



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

CHRISTMAS 1
30 December 2007

A warm welcome to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Eucharist, Fr John celebrates and preaches and Jane Talbot leads the intercessions. A crèche is available.

Hymns: 41, 59, 54 and 57

Setting: Rawsthorne

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

There is Evensong in the Lady Chapel at 6.30pm.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: The Diocese of Zululand, South Africa: Dino Gabriel – Bishop.
Give thanks for all God's blessings during 2007.

Andy Crooks, Bishop's Chaplain and Press officer.

The World: The people of Pakistan after the assassination of Benazir Bhutto.
Progress towards a lasting peace in the New Year in all troubled places in the world.

Those who work in the air traffic industry – for safety and good employment relationships.

The Community and Parish: Those planning to move to new homes in Faraday and Edison Courts, Vicarage Road.

For God's blessing on the work of St Michael's in the coming year.

The Ill and the Housebound: Especially Ray Angles, Monica Batt, Ellen Benoy, Günter Bouché, John Burn, Marjorie Carlisle, Claire Challis, Jennifer Coley, Bill Craddock-Jones, Jean Crouch, Ifagaani Desiderio, June Dickinson, Kate Dickinson, Jocelyn Harewood, Jenny Houghton, Mary Kearns, Lesley Kinch, Loretta Lynch, Maggie Maguire, Stella Meager, Eva Portas, Myrtle Powell, Ann Reed, Gladys Robertson, Maureen Swann, June Tatnall, Bill Widdowson, Anne Wightman, Maureen Williams and Sue Winterbotham.

The Departed:

Collect

Almighty God, who wonderfully created us in your own image and yet more wonderfully restored us through your Son Jesus Christ:
grant that, as he came to share in our humanity, so we may share the life of his divinity; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING Isaiah 63.7–9

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

- ⁷ I will recount the gracious deeds of the LORD, the praiseworthy acts of the LORD, because of all that the LORD has done for us, and the great favour to the house of Israel that he has shown them according to his mercy, according to the abundance of his steadfast love.
- ⁸ For he said, ‘Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely’;
- ⁹ and he became their saviour in all their distress. It was no messenger or angel but his presence that saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

SECOND READING Hebrews 2.10–18

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

- ¹⁰ It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings.
- ¹¹ For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, saying,
- ¹² ‘I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters, in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.’
- ¹³ And again, ‘I will put my trust in him.’ And again, ‘Here am I and the children whom God has given me.’
- ¹⁴ Since the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil,
- ¹⁵ and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death.
- ¹⁶ For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham.

- 17 Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people.
- 18 Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

GOSPEL Matthew 2.13–23

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

- 13 After the wise men had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, ‘Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.’
- 14 Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt,
- 15 and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, ‘Out of Egypt I have called my son.’
- 16 When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men.
- 17 Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:
- 18 ‘A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.’
- 19 When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said,
- 20 ‘Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child’s life are dead.’
- 21 Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel.
- 22 But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee.
- 23 There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, ‘He will be called a Nazorean.’

THIS WEEK

Tue	1	Jan	NEW YEAR'S DAY	<i>Bank Holiday</i>	
Thu	3	Jan	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)		10.00am
			Fairhaven		morning
Fri	4	Jan	Australian students arrive and stay until 8 January		
Sat	5	Jan	Australians rehearsing in church		10..00am – 2.00pm
Sun	6	Jan	<u>BAPTISM of CHRIST</u>		
			Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)		8.00am
			SUNG EUCHARIST (crèche available)		9.30am
			Social Committee Meeting		10.50am
			Band Rehearsal		11.00am
			Evensong in Lady Chapel		6.30pm
			Jazz supper concert with Australian students		7.30pm

NOTICES

BRING-&-SHARE LUNCHESES: Please note that the next one will be on Ash Wednesday, 6 February (NO Lunch in January).

SWORD: The Christmas/New Year edition is available to take and distribute.

VISIT BY AUSTRALIAN STUDENTS: This group is coming to Watford from 4-8 January 2008 and staying at homes in the parish. On Monday, 7 January, at 4.30 pm they will be playing jazz in church for anyone (children and adults) who like to come and listen. Please tell your friends and neighbours. Leaflets available in church.

On Sunday, 6 January, the students will be providing the music at a supper concert; if any church member would like to provide some food for the supper Jane Talbot will be very pleased to hear from you.

PARISH LUNCH: This will be on Sunday, 3 February 2008, at 12 noon. At the 9.30 Service that day the Revd Gary Russell will be celebrating and preaching and the Russell family will be staying for the lunch. Tickets - £6 for adults; £3 for children of 10 and under. These will be available from next Sunday.

FRESH EXPRESSIONS VISION DAY: An important day conference has been arranged for *Saturday 26 January* at St Michael's School, Garston. Fr John is going to this and hopes VERY MUCH that other members of St Michael's will come along too. More information from Fr John with booking forms. It promises to be a really good day with lots of fresh ideas pooled for reaching out to others in our parishes.