

Christmas 2011/  
New Year 2012

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60p



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



**WEST WATFORD FREE CHURCH**  
(Baptist)  
'Church opposite the shops'  
Tolpits Lane, Watford



**A Joyful Christmas  
and Peaceful New Year  
to all our readers,  
advertisers  
&  
contributors**

# *A Pastoral Letter.....*

Dear Friends

Are you afraid of the dark?

Many of us find it hard to sleep or to be in the dark. Fear of the dark is not only restricted to the children. Most of us would sensibly avoid certain places in the dark, for fear of what, or who might be lurking there. I am always reminded of the breath-taking moments at the beginning of the Advent service in our Churches each year, when every light is extinguished. The darkness closes around you, isolating you from many other people around you, and plunging you into a void. You are conscious of the fears and terrors of the dark, until one tiny candle is lit at the door. That flame is enough to restore hope and security. Soon others are lit, until the whole Church building blazes with light. The service, "From Darkness to Light" is symbolic of what we celebrate at Christmas time, the coming of Jesus Christ, the Light of the World to cast away darkness.

Isaiah many years ago proclaimed God's word and said:

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness on these lights have shined. For a child has been born for us; a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9:2, 6)

The world in which we live today is not very different from that in which our Saviour was born. For many of us, the world now seems a very dark place. Grief and loss of loved ones, unemployment, financial insecurity, political unrest, not enough housing or heat – all contribute to this bleak –mid winter but "there is hope God has sent His Son to save and redeem the world". The Gospel of John testifies that God has overcome the darkness of the world by the birth, death, and resurrection of His Son. (John 1:1-5)

Because we have seen the light and the Light of Christ dwells in us, we have received grace to cast away the works of darkness and put on the armour of light. We at St Michael and All Angels Parish Church – Watford are, inviting you to join us in the Advent pilgrimage through repentance and prayer, through the reading and meditation of Holy Scripture, and through works of compassion and grace.

If you cannot attend worship in the Church at Christmas or are in need of any other Pastoral or Spiritual Care, or if you would like to receive Communion or any other service at home, please call our Vicar on 01923 232460 to arrange a convenient time. We consider it an honour and a privilege as the Pastoral Team to bring Communion and other Services to those who are sick or shut-in.

May the gift of Light that is given us this Christmas free you from fear, and fill your hearts and your homes with good things. May His peace and joy be with you, at Christmas, and throughout the New Year.

All of us From the Pastoral Team at St Michael Church join in wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

*Fr George*



## **ST MICHAEL'S MOTHERS' UNION DIARY**



Thursday 19th January Corporate Communion 10 o'clock followed by meeting with coffee in the choir vestry.

Thursday 16th February will be our AGM.

The Womens' World Day of Prayer 2012 will be on Friday 2nd March at St Mary's Church. In connection with this there is to be a Bible Study afternoon on Friday 3rd February at 2 pm at St Mary's Church.

*Pat Gandy*



## **MONTHLY BRING & BUY SALES**

We would like to thank all who supported these sales throughout the year and helped to raise the sum of £552-00. This is £16-50p down on last year but is still a good sum.

Thanks go to Bob & Iola Bilson for their help, and also to Sylvia Roffe for her help since returning to Watford.

The next Bring & Buy will be on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2012.

Yours most sincerely,

*Sylvia Moring & Norma Twitchin*

The Christingle Bring & Buy raised £80-30p – so thank you for your support for that.

## ST MICHAEL'S CHARITABLE GIVING

### **From the Mission Committee**

Towards the end of each year the PCC receives recommendations from the Mission Committee for allocating funds to the mission agencies and other charities supported by St Michael's.

The money available is made up of a sum previously voted by the PCC in the annual budget as a tithe (tenth) of estimated donated income; for 2011 this provision was £2,600 (based on an estimated income of £26,000).

This sum is supplemented during the year by other funds -for example the proceeds of the Plant Sale, Lent Boxes and Lent Lunch –so that the total sum available for 2011 was £3,243

This sum is then allocated according to certain established criteria (which are periodically reviewed) so that funds are allocated more or less equally between 'home' and 'overseas'. A further criterion is that the agencies we support should be among those which are actively promoted by members of the congregation through hands-on involvement and publicity.

The list of agencies is reviewed annually and, where appropriate, changes may be proposed. Additions to the list in 2011 are the Peace Hospice and the Leprosy Mission –the latter as a way of honouring and continuing the devoted work of Dorothy Kiddle.

So, below is the list of allocations for 2011. (However this is not the full list of what St Michael's raises for charitable giving as other funds are raised through the initiative of Church members and by special appeals and events –including the Children's Society, Christian Aid, Historic Churches and Water Aid. The full list will appear later in the Annual Report and in The Sword).

### **ST MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS**

#### **Mission & Charitable Giving 2011**

**(Previous year's sums in brackets)**

#### **Funds available**

Church Funds	<b>2,600</b>	(2,800)
General Funds		(50)
Plant Sale	<b>380</b>	(520)
Lent Lunch	<b>188</b>	(100)
Lent Boxes	<b>75</b>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>3243</b>	(3470)

## Local/National

Church Army	<b>263</b>	(200)
Church Urban Fund	<b>250</b>	(250)
New Hope Trust	<b>200</b>	(200)
Watford Schools Trust	<b>200</b>	(200)
Walsingham Homes		(150)
Refugee Project	<b>200</b>	(200)
Town Centre Chaplaincy	<b>200</b>	(200)
Peace Hospice	<b>160</b>	

## International

Mothers' Union O'seas	<b>300</b>	(300)
USPG	<b>1200</b>	(1200)
Christian Aid	<b>120</b>	(370)
Leprosy Mission	<b>150</b>	
Contingencies		(200)
<b>Total</b>	<b>3243</b>	(3470)



### **PHOTOGRAPHS SHOWING LIFE AT ST MICHAELS**

•The Centenary Committee would like to make a collection of photographs of the various activities, celebrations and general life of St Michael's. The photographs will be used for display and it hoped to feature them in a Centenary Calendar. It is not a competition! So please - cameras out and get snapping!

Thank you.

*Angela Hunter*

[angelajhunter@btinternet.com](mailto:angelajhunter@btinternet.com)



### **THE CHRISTINGLE SERVICE**

I would like to thank all those who supported the Christingle Service in any way and helped to raise the sum of £205-98p for the Children's Society's work.

Thank you to Anne Eccleshall firstly, for getting the oranges, and then for all the work she put into the presentation (assisted by Tim), and to Kristine and the Church Group for the lovely music. Several people said what a nice service it was.

Last but not least, thank you to Fay, Pat Gandy and Fr Geoff for helping me to make up the Christingles – I couldn't have done it alone.

Yours most sincerely,

*Norma*

## AN INITIATION INTO “ PANDAL HOPPING” FOR VISITORS TO WEST BENGAL AT DURGA PUJA

A six a.m. start for a group of teenagers in the middle of their half term break? You must be joking!

The idea was to avoid the crushing crowds and the enervating heat of the day and still absorb something of the fervent atmosphere of this very Bengali tradition. For most Bengali Hindus, the devout, the day-trippers and the night owls, pandal hopping means a pilgrimage from one pavilion or temporary temple to another along a route of long, winding queues and stalls amidst the shops, hovels, blocks of flats and factories festooned with myriads of lights. The usual cacophony of tuneful, aggressive and exhausted vehicle horns is occasionally punctuated by bands of drums and wind instruments or else by loudspeakers blaring from political rallies.

At 6.40 a.m. – the time when the first of our drivers arrived- the atmosphere was somewhat calmer. Amidst moans of “Miss I could have spent another hour in bed!” our convoy of Tata Indicars and Sumos pulled unexpectedly to one side opposite the first pandal of the day. From the outside not a temple at all, but a 30 foot high and 200 yard long sprawling papier maché model of a scene from the Himalayas, complete with rugged mountain pony and military policeman. After scaling this incongruous if intriguing exterior we trekked down into the interior to meet Durga for the first time: a pale, plump, rosy-cheeked goddess bearing a different symbol in each of her eight hands, given to her by other gods to help defeat evil.



Minutes later we were out into the sunshine playing chicken with the traffic to get back to our respective cars on the dauntingly opposite side of the road. Our next stop was - again opposite - a very obviously Hindu place of worship: an enormous golden portal, every inch covered by carvings of gods and flowers. Once inside we saw that the portal was the only structure to the pandal: the walls and ceiling were sack cloth and Durga was a few

steps behind the façade. As the only visitors we fell silent in awe of the size, richness and detail of the figures. A further reminder that this could also be a religious experience, in stark contrast to the exuberant display, there sat a lone, diminutive Hindu priest in his saffron robes, on a humble plastic chair and mysteriously positioned half in shadow and half in a shaft of sunlight. No puja paraphernalia for him, no drums or cymbals or bells, no flowers, fruits or other offerings, no incense or flames. Just a few simple words of explanation for any who asked, half whispered into the rich golden glow of the morning light penetrating the sack cloth.

Another crossing of the treacherous road thankfully safely executed by all, we were winging our way on to the next pandal. By now our two Bangladeshi students, self appointed guides by dint of their language skills, had been usurped by the drivers themselves who were taking over the role with increasing aplomb. Swelling with pride and enthusiasm their command of English soared. Between them they managed to confirm the myth that there are as many

versions of Hinduism as there are Hindus and thus as many versions of the story of Durga. The “true” purpose of pandal hopping also began to reveal itself: the creators of these temporary temples are all in competition with each other and towards the end of the week long festival local dignitaries - aka politicians- judge the pandals and announce a winner. It is a chance for local communities to work together. However the winners are invariably pandals put up by local business men or film stars who can afford to pour money into the project.

So for the drivers at least the most important sight was not the figures of the gods but the pandals and the history behind them. Our focus slid from religion to marvelling at human endeavour as we were constantly reminded that the structures were all of papier maché and that “the best was yet to come”. Occasionally the drivers also managed to look at the road ahead just in time to avoid headlong collision with the buses and trucks or sidelong collision with the increasing number of rickshaws, auto rickshaws, cyclists and pedestrians. Yes, the traffic was building up as was the temperature outside. As we moved off the main road into the township the roads narrowed and the vehicles slowed down: all funnelled into ever decreasing space by the sprawl of pandals and their queues onto the tarmac. “The best” became increasingly exotic for Bengal and even included an Amerindian Mexican style encampment complete with totem poles.

What can you make out of aluminium cookware? A whole temple not unlike a sci-fi spaceship, but only after making each of the thousands of plates, tumblers, pots and spoons from paper and painting them silver. What can you make out of a couple of acres of marshland? Given two years and limitless funds, a complete working and

living village, with gourds, rice, fruit trees and vegetables all flourishing and ducks, goats and cows living contentedly alongside the villagers in their mud brick huts.

In the midst of this idyllic rural scene enthusiasm finally waned and we visitors felt we had surely seen the best and it was time to sit long enough in the air-conditioned cars to be able to sleep. The build-up of the heat contributed to the decision to turn back, but also the appalling thought that even this last pandal was only temporary. In three days’ time it would all be dismantled and taken to the Ganges to be returned to the earth.

By 10.30 whilst some of us slept in complete trust in our heroic drivers others put up a mental barricade against the horrors of the traffic by contemplating ruefully the memories of the morning. How many weeks, months and years of labour went into the creation of those amazing architectural structures which were only admired for one week? How many people gave of their time, skills and energy? How much devotion there must be to create such painstakingly detailed edifices. How were the apparently random themes decided upon? My particular favourite was the pandal built not only from recycled paper but all manner of sustainably produced materials, with its own very prominent ethical message of sustainable development. Yet even that would shortly be made waste.

Our initiation had posed more questions than it had answered, but then that is India.

As for the sleep Miss stole from the students’ half term? No matter, in another week’s time it could all be caught up again in the second “half-term” holiday – for Diwali.

*Sue Ellison*

*Sue was a regular member of our congregation until she took up a teaching post in India during the summer. Ed.*

St Michael & All Angels Church  
Mildred Avenue  
(01923 231917/232460)



## **BURNS NIGHT CELEBRATION**

Wednesday, 25 January 2012, 7.30 – 10 pm  
in Church

Traditional Menu

Soup

Haggis with root vegetables and special desserts

(Vegetarian haggis available – please state your preference  
when you get your ticket)

Bring your own drinks (byo) (glasses available)

We plan to finish the evening with suitable entertainment

Tickets: £8 (available by telephoning either of the above numbers  
or at the end of a church service)

## **WORLD LEPROSY DAY – 29th JANUARY 2012**

World Leprosy Day is celebrated in over 100 countries on the last Sunday in January. This year the focus is concentrated on Cabo Delgado province in Mozambique, which has a population of about 1.6 million and has one of the highest prevalences of leprosy in Africa.

The Leprosy Mission works with and through Government health posts to reach people affected by leprosy in the most remote areas. In 2010 one hundred Government health units received supervision or support from the Leprosy Mission.

Teaching people self-care enables them to prevent further disabilities caused by leprosy. The disease is cured with multidrug therapy – a combination of drugs administered for up to one year. Patients still need to be monitored carefully, as complications can arise.

The Leprosy Mission also works with those who face social exclusion and for whom the loss of work, home, spouse, or marriage prospects is a daily reality. These are tragedies that the Leprosy Mission sees time and again in its life- changing work and projects.

The Leprosy Mission is one of the charities that we, as a church, support as part of our Mission giving. Many of you will remember that Dorothy Kiddle was our church “link” with this charity for over 50 years. Please take the time to look at the Leprosy Mission “panel” on the North Aisle notice board and if you are able to make a donation I am happy to give you details.

The key word is TRANSFORMATION

**But let me reveal to you a wonderful secret. We will not all die, but we will all be transformed. 1 Corinthians 15:51**

### **Leprosy Prayer 2012**

*God our loving heavenly Father,  
We pray for Your peace and blessing on people affected by leprosy in Mozambique.*

*Thank you Lord for the growth seen in self-care groups there and bless the staff as they seek to find more and more ways of sharing Jesus with people in need.*

*Lord, we pray for ALEMO (the Association for Leprosy Affected People in Mozambique).  
We ask for inspiration as they seek to re-define their role and impact in the coming year.*

*Please guide and inspire The Leprosy Mission staff in their continuing work to help change the negative attitudes towards people affected by leprosy. AMEN*

***Pat Beach***

# DIARY OF EVENTS FOR JANUARY

## JANUARY

<b>1st</b>	<b>SUN</b>	<b>CHRISTMAS 2</b>	
		Holy Communion (Pres: Fr George)	8.00 am
		Carols round the Crib with a simple Eucharist	9.30 am
		<i>NB No Evening Prayer</i>	
<b>2nd</b>	<b>Mon</b>	<i>Bank Holiday therefore no Toddlers Group</i>	
<b>4th</b>	<b>Wed</b>	Bring-&-Share Lunch	12.30 pm
		Social Committee (Choir Vestry)	7.30 pm
<b>5th</b>	<b>Thu</b>	Fairhaven during morning	
		Choir Practice	7.00 – 8.30 pm
<b>7th</b>	<b>Sat</b>	Parish walk	leaving church at 10 am
<b>8th</b>	<b>SUN</b>	<b>EPIPHANY</b>	
		Holy Communion (Pres: Fr Geoff)	8.00 am
		SUNG EUCHARIST (Pres & Preacher: Fr George) Sunday School)	9.30 am
		Simple Eucharist	11.15 am
		Evening Prayer (Off: Fr Geoff)	6.00 pm
<b>9th</b>	<b>Mon</b>	Service at River Court	3.00 pm
<b>11th</b>	<b>Wed</b>	Service at Home Manor (Violet)	3.00 pm
		Bible Study (Choir Vestry)	8.00 pm
<b>12th</b>	<b>Thu</b>	St Anthony's (during morning)	
		Choir Practice	7.00 – 8.30 pm
		Finance & General Purposes Committee (Clergy Vestry)	8.30 pm
<b>15th</b>	<b>SUN</b>	<b>EPIPHANY 2</b>	
		Holy Communion (Pres: Fr George)	8.00 am
		SUNG EUCHARIST	9.30 am
		(Pres & Preacher: Fr Geoff) Sunday School	
		The 6 O'Clock Series	6.00 pm
<b>16th</b>	<b>Mon</b>	Worship Committee (Clergy Vestry via Mildred Ave door)	7.45 pm
<b>17th</b>	<b>Tue</b>	Service at The Chase Care Home	2.30 pm
<b>18th</b>	<b>Wed</b>	PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL	7.45 for 7.55 pm
<b>19th</b>	<b>Thu</b>	Mothers' Union attend the Service of Holy Communion followed by a meeting in the Choir Vestry	10.00 am
		Choir Practice	7.00 – 8.30 pm
<b>22nd</b>	<b>SUN</b>	<b>EPIPHANY 3</b>	
		Holy Communion (Pres: Fr Geoff)	8.00 am
		SUNG EUCHARIST (Pres & Preacher: Fr Geoff) (Sunday School)	9.30 am
		Evening Prayer (Off: Fay Storey)	6.00 pm
<b>24th</b>	<b>Tue</b>	Prayer Group (Choir Vestry)	2.30 pm

## **DIARY OF EVENTS FOR JANUARY (continued)**

25th	Wed	BURNS NIGHT SOCIAL in Church	7.00 for 7.30 pm
26th	Thu	Choir Practice	7.00 – 8.30 pm
<b>29th</b>	<b>SUN</b>	<b>CANDLEMAS</b>	
		Holy Communion (Off: Fr George)	8.00 am
		SUNG EUCHARIST (Pres: Fr Geoff; Preacher: Jamie Wareham) (Sunday School) followed by Bring-and-Buy Sale	9.30 am
		United Service at ‘Wellspring’	6.30 pm

**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 (or Choir Vestry) every Monday from 10.00 – 11.30 am (except on Bank Holidays)**

**Tea, Coffee & Squash are served in Church every Wednesday from 10.30 until noon. On the first Wednesday of the month this is followed by a bring-and-share lunch.**

**FINAL COPY DATE FOR FEBRUARY SWORD:-  
MIDDAY on Sunday 22nd January 2012  
Please submit copy before this date if possible -  
hard copy, floppy disc or e-mail to  
[dhbeach@sky.com](mailto:dhbeach@sky.com)**

## SUNG EUCHARIST DUTY LIST (January)

### Sunday 8th January

Deacons	V Alvarez, V Allen-Smith
Intercessor	P Jenkins
Chalice	V Allen-Smith, S Moring
Lesson Readers	V O’Riordan , P Allen-Smith
Sidespeople	P Ricketts, H Moring, V Blacklock
Tea/Coffee Duty	V Matthews, M Matthews, B Bilson

### Sunday 15th January

Deacons	M Simon, V Alvarez
Intercessor	P Chandler
Chalice	V Alvarez, B Hutchinson
Lesson Readers	M Matthews, P Beach
Sidespeople	A Makin, C Dixon, D Beach
Tea/Coffee Duty	N Twitchin, V Alvarez, N Brighton

### Sunday 22nd January

Deacons	J Wareham, V Allen-Smith
Intercessor	V Alvarez
Chalice	V Allen-Smith, P Gough
Lesson Readers	E Watkin, M Watkin
Sidespeople	J Hart, J Alexander, P Hart
Tea/Coffee Duty	A Makin, M Watkin, E Watkin

### Sunday 29th January

Deacons	V Allen-Smith, M Simon
Intercessor	S Dunning
Chalice	M Simon, A Kiddle
Lesson Readers	J Mordue, G Mordue
Sidespeople	J Chandler, P Allen-Smith, H McKechnie
Tea/Coffee Duty	P Gandy, V Vidler, G Heath

## OXHEY CHAPEL'S FOURTH CENTENARY



*I know no greater pleasure than church-crawling. You never know what you are going to find: an eccentric incumbent, a derelict church, a live church, an ugly or a lovely one, or just a church. And even if it's "just a church," there is always something about it for those who have eyes and ears and imagination.*

### **John Betjeman Trains and Buttered Toast**

The late Sir John Betjeman has been called 'the laureate of church poetry'. He loved old churches. For him, they were 'islands of calm in the seething roar of what we now call civilisation'; their tracery, stained glass and effigies providing an endless source of inspiration. Like Sir John, I know of no greater pleasure than that of 'church crawling,' so you can imagine my delight when I got the chance to explore a little-known seventeenth-century chapel in the company of Nic Boyer and James Evans from the Churches Conservation Trust.

The chapel in question sits in a quiet, overlooked spot between South Oxhey Leisure Centre and All Saints' Church. It is rectangular in shape, with a chequerboard pattern on its walls and a hexagonal wooden bellcote on its roof. However, step through the narthex into the nave, and you discover a more restrained and dignified interior, lit by a dazzling eight-branched candelabra, and several clear glass windows. Wherever you look, there is something to delight the eye.

The west end contains a richly carved and oddly shaped seventeenth-century oak font with circular bowl, and domed cover. The north wall houses a copy of King Ethelred's Charter of A.D. 1007, granting the land at Oxhey to the Abbot of St Alban's Abbey, and the south wall displays a beautiful alabaster and marble monument dedicated to the chapel's founder, Sir James Altham, and his wife Dame Helen. The couple are represented in effigy as two kneeling figures facing the altar with hands folded in prayer.

The chancel displays the sort of interior arrangement that would have upset many Puritans. The communion table (complete with altar cross and brass candlesticks) runs altar-wise from north to south, and is protected from the nave by a set of original Jacobean communion rails, and the floor retains the chapel's original black and white marble paving. Most striking of all, however, is the magnificent late-seventeenth-century reredos that dominates the east end of the chapel. Made from carved oak, it sports a 'broken pediment', supported by two (very rare) twisted Solomonic columns, and a set of panels devoted to the Ten Commandments, the Lord's Prayer and the Apostles' Creed. The overall impression invites comparison with some of Catholic Europe's most famous Baroque altarpieces, such as Bernini's Baldacchino – the sculpted canopy that covers the Papal Altar at St Peter's Basilica in Rome.

Oxhey Chapel was built on an early monastic site in 1612 by Sir James Altham; a respected judge and Baron of the Exchequer to Elizabeth I. He used it as a private chapel for his family, and for the staff who lived at nearby Oxhey Place. In 1688, Oxhey Place was rebuilt by its new owner – the Whig politician Sir John Bucknall – and he used the wood from the old house to build the reredos that now stands at the east end of the chapel. Towards the end of the nineteenth-century, Oxhey Place and its chapel were under the ownership of the eminent bookseller W. H. Smith, and after that they were owned by Thomas Blackwell, a co-founder of the food manufacturer Crosse and Blackwell. Under his stewardship, two vestries were added to the west end, and the teak pews were re-arranged to face each other across the chapel in 'collegiate' fashion.

The chapel has had its fair share of misfortune. In 1649, it was desecrated by soldiers from the Parliamentary Army, who pulled the lead from the roof to manufacture musket balls, and during the severe winter of 1962/3, the chapel roof caved-in and had to be replaced. The original tiles are said to have been sold to the violinist Yehudi Menuhin for use on his house in Highgate. It is gratifying to learn, however, that Oxhey Chapel is still consecrated, and that it is occasionally used for weddings. Prayer cards are available in the nave, along with a selection of chapel guides, leaflets and memorabilia.

In 1977, responsibility for the maintenance of the chapel passed to the body now known as the Churches Conservation Trust. The Trust is keen to bring the chapel (which is in its fourth centenary year) to the attention of the local population, and to encourage visitors. The keys are available to borrow from neighbouring All Saints Church. If you have the time, and you like exploring old chapels, this private Anglican one in South Oxhey is definitely worth a visit.

Happy New Year!

*Rob White*

*Rob is a regular visitor to our Wednesday Coffee Mornings. Ed.*

## PORTSMOUTH CATHEDRAL

Earlier in the year I visited Portsmouth, but instead of heading off, like most visitors, towards the Historic Dock Yard to view HMS Victory or HMS Warrior, I set off in the direction of the Old Town in search of the Anglican Cathedral of St Thomas of Canterbury.



Portsmouth is a small diocese carved out of the diocese of Winchester and is sandwiched between the two larger dioceses of Winchester and Chichester and has only been a diocese since 1927. The cathedral like the diocese is also small, and like cathedrals of dioceses established at the end of the nineteenth or early twentieth centuries used existing parish churches to be their new cathedral.

Around the year 1180 Jean de Gisors, a wealthy Norman merchant and Lord of the Manor of Titchfield, gave land in his new town of Portsmouth to the Augustinian canons of Southwick Priory so that they could build a chapel "to the glorious honour of the martyr Thomas of Canterbury, one time Archbishop, on (my) land which is called Sudewede, the island of Portsea". This chapel was to become in turn a parish church in the 14th century and then a cathedral in the 20th century. Of this original building, the chancel and transepts remain.

The church survived a French raid in 1337 but in 1449 the Bishop of Chichester was murdered by local sailors. The town's inhabitants were excommunicated and the church was closed. In 1591 Elizabeth I worshipped in St Thomas's church. In 1642 during the English Civil War the church was bombarded by Parliamentarian forces. In 1683-93 the old tower and nave were taken down and replaced by a new nave, aisles, and west tower.



Between 1902 and 1904 the church was closed for restoration

work to be carried out. In 1932 Sir Charles Nicholson published plans to enlarge St Thomas's. In 1939 due to the outbreak of World War II work on the extension scheme stopped, and was not recommenced until 1990. Whilst incomplete a blank brick wall ended the west end of the nave. However, as the building had been used for many years without extension it was quite usable, and there was no urgency to finish the work. In the mid 1980s, however, the temporary brick wall was found to have become unstable and in danger of collapse which made the completion work more urgent. Originally the nave was intended to be longer, in the traditional style of an English cathedral, but the changing needs of the diocese meant that the building was finally built with a foreshortened nave, the final west wall being located close to where the temporary structure had been. In 1991 the completed building, much smaller than the original plans envisaged, was consecrated in the presence of HM Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother.

The central tower contains a ring of 12 bells which were cast at Taylors Bell Foundry at various dates. They are hung in the wooden octagonal part of the tower.

*Dennis Beach*



## **FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK**

Thank you to everyone who has sent in articles for SWORD during the past year especially Sylvia and Henry Moring for getting the Dairy of Events and other copy together for me.

I rely on material being sent to me to produce SWORD each month so how about your contribution? Something of interest you have done recently, a place you have visited, an anecdote to share. If you have any pictures to go with your article so much the better.

Thanks also to the distributors who have taken the magazine out to people who do not or cannot visit St Michael's regularly.

A big thank you to our advertisers for their support which helps us to off-set the cost of sending copies of SWORD to nursing homes, doctors surgeries, New Hope Trust, Peace Hospice etc.

Once again Valerie Alvarez has kindly agreed to collect your annual subscriptions which remain the same as last year, £6.00 for the year instead of 60p per month. I very much appreciate her help in this respect.

*Dennis Beach*  
(Editor)

**WEST WATFORD FREE CHURCH (BAPTIST)**

**TOLPITS LANE, WATFORD**

**PASTOR: GARTH WOODHEAD**

**NEWSLETTER**

**Regular services:**

**Every Sunday:**

10.30am Family Service.

11.00am The children leave the main meeting to go into the Sunday School.

Holy communion is celebrated on the 4th Sunday of each month.

Tea, coffee and biscuits are served in the church at the end of the service, please stay and get to know new people or chat to long-standing friends. Either way enjoy a time of fellowship.

3pm L'ÉGLISE FRATERNITE meet for worship and bible teaching. This is of course the official name of the French speaking church who meet here. Everyone is welcome and they do have an interpreter for those who are not fluent in French.

**Friday @ 7pm** The Tamil (Indian) speaking church meet for worship and bible study.

By next month I should be able to give you their official name as well.

**Tuesday mornings 9.15am - 12.15pm** Cafe West. Going from strength to strength we have a wonderful time. If you haven't been along yet come and see for yourself.

**None of the Prayer Diaries are available but that doesn't mean a month off:**

Although the Open Doors 49 days of prayer has come to an end please continue to pray for those in countries where acknowledging Jesus puts their families and their lives at risk.

For those involved in the various conflicts around the world and also for

for their families at home as they fear for their dads, husbands, brothers, sons and wonder if they'll see them again.

Pray for the people who live in those countries, who want to live in peace, go to work and raise their children.

For the many who go out on the mission field taking the gospel to those who wouldn't otherwise hear it. In some parts of the world they also risk their lives by being obedient to Jesus. 'Go therefore and make disciples of all nations ....'. (Matthew 28:19)

In the cold winter months it is hard enough for us to keep warm, think of those with no homes. The shelters do a fantastic job in feeding and providing beds for the homeless but there are only so many places available. Pray for the people who work in the shelters as they at times have to make very difficult decisions, and for the ones who on a daily basis feed them.

**Pray also for:**

Those in leadership (national, international, government, churches (inc. spouses),

Those looking for employment.

Our children.

Parents and teachers.

The emergency services.

1 Thess 5:16 -17 pray without ceasing .....

As we pray we should also remember to give thanks:

Philippians 4:6. Be anxious for nothing but in all things by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

Let's thank God that at this time we are able to worship openly and freely in this country. We have little opposition when we share the good news of Jesus but this is not the case everywhere. Please pray for those who are persecuted for their faith and also that we will have continued freedom to share ours.

**January birthdays: Happy birthday !!**

2nd	Paul Hayler
17th	Renie Morgan
19th	Napiya
20th	Joshua Aluma



....and finally:

Do you ever think “Well if I don’t do it it won’t get done. And if it is it won’t be done right” ?

### Whose Job Is It?

This is a story about four people named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody.

There was an important job to be done and Everybody was asked to do it. Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it.

Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it.

Somebody got angry about that because it was Everybody’s job.

Everybody thought that Anybody could do it, but Nobody realised that Everybody wouldn’t do it.

It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done !

If it needs to be done ..... Ask a busy person who doesn’t have time. They’ll have it done in 5 minutes (If you don’t mind waiting) !!!!

### Noah’s Ark

Everything I know I learned from Noah’s Ark.

1. Don’t miss the boat.
2. Remember that we are all in the same boat.
3. Plan ahead. It wasn’t raining when Noah built the ark.
4. Stay fit. When you’re 60 someone may ask you to do something really big.
5. Don’t listen to critics. Just get on with the job that needs to be done.
6. Build your future on high ground.
7. For safety’s sake travel in pairs.
8. Speed isn’t always an advantage. The snails were on board with the cheetahs.
9. When you’re stressed, float a while.
10. Remember, the ark was built by amateurs, the Titanic by professionals
11. No matter the storm, there’s always a rainbow waiting.

Most people walk in and out of your life  
But friends leave a footprint in your heart.



# St Michael & All Angels Church

Mildred Ave./Durban Rd., Watford, WD18 7DY

Tel:- (01923)247090

Web:-[www.stmichaels-watford.org.uk](http://www.stmichaels-watford.org.uk)

Vicar	* Revd Geoffrey Calvert	St Michael's Vicarage, 5 Mildred Avenue	232460
Hon. Asst. Curate	* Revd George Ochola BTh	57 Whippendell 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 F Mepham	48 Durban Road West	774516
PCC Secretary	Mrs J Alexander	125 Hempstead Road	243101
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	Carole Robson		468172
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
Social Committee	Revd Geoffrey Calvert	St Michael's Vicarage, 5 Mildred Avenue	232460

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.

*The Vicar's day off is Friday*

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