)</i> Crib Service with Nativity play and presentation of gifts Midnight Eucharist (Pres: Fr George; Preacher: Martin Heath)	4.00 pm 11.30 pm
25th	Thu	CHRISTMAS DAY Holy Communion (Pres: Fr George) SUNG EUCHARIST (Pres: Fr George; Preacher: Martin Heath)	8.00 am 9.30 am
26th	Fri	<i>Bank Holiday</i>	
28th	Sun	HOLY INNOCENTS SUNG EUCHARIST (Pres & Preacher: Fr George) (crèche available) Evening Prayer	9.30 am 3.30 pm
31st	Wed	Watch Night Service	10.30 pm

JANUARY

1st	Thu	<i>Bank Holiday</i>	
4th	Sun	CHRISTMAS 2 Holy Communion (Pres: Fr George) SUNG EUCHARIST (crèche available) Band rehearsal United Evening Service (Trinity Methodist)	8.00 am 9.30 am 11.00 am 6.30 pm
5th	Mon	<i>Term starts this week</i>	
7th	Wed	Bring-and-Share lunch	12.30 pm
8th	Thu	Fairhaven during morning Choir Practice	 7.00 – 8.30 pm
10th	Sat	Parish Walk – meet at church at 10 am	
11th	SUN	THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST SUNG EUCHARIST (crèche available) Sunday School in Littlebury Hall 11.15 Service – SIMPLE EUCHARIST	9.30 am 11.15 am

MAS AND JANUARY 2009

		River Court Service	3.00 pm
		Evening Prayer	3.30 pm
12th	Mon	Service at The Chase Care Home Pause (23 Whippendell Road)	3.00 pm 7.30 pm
13th	Tue	Intercessory Prayer Group (Choir Vestry)	2.30 pm
14th	Wed	Bible Study - (Choir Vestry)	8.00 pm
15th	Thur	<i>Australian students arrive today</i> St Anthony's during morning Mothers' Union meet after the 10 am Communion Service (Choir Vestry) Kids' Club Choir Practice	 3.30 – 5.00 pm 7.00 – 8.30 pm
18th	SUN	EPIPHANY 2 – Week of Prayer for Christian Unity SUNG EUCHARIST crèche available Sunday School (in Littlebury Hall) United Service at Beechen Grove	 9.30 am 9.30 am 6.30 pm
19th	Mon	Australians perform their version of <i>Taming of the Shrew</i> in church for the toddlers in the morning and for others in evening.	
20th	Tue	Australian students leave	
22nd	Thu	Kids' Club Choir Practice	3.30 – 5.00 pm 7.00 – 8.30 pm
24th	Sat	January Sale in aid of Church funds with coffee 10-30 – 12 noon (in Church)	
25th	SUN	THE CONVERSION OF ST PAUL SUNG EUCHARIST (crèche available) Sunday School (Littlebury Hall) Followed by Bring & Buy Sale Evening Prayer	 9.30 am 3.30 pm
30th	Fri	Youth Across Watford event in Church (evening)	
		ADVANCE DATE IN FEBRUARY	
1st	Sun	SUNG EUCHARIST President and Preacher: THE ARCHDEACON OF ST ALBANS	9.30 am

Morning Prayer is said daily in the Lady Chapel (Monday to Friday) at 9.00 am. A service of Holy Communion is held every Thursday at 10.00 am. Both this and the 8 am on Sunday morning are Order One in Traditional Language. The Toddlers' Group meets in Church every Monday from 10.00 – 11.30 am. Tea, Coffee & Squash are served in Church every Wednesday from 10.30 until noon. On the first Wednesday of the month there is a bring-and-share lunch at 12.30 pm.



FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Dear Friends

My thanks to all who have contributed articles for *Sword* during 2008 – do keep them coming – the content of the magazine is for church information but also for any items of interest you may like to share with our readers. Copy (including photographs) can be sent to me by e-mail, floppy disc or on paper – see below.

I would like to thank all those who deliver *Sword* to those people who do not or cannot visit St Michael's regularly and Sylvia Moring for compiling the Diary of Events each month and providing other important information for us all.

Our thanks, too, to our advertisers for their support which helps with our costs and enables us to deliver free copies to local nursing homes, doctors surgeries, New Hope Trust, Peace Hospice, etc. The income from our advertisers is a vital part of the costing of *Sword* so if you know any local business that might be willing to take up some advertising space please let me have contact details. We would like to encourage you, our readers, to consider using our advertisers should the need for their services arise.

Valerie Alvarez has kindly agreed to collect subscriptions for the coming year. Regretfully, due to increased costs and loss of some advertising revenue, the PCC has agreed that the cost of *Sword* should be increased to 60p per month. If you pay for the year in advance an annual subscription for 12 issues will be £6.00.

I look forward to receiving a regular supply of your articles and information for *Sword* in the New Year – remember *Sword* is only as good as its content!

A HAPPY CHRISTMAS & A PEACEFUL NEW YEAR TO EVERYONE

Dennis Beach

(Editor)

FINAL COPY DATE FOR FEBRUARY SWORD:-

Midday on Sunday 25th January 2009

Please submit copy before this date if possible -

hard copy, floppy disc or e-mail to

DENNIS.H.BEACH@sky.com

??????????????

Just to clear out those winter cobwebs from the brain.....

THE JANUARY MAGAZINE QUIZ

Tired of Turkey? Then refresh yourself with fish! All the answers to this month's Quiz are to do with fish and fishermen

- | | | |
|-----|--|------------|
| 1. | On which day of creation were the fish created? | Genesis 1 |
| 2. | How many fishes with the loaves? | Matthew 14 |
| 3. | What made the fish die in Egypt? | Exodus 7 |
| 4. | Complete 'if a son asks his father for a fish will he be given a - - - -?' | |
| 5. | Name the two who were told 'I will make you fishers of men' | Matthew 4 |
| 6. | Which fish could be eaten by the Israelites? | Lev 11 |
| 7. | Who brought fish into Jerusalem on Sabbath? | Neh 13 |
| 8. | What are we told of the fish in the dead sea? | Ezek 47 |
| 9. | Two fishing implements. | Job 41 |
| 10. | What, concerning fishes, were the Israelites not to do? | Deut 4 |
| 11. | What will happen to the fish of the seas? | Zeph 1 |
| 12. | What sort of people, in addition to fishermen, is God sending for? | Jer 16 |
| 13. | What is the kingdom of heaven likened to? | Matthew 13 |
| 14. | In which river did the fishermen catch their fish? | Isaiah 19 |
| 15. | How much did the fish cost in Egypt? | Num 11 |
- .and finally have you heard the one about 'cod moving in mysterious ways.. '?'

Jane Parry



While on the theme of fish here's a *Fisherman's Prayer* from Castle Donington Courier

God grant that I may live to fish, until my dying day,
And when it comes to my last cast, I then most humbly pray,
When in the Lord's safe landing net, I'm peacefully asleep,
Then in His mercy I be judged, as big enough to keep.

Reproduced from the *Wilmslow Church Magazine*

WEST WATFORD FREE CHURCH (BAPTIST)

NEWSLETTER

Tolpits Lane, Holywell, Watford

Pastor: Garth Woodhead

Services during late December '08/January '09:

21st Christmas Family Church for ALL ages at 10.30am

NOTE: Family Carols at 5.30pm followed by mince pies!

28th Year end Family Church at 10.30am for ALL members of the family with Holy Communion.

Joint Service at Trinity Methodist Church at 6.30pm

Jan 4th Family Church at 10.30am - the children present will have their own Session from 11.00am onwards.

We are invited to join Trinity Methodist Church for their Covenant Service at 6.30pm

11th Family Church at 10.30am - the children present will have their own Session at 11.00am

18th Family Church at 10.30am as for the 11th

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

Combined Service at Beechen Grove Baptist Church at 6.30pm

21st Short Service at St Luke's, Langley Way at 1.00pm

25th Family Church at 10.30am as for the 11th with Holy Communion
NOTE: Songs of Praise at Christ Church, St Albans Road at 4.00pm

Future joint services of the 1st Sunday evening of each month will be at Trinity Methodist Church in February (1st); at St Michael's in March (1st) and HERE in April (5th).

As the January copy is being prepared in mid-December none of the prayer diaries or guides are available for 2009. .

Chris Skinner has produced another single sheet calendar for 2009 so please do make sure that you get your copy to pin up on the kitchen notice board - 100 have been printed.

Do support the services during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity - this is the opportunity for ALL Christians in Central, South and West Watford to show a united purpose to the whole of our town. This year we have been invited to join in the Songs of Praise being held in Christ Church along the St Albans Road just past Leavesden Road on the left.

Birthdays:

Apologies to Charlotte Skinner (Dec 11 th) and Hannah O' Sullivan (14th) for not including their birthdays in the last edition of the Newsletter.

2nd Paul Hayler (Leavesden Road Baptist Church)

8th Sophie Skinner

17th Renie Morgan

20th Joshua Aluma

This is a good time to record our thanks for the leadership of our Pastor, Garth Woodhead - he works tirelessly not only leading our acts of worship but behind the scenes as well, sometimes with considerable frustration!! Thankyou Garth and to Lissie as well - Cafe West is a brilliant concept excellently realised. May God continue to bless you both in great measure.

As this edition will be read before the great day -

A Blessed and Peaceful Christmas

to all who read this edition.

'Tale' piece:

Oh, the credit crunch - there seems little else in newspapers, radio and television - hourly reports on the state of the FTSE, the exchange rates for the euro and once mighty US\$. We all have a bank and it is TIME! Every morning our account starts with a balance of 86,400 seconds - it carries over NO balances - every night it is written off that which we have not invested - wisely. You must live on today's deposit with regard to health, happiness and service. The clock is relentlessly ticking down. Make the most of every second they cannot to held in trust nor will they come back! !

To realise the value of 1 YEAR - ask a student.

To realise the value of 1 MONTH - ask a mother who has given birth to a premature baby.

To realise the value of 1 WEEK - ask the editor of a weekly local newspaper.

To realise the value of 1 HOUR - ask lovers waiting to meet each other

To realise the value of 1 MINUTE - ask a commuter who has just missed his train.

To realise the value of 1 SECOND - ask a person who has just avoided an accident.

To realise the value of 1 MILLISECOND - ask the athlete on being presented with the silver medal.

Treasure every moment in the coming year of 2009.

(Reproduced from Kingswood Baptist Church Newsletter and was first seen in the Sheringham Salvation Army magazine).

Alan Cockram



A Happy New Year

St Michael & All Angels Church

Tel:- (01923)247090

Web site:- www.stmichaels-watford.org.uk

E-mail:- stmichaels@talktalk.net

Vicar			
Hon. Asst. Curate	* Revd. George Ochola BTh	157 Vicarage Road	239567
Readers	* Mrs V Allen-Smith	40 Park Avenue	249921
	* Dr M Heath	72 Harwoods Road	249168
Churchwardens	Mr P Chandler	115 Kensington Avenue	252926
	Mrs S Moring	6 Cassiobury Park Avenue	231917
PCC Secretary	Mrs Sue Winterbotham	12 Westmount Apts, Met Station Approach	237673
PCC Treasurer	Mrs C J Deeley	5 Greenbury Close, Chorleywood	282001
Hall Secretary	Mr P Jenkins	86 Mildred Avenue	463263
Sacristan	Mr J Wareham	26 Belgrave Avenue	221216
Organist & Choirmaster	Mr A Benoy	Flat 1, Prince Michael of Kents Lodge, Stratford Road	239524
SWORD Magazine	Mr D Beach	18 The Gardens	247982
Gift Aid Secretary	Mr R Ward	67 The Chase	242494
Electoral Roll Secretary	Mr H Moring	6 Cassiobury Park Avenue	231917
The Children's Soc. Secretary	Mrs N Twitchin	78 Princes Avenue	249327
Brownie Guides	Mrs S Mulligan		351840
Creche	Mrs A Makin	37 St James Road	236067
Sunday School	Mrs K Jenkins	86 Mildred Avenue	463263
Kids Club & Youth Group	Mrs J Talbot	35 Kings Avenue	226276
Young Children & Grown-Ups	Lesley Kinch	Flat 21, Ashridge House, Chenies Way	234788
Mothers' Union	Mrs P Gandy	15 Lynbury Court	224215
Wednesday Coffee Morning	Mrs J Dickinson	23 Whippendell Road	228441
Social Committee	Mrs P Hart	127 Parkside Drive	220884

The names of members of the Parochial Church Council and their membership of the various committees will be found on the Church Notice Board.

* Members of the Pastoral Team.

For the Month's Diary of events and details of all Church Services please turn to the centre pages of this magazine.

West Watford Free Church (Baptist)

Pastor	Mr Garth Woodhead	184 Hagden Lane	466509
Church Secretary	Mr A Cockram	139 Briar Road, Kingswood	677372