



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

CANDLEMAS

3 February 2008

A warm welcome to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Eucharist, the Rev Gary Russell celebrates and preaches and Pam Hart leads the intercessions. A crèche is available.

Hymns: 94, 360, leaflet and 513

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.

We give a warm welcome to Gary, Bridget, Charlotte and John who will join us for the Parish Lunch at 12.15pm.

There is a United Evening Service at West Watford Free Church at 6.30pm.

For your prayers this week:

- The Church:** The Church in Brazil: Archbishop Mauricio de Andrade.
The Parish of St Nicholas, Harpenden and the work of the Clergy and Readers there.
Bishop Christopher Herbert and Jan after the announcement of his retirement – for their planning for the future.
- The World:** Peace in Iraq and Afghanistan.
The cause of democracy – especially in Pakistan and Kenya.
For a spirit of responsibility and public concern among those who handle large sums of money.

The Community and Parish: Those from our Parish serving prison sentences.
All in our Parish who are seeking asylum – for their fair and just treatment.

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 and Maureen Williams. We give thanks for the continuing recovery of Mel Browne and Sue Winterbotham.

The Departed:

Collect

Almighty and ever-living God, clothed in majesty, whose beloved Son was this day presented in the Temple, in substance of our flesh:
grant that we may be presented to you with pure and clean hearts, by your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING Malachi 3.1–5

A reading from the book of the prophet Malachi.

Thus says the LORD God:

- ¹ See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight – indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts.
- ² But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap;
- ³ he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness.
- ⁴ Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.
- ⁵ Then I will draw near to you for judgement; I will be swift to bear witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired workers in their wages, the widow, and the orphan, against those who thrust aside the alien, and do not fear me, says the LORD of hosts.

SECOND READING Hebrews 2.14–18

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

- ¹⁴ Since the children share flesh and blood, Jesus 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 Luke 2.22–40

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

²² When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, Mary and Joseph brought Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord.

²³ (as it is written in the law of the Lord, ‘Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord’),

²⁴ and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, ‘a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.’

²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him.

²⁶ It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah.

²⁷ Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law,

²⁸ Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

²⁹ ‘Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word;
³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation,

³¹ which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.’

³³ And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him.

³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, ‘This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed
³⁵ so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed – and a sword will pierce your own soul too.’

³⁶ There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage,
³⁷ then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day.

³⁸ At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

³⁹ When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth.

⁴⁰ The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

THIS WEEK

Mon	4	Feb	Toddlers' Group	10.00 – 11.30am
Wed	6	Feb	<u>ASH WEDNESDAY</u>	
			Holy Communion with Imposition of Ashes	10.00am
			Coffee in Church	10.30am-12 noon
			Bring-&-Share Lunch	12.30pm
			Said Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes	7.15pm
			PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL	7.45 for 7.55pm
Thu	7	Feb	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
			Fairhaven	morning
			Kids' Club	3.30 – 5.00pm
			Choir Practice	7.00- 8.30pm
Sun	10	Feb	<u>LENT 1</u>	
			Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	8.00am
			SUNG EUCHARIST (crèche available)	9.30am
			11.15 Service of Thanksgiving and Praise	11.15am
			River Court Service	3.00pm
			Evensong in Lady Chapel	6.30pm

NOTICES

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 the church table at the west end.

NEXT BIBLE STUDY is at 8.00 pm on Wednesday 13 February, starting at Acts 14.19.

LAST SUNDAY'S BRING-&-BUY SALE raised £43.50; the **COFFEE MORNING AND JANUARY SALE** raised £136. This money will be paid into church general funds. Many thanks to all who supported these events.

PLEASE SIGN UP for the monthly Bring-&-Share Lunch on Wednesday 6 February.

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).

THE LENT LUNCH, when a simple lunch of soup and bread and cheese will be served by St Michael's Brownies, is on Saturday, 23 February, from 11.30 – 1.30 pm. There will also be a bring-and-buy stall.

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.

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!