



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

EPIPHANY 4

27 January 2008

A warm welcome to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Eucharist, Fr John celebrates, Martin Heath preaches and Pat Beach leads the intercessions. A crèche is available.

Hymns: 585, 426, 318 and 429

Setting: Rawsthorne

Sunday School is in Littlebury Hall at 9.30am.

Tea and coffee will be served in church after the 9.30 service and there will be a Bring-&-Buy Sale – please stay on.

There is CHORAL EVENSONG at 6.30pm.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: The Church in Bangladesh – the Diocese of Dhaka, Bishop Michael Baroi.

Our Diocesan Links with the Caribbean Church.

Paul Hughes, Archdeacon of Bedford.

The World: Peace in Iraq and Afghanistan – the peace process in the Middle East.

The candidates in the American election run-up.

Those who are trying to overcome personal debt problems.

The Community and Parish: Our local churches as we try to commend the Gospel to others through “Fresh Expressions”.

All who work on the Croxley Business Park, much of which is in our parish.

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:

Collect

God our creator, who in the beginning commanded the light to shine out of darkness:

we pray that the light of the glorious gospel of Christ may dispel the darkness of ignorance and unbelief, shine into the hearts of all your people, and reveal the knowledge of your glory in the face of 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 | Kings 17.8–16

A reading from the first book of Kings.

⁸ Then the word of the LORD came to Elijah, saying,

⁹ ‘Go now to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and live there; for I have commanded a widow there to feed you.’

¹⁰ So he set out and went to Zarephath. When he came to the gate of the town, a widow was there gathering sticks; he called to her and said, ‘Bring me a little water in a vessel, so that I may drink.’

¹¹ As she was going to bring it, he called to her and said, ‘Bring me a morsel of bread in your hand.’

¹² But she said, ‘As the LORD your God lives, I have nothing baked, only a handful of meal in a jar, and a little oil in a jug; I am now gathering a couple of sticks, so that I may go home and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it, and die.’

¹³ Elijah said to her, ‘Do not be afraid; go and do as you have said; but first make me a little cake of it and bring it to me, and afterwards make something for yourself and your son.’

¹⁴ For thus says the LORD the God of Israel: The jar of meal will not be emptied and the jug of oil will not fail until the day that the LORD sends rain on the earth.’

¹⁵ She went and did as Elijah said, so that she as well as he and her household ate for many days.

¹⁶ The jar of meal was not emptied, neither did the jug of oil fail, according to the word of the LORD that he spoke by Elijah.

SECOND READING | Corinthians 1.18–31

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

¹⁸ 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.

¹⁹ For it is written, ‘I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.’

²⁰ Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?

21 For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom,
God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who
believe.

22 For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom,
23 but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling-block to Jews and foolishness to
Gentiles,
24 but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God
and the wisdom of God.

25 For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger
than human strength.

26 Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by
human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth.

27 But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is
weak in the world to shame the strong;

28 God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to
nothing things that are,
29 so that no one might boast in the presence of God.

30 He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God,
and righteousness and sanctification and redemption,
31 in order that, as it is written, 'Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.'

GOSPEL John 2.1-11

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

1 On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus
was there.

2 Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding.

3 When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.'

4 And Jesus said to her, 'Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour
has not yet come.'

5 His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.'

6 Now standing there were six stone water-jars for the Jewish rites of purification,
each holding twenty or thirty gallons.

7 Jesus said to them, 'Fill the jars with water.' And they filled them up to the brim.

8 He said to them, 'Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward.' So they
took it.

9 When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know
where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the
steward called the bridegroom and said to him,

10 'Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests
have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.'

11 Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and
his disciples believed in him.

THIS WEEK

Mon	28	Jan	Toddlers' Group	10.00 – 11.30am
Wed	30	Jan	Coffee in Church	10.30am-12 noon
			Bible Study	8.00pm
Thu	31	Jan	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
			Kids' Club	3.30 – 5.00pm
			Choir Practice	7.00- 8.30pm
Sat	2	Feb	Parish Walk	from 10.00am
Sun	3	Feb	<u>CANDLEMAS</u>	
			Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	8.00am
			SUNG EUCHARIST (crèche available)	9.30am
			followed by Parish Lunch	12.15pm
			Sunday School in Littlebury Hall	9.30am
			United Evening Service at West Watford Free Church	6.30pm

NOTICES

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

LENT GROUPS: Please sign up list to indicate your preference for time and day. Details of this year's Lent Course are on the list which is on a table at the west end.

CLAIRE HARTROPP: Claire joins us again this morning for worship at 9.30 am and will be reading the first lesson. 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 TODAY 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 12.15 pm. **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. Please get your tickets before 31 January (or at least indicate that you intend to come) to help with the catering.

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!