



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST

13 January 2008

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: 90, 93, 386 and 612

Setting: Rawsthorne

Tea and coffee will be served in church after the 9.30 service and this is followed at 11.15 with our monthly service of thanksgiving and praise. This month it takes the form of a "Simple Eucharist" – please stay on.

The monthly service at River Court is at 3.00 pm.

There is Evensong in the Lady Chapel at 6.30pm.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: The Church in Australia – Phillip Aspinall, Archbishop of Brisbane.
The Churches of Stevenage, particularly St Nicholas – Vicar, Donald Dowling.

The World: The continuing cause of peace in Iraq and Afghanistan.
The people of Pakistan; and the work towards democracy in so many African countries – especially Kenya.
Gordon Brown and all who shoulder responsibility for the future of this country.

The Community and Parish: Our local schools as they re-assemble for a new term.
Members of our Mothers' Union and Pat Gandy, the leader.

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: Michael Peace (aged 65), Kensington Avenue.
Paul Slavin (aged 63), Croxley View.

Collect

Eternal Father, who at the baptism of Jesus revealed him to be your Son, anointing him with the Holy Spirit:
grant to us, who are born again by water and the Spirit, that we may be faithful to our calling as your adopted children;
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 42.1–9

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Thus says the LORD:

¹ Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations.

² He will not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street;
³ a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice.

⁴ He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

⁵ Thus says God, the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it:

⁶ I am the LORD, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations,

⁷ to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness.

⁸ I am the LORD, that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols.

⁹ See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

SECOND READING Acts 10.34–43

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

- ³⁴ Peter began to speak to those assembled in the house of Cornelius.
‘I truly understand that God shows no partiality,
³⁵ but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him.
³⁶ You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ – he is Lord of all.
³⁷ That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced:
³⁸ how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.
³⁹ We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree;
⁴⁰ but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear,
⁴¹ not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.
⁴² He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead.
⁴³ All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.’

GOSPEL Matthew 3.13–17

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

- ¹³ Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him.
¹⁴ John would have prevented him, saying, ‘I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?’
¹⁵ But Jesus answered him, ‘Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfil all righteousness.’ Then he consented.
¹⁶ And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him.
¹⁷ And a voice from heaven said, ‘This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.’

THIS WEEK

Mon	14	Jan	Toddlers' Group	10.00 – 11.30am
			Service at The Chase Care Home	3.00pm
Tue	15	Jan	Worship Committee (in Church)	7.30pm
Wed	16	Jan	Coffee in Church	10.30am-12 noon
			Church in use after funeral of Michael Peace	afternoon
			Bible Study (in Choir Vestry)	8.00pm
Thu	17	Jan	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
			Mothers' Union meet after this in Choir Vestry	
			Kids' Club	3.30 – 5.00pm
			Choir Practice	7.00- 8.30pm
Sun	20	Jan	<u>EPIPHANY 3</u>	
			Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	8.00am
			SUNG EUCHARIST (crèche available)	9.30am
			Sunday School in Littlebury Hall	9.30am
			United Week Service at St Andrews	6.30pm

NOTICES

CLAIRE HARTROPP: Claire joins us this morning for worship at 9.30 am and 11.15. We welcome Claire who (as you will have read in *Sword*) is a Reader in Training for Christ Church, Watford.

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).

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

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; toddlers free. These are available now.

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.

THE BRIDGE OF PEACE inter-faith coach outing to St Albans Abbey (for women and children) will be on February 20th from 10.00am -2.00pm. Please note the date, and see Gill Heath for more details!

IN HARMONY: An evening of music, words, images and candlelight to be held on Friday 25 January, 7.30 – 9.30 pm at Holy Rood Church. Tickets £12 (including liquid refreshments) See Valerie O'Riordan, tel 01923 247619 or email brian.oriordan@bigfoot.com.