



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

EPIPHANY
6 January 2008

A warm welcome to our services today.

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

Hymns: 83, 89, 86 and 84

Setting: Rawsthorne

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

Social Committee Meeting at 10.50am.

Band Rehearsal at 11.00am.

There is Evensong in the Lady Chapel at 6.30pm.

Jazz supper concert with Australian students at 7.30pm.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: The work of the Anglican Consultative Council.
The work of Crisis and those who minister to people in unhealthy and overcrowded conditions.
The Orthodox Churches.

The World: The people of Pakistan in the aftermath of Miss Bhutto's assassination – for calm and positive plans for democratic elections.
For Kenya in political turmoil.
Those who manage our railways.

The Community and Parish: The success of the visit by members of Wesley College, Melbourne, Australia.
Our PCC members and God's blessing on the meeting on Wednesday.

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: Anita Andrews (aged 60), Vicarage Road.
Florence Chambers (aged 91), late of Meriden Estate.

6 January**COLLECT**

O God, who by the leading of a star manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth:

mercifully grant that we, who know you now by faith, may at last behold your glory face to face;

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 60.1–6

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

- ¹ Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.
- ² For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you.
- ³ Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.
- ⁴ Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.
- ⁵ Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you.
- ⁶ A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

SECOND READING Ephesians 3.1–12

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians.

- ¹ I, Paul, am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles –
- ² for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you,
- ³ and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words,
- ⁴ a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ.
- ⁵ In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit:

6 that is, the Gentiles have become fellow-heirs, members of the same body, and
7 sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.
8 Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was
9 given me by the working of his power.
10 Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to
11 the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ,
12 and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God
who created all things;
10 so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be
made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.
11 This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ
Jesus our Lord,
12 in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

GOSPEL Matthew 2.1–12

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

1 In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men
from the East came to Jerusalem, asking,
2 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star
at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.'
3 When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him;
4 and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of
them where the Messiah was to be born.
5 They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:
6 "And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers
of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel."
7 Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time
when the star had appeared.
8 Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child;
and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him
homage.'
9 When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the
star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child
was.
10 When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy.
11 On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt
down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him
gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.
12 And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own
country by another road.

The NEXT BIBLE STUDY is Wednesday 16 January at 8.00 pm.

THIS WEEK

Mon	7	Jan	Toddlers' Group	10.00 – 11.30am
			Jazz Concert by Australian students (see Notice below)	4.30pm
Tue	8	Jan	<i>Australian students leave</i>	
Wed	9	Jan	Coffee in Church	10.30am-12 noon
			Service at Home Manor	3.00pm
			PAROCHIAL CHRCH COUNCIL	7.45 for 7.55pm
Thu	10	Jan	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
			St Anthony's	morning
			Choir Practice	7.00- 8.30pm
Sat	12	Jan	An Evening of Acoustic Music	Church in use from 4 – 11.00pm
Sun	13	Jan	<u>BAPTISM of CHRIST</u>	
			Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	8.00am
			SUNG EUCHARIST (crèche available)	9.30am
			11.15 Service - SIMPLE EUCHARIST	11.15am
			River Court Service	3.00pm
			Evensong in Lady Chapel	6.30pm

NOTICES

HELP PLEASE! We badly need volunteers to join the rota for Sunday morning crèche (please see Alison Makin) and serving coffee (please see Pat Brown).

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

PARISH WALK – Saturday 2 February: Has anyone offered (or will someone offer) to organise this walk? Please tell Fr John.

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

VISIT BY AUSTRALIAN STUDENTS: This group is in 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.

Tonight, 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 and/or come, 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.