



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

EPIPHANY
4 January 2009

A warm welcome to everyone to our services, especially to Gary Russell who will take both the 8 am and 9.30 services today.

At the 9.30 am Eucharist, Rev Gary Russell celebrates and preaches and Paul Chandler leads the intercessions. A crèche is available. Sunday School is in Littlebury Hall.

Hymns: 83, 88, 86 and 84

Setting: Rawsthorne

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

The Music Group rehearses at 11.00 am.

United Evening Service at Trinity Methodist at 6.30 pm.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: John Saxbee: Bishop of Lincoln; Timothy Ellis, David Rossdale: Suffragan Bishops of Grantham and Grimsby.
Our Caribbean Links.

The World: Peace in the Middle East – especially between Gaza and Israel.
The United Nations Organisation and its rôle in world peace.

The Community and Parish: The mothers and toddlers as the group resumes tomorrow (5th).

Local councillors and their work of representing local needs.

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:

Collect

O God, who by the leading of a star manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth:
mercifully grant that we, who know you now by faith, may at last behold your glory face to face;
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 60.1–6

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

- ¹ Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.
- ² For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you.
- ³ Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.
- ⁴ Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.
- ⁵ Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you.
- ⁶ A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

SECOND READING Ephesians 3.1–12

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians.

- ¹ I, Paul, am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles –
- ² for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you,
- ³ and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words,
- ⁴ a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ.
- ⁵ In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit:
- ⁶ that is, the Gentiles have become fellow-heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

7 Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was
given me by the working of his power.
8 Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to
the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ,
9 and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God
who created all things;
10 so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be
made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.
11 This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ
Jesus our Lord,
12 in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

GOSPEL Matthew 2.1–12

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

1 In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men
from the East came to Jerusalem, asking,
2 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star
at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.'
3 When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him;
4 and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of
them where the Messiah was to be born.
5 They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:
6 "And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers
of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel."
7 Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time
when the star had appeared.
8 Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child;
and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him
homage.'
9 When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the
star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child
was.
10 When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy.
11 On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt
down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him
gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.
12 And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own
country by another road.

THIS WEEK

Mon	5	Jan	<i>School term starts this week</i>	
			Toddlers' Group	10.00 – 11.30am
			Estates Committee	7.30 pm
Wed	7	Jan	Coffee in Church	10.30am-12 noon
			Bring-&-Share Lunch	12.30pm
			PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL	7.55 pm
Thu	8	Jan	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
			Fairhaven	morning
			Choir Practice	7.00- 8.30pm
Sat	10	Jan	Parish Walk	10.00am
Sun	11	Jan	<u>BAPTISM of CHRIST</u>	
			<u>SUNG EUCHARIST</u>	9.30 am
			(crèche available). Sunday School in Littlebury Hall	
			Simple Eucharist	11.15am
			River Court	3.00pm
			Evening Prayer in Lady Chapel	3.30pm

NOTICES

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 LUNCHESES (7 January) and **PARISH WALK** (10 January)
Please sign lists

VISIT BY AUSTRALIAN STUDENTS: This group is in Watford from 15-20th 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.