



# THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

*St Michael and All Angels*

Watford

EPIPHANY 3

20 January 2008

A warm welcome to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Eucharist, Fr John celebrates, Violet Allen-Smith preaches and Graham Mordue leads the intercessions. A crèche is available.

**Hymns: 444, 401, 432 and 443**

**Setting: Rawsthorne**

Sunday School is in Littlebury Hall at 9.30am.

Tea and coffee will be served in church after the 9.30 service – please stay on.

There is a United Week Service at St Andrews at 6.30pm.

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## **For your prayers this week:**

**The Church:** The Unity of the Church in this Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.  
The Church in Kenya, Benjamin Nzimbi, Bishop of All Saints Diocese.  
Jane Hatton, Chaplain, E and N Herts NHS Trust.

**The World:** Peace in Iraq and Afghanistan and the cause of democratic rule in Pakistan and Kenya.  
Improved relations between our country and Russia.  
All who are affected by recent flooding.

**The Community and Parish:** Our regular prayer group, interceding for the parish and for those in particular need.  
The “Fresh Expressions” conference to be held on Saturday – that we may hear of new ways to reach out with the Gospel.

**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, Sarah Heath, 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:** Beatrice Lown (aged 95), once of Caractacus Green (Mary Jenkins' mother).

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**Collect**

Almighty God, whose Son revealed in signs and miracles the wonder of your saving presence:  
renew your people with your heavenly grace, and in all our weakness sustain us by your mighty power;  
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 9.1–4**

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

- <sup>1</sup> There will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.
- <sup>2</sup> The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them light has shined.
- <sup>3</sup> You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder.
- <sup>4</sup> For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

**SECOND READING I Corinthians 1.10–18**

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

- <sup>10</sup> I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same purpose.
- <sup>11</sup> For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters.
- <sup>12</sup> What I mean is that each of you says, 'I belong to Paul,' or 'I belong to Apollos,' or 'I belong to Cephas,' or 'I belong to Christ.'
- <sup>13</sup> Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?

- <sup>14</sup> I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius,  
<sup>15</sup> so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name.  
<sup>16</sup> I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not  
know whether I baptized anyone else.  
<sup>17</sup> For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel, and  
not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be  
emptied of its power.  
<sup>18</sup> For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are  
perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

## **GOSPEL Matthew 4.12–23**

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

- <sup>12</sup> When Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to  
Galilee.  
<sup>13</sup> He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the  
territory of Zebulun and Naphtali,  
<sup>14</sup> so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be  
fulfilled:  
<sup>15</sup> ‘Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, on the road by the sea, across the  
Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles –  
<sup>16</sup> the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those  
who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned.’  
<sup>17</sup> From that time Jesus began to proclaim, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of  
heaven has come near.’  
<sup>18</sup> As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who  
is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the lake –  
for they were fishermen.  
<sup>19</sup> And he said to them, ‘Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.’  
<sup>20</sup> Immediately they left their nets and followed him.  
<sup>21</sup> As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of  
Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee,  
mending their nets, and he called them.  
<sup>22</sup> Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him.  
<sup>23</sup> Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and  
proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease  
and every sickness among the people.

## THIS WEEK

Mon	21	Jan	Toddlers' Group	10.00 – 11.30am
Tue	22	Jan	Intercessory Prayer Group (15 Lynbury Court)	2.30pm
Wed	23	Jan	Coffee in Church	10.30am-12 noon
Thu	24	Jan	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
			Kids' Club	3.30 – 5.00pm
			Choir Practice	7.00- 8.30pm
Sat	26	Jan	(Fresh Expressions Vision Day at St Michael's RC School)	
			January Sale in aid of Church funds with coffee	10.30am – 12 noon
Sun	27	Jan	<b><u>EPIPHANY 4</u></b>	
			Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	8.00am
			SUNG EUCHARIST (crèche available)	9.30am
			Sunday School in Littlebury Hall	9.30am
			CHORAL EVENSONG	6.30pm

## NOTICES

CHORAL EVENSONG will be held next Sunday 27 January at 6.30pm. Please make every effort to attend and hear our Choir.

CLAIRE HARTOPP: Claire joins us again this morning for worship at 9.30 am and will be reading the Epistle. We welcome Claire who 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, serving coffee (please see Pat Brown) and sidespeople (please see one of the churchwardens).

FINAL COPY DATE FOR THE FEBRUARY SWORD is MIDDAY next Sunday, 27 January. Please submit copy before this time if possible. Hard copy, floppy disc or email to DENNIS.H.BEACH@sky.com.

SWORD SUBSCRIPTIONS for 2008 are now due. Please see Valerie Alvarez who has again kindly agreed to collect the subscriptions for the coming year, which remain the same as last year, £5.00 if you pay for the year instead of 50p per month.

PARISH WALK – Saturday 2 February: Please sign up on the list.

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.

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!

NEXT BIBLE STUDY is at 8 pm on Wednesday 30 January. All welcome.

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.