



# THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

*St Michael and All Angels*

Watford

HOLY INNOCENTS

28 December 2008

A warm welcome to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Eucharist, Fr George celebrates and preaches and Pam Hart leads the intercessions. A crèche is available. Sunday School is in Littlebury Hall.

**Hymns: 41, 552,74 and 73**

**Setting: Rawsthorne**

Coffee and tea will be served in church after the 9.30 service.

Evening Prayer in Lady Chapel

3.30pm

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

**The Church:** Dinis Ssengulane, Bishop of Lebombo, South Africa.  
All churches named in honour of the Holy Innocents.  
Ssusana Pope and the Staff at the Diocesan Office.

**The World:** Peace in all troubled places.  
The leaders of the nations – for wisdom, foresight, compassion and understanding.  
All children, especially those who suffer neglect, homelessness or abuse of body, mind or spirit.

**The Community and Parish:** Local doctors and those who work in surgeries.  
God's blessing on us and our families as this week we enter a new year.  
Any of our families from whom we are separated this Christmas.

**The Ill and the Housebound:** Especially Ray Angles, Ellen Benoy, Gunter Bouché, Mel Browne, John Burn, Marjorie Carlisle, Jennifer Coley, Bill Craddock-Jones, Jean Crouch, June Dickinson, Kate Dickinson, Simon Fowle, Jocelyn Harewood, Gladys Holloway, Jenny Houghton, Lionel Jones, Mary Kearns, Lesley Kinch, Loretta Lynch, Maggie Maguire, Stella Meager, Dorcas Ochola, Gaynor Osbourne, Myrtle Powell, Bryony Purse, Ann Reed, Gladys Robertson, Elaine Robinson, Pauline Surtees, Maureen Swann, June Tatnall, Lesley Watkin, Anne Wightman, and Maureen Williams.

**The Departed:**

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**Collect**

Heavenly Father,  
whose children suffered at the hands of Herod,  
though they had done no wrong:  
by the suffering of your Son  
and by the innocence of our lives  
frustrate all evil designs  
and establish your reign of justice and peace;  
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 Jeremiah 31.15–17**

A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah.

- <sup>15</sup> Thus says the LORD: A voice is heard in Ramah, lamentation and bitter weeping. Rachel is weeping for her children; she refuses to be comforted for her children, because they are no more.
- <sup>16</sup> Thus says the LORD: Keep your voice from weeping, and your eyes from tears; for there is a reward for your work, says the LORD: they shall come back from the land of the enemy;
- <sup>17</sup> there is hope for your future, says the LORD: your children shall come back to their own country.

## **SECOND READING I Corinthians 1.26–29**

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

<sup>26</sup> 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.

<sup>27</sup> 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;

<sup>28</sup> God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are,

<sup>29</sup> so that no one might boast in the presence of God.

## **GOSPEL Matthew 2.13–18**

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

<sup>13</sup> After the wise men had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.'

<sup>14</sup> Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt,

<sup>15</sup> and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, 'Out of Egypt I have called my son.'

<sup>16</sup> When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men.

<sup>17</sup> Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:

<sup>18</sup> 'A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.'

## THIS WEEK

Mon	29	Dec	<i>No Toddlers' Group today</i>	
Wed	31	Dec	New Year's Eve	
			Coffee in Church	10.30am-12 noon
			Watch Night Service	10.30pm
Thu	1	Jan	<b>New Year's Day (Bank Holiday)</b>	
Sun	4	Jan	<b><u>EPIPHANY</u></b>	
			Holy Communion (Pres: Rev Gary Russell)	8.00am
			<b>SUNG EUCHARIST</b> (Pres & Preacher: Rev Gary Russell)	9.30 am
			(crèche available). Sunday School in Littlebury Hall	
			Band Rehearsal	11.00am
			United Evening Service (Trinity Methodist)	6.30pm

## NOTICES

NEXT SUNDAY we will celebrate Epiphany and not Christmas 2 as announced in *Sword*. The Rev Gary Russell (former member of St Michael's) will preside at the 8 am Holy Communion and preside and preach at the 9.30 am Sung Eucharist.

FLOWER FUND: Thank you for the contributions towards the Christmas flowers.

FREE WILL OFFERING envelopes for 2009 are available for you to collect. If you would like to have a set of envelopes please see Valerie Alvarez.

BRING-&-SHARE LUNCHEs: The next Lunch is on 7 January. Please sign list.

VISIT BY AUSTRALIAN STUDENTS: This group is in Watford from 15-20<sup>th</sup> January 2008 and staying at homes in the parish. On Monday, 19 January they will be performing Pinocchio for the Toddlers' Group in church and their version of Taming of the Shrew in the early evening at 5.30pm for anyone (children and adults) who like to come and listen. Please tell your friends and neighbours.

SWORD: The Christmas/New Year edition is available to take and distribute. SWORD SUBSCRIPTIONS for 2009 are now due. Valerie Alvarez has kindly agreed to collect subscriptions for the coming year. Regretfully, due to increased costs and loss of some advertising revenue, the PCC has agreed that the cost of *Sword* should be increased to 60p per month. If you pay for the year in advance an annual subscription for 12 issues will be £6.00. If you don't subscribe at present and would like to take out a new annual subscription, please see Dennis Beach.