



# THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

*St Michael and All Angels*

Watford

THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST

11 January 2009

A warm welcome to everyone to our services.

At the 9.30 am Eucharist, Fr George celebrates, Martin Heath preaches and Pat Beach leads the intercessions. A crèche is available. Sunday School is in Littlebury Hall.

**Hymns: 90, 92, 308 and 89**

**Setting: Rawsthorne**

Tea and coffee will be served in church after the 9.30 service and this is followed at 11.15 with our 11.15 service which this month is a Simple Eucharist – please stay on.

The monthly service at River Court is at 3.00 pm.

There is Evening Prayer in the Lady Chapel at 3.30pm.

---

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

**The Church:** Joseph Bruno, Bishop of Los Angeles, USA and Chester Talton, Suffragan Bishop of Los Angeles.

Stevenage, St Mary, Shephall w. Aston: Vivienne Hathaway: Veronica Carolan; and Linda Higman (Reader).

**The World:** Peace in the Middle East – especially between Gaza and Israel. World Poverty and Third World Debt.

**The Community and Parish:** The Kids Club as the group resumes on Thursday.

The success of the visit by members of Wesley College, Melbourne, Australia.

**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, Matthew Tigwell, Lesley Watkin, Anne Wightman, and Maureen Williams.

**The Departed:**

---

**Collect**

Eternal Father, who at the baptism of Jesus revealed him to be your Son, anointing him with the Holy Spirit:  
grant to us, who are born again by water and the Spirit, that we may be faithful to our calling as your adopted children;  
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 Genesis 1.1–5**

A reading from the book of Genesis.

- <sup>1</sup> In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth,
- <sup>2</sup> the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters.
- <sup>3</sup> Then God said, ‘Let there be light’; and there was light.
- <sup>4</sup> And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness.
- <sup>5</sup> God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

**SECOND READING Acts 19.1–7**

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

- <sup>1</sup> While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the inland regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples.
- <sup>2</sup> He said to them, ‘Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?’ They replied, ‘No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.’
- <sup>3</sup> Then he said, ‘Into what then were you baptized?’ They answered, ‘Into John’s baptism.’

4 Paul said, 'John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the  
people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in  
Jesus.'  
5 On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.  
6 When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon  
them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied –  
7 altogether there were about twelve of them.

## **GOSPEL Mark 1.4–11**

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

4 John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism  
of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.  
5 And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of  
Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the  
river Jordan, confessing their sins.  
6 Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around  
his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey.  
7 He proclaimed, 'The one who is more powerful than I is coming after  
me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his  
sandals.  
8 I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy  
Spirit.'  
9 In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized  
by John in the Jordan.  
10 And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens  
torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him.  
11 And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with  
you I am well pleased.'

### CHURCHES TOGETHER IN CENTRAL SOUTH AND WEST WATFORD

Week of Prayer Services: 18th January at Beechen Grove Baptist Church at 6-30 pm; 21st January at St. Luke's Church at 1 pm. and on the 25th January we are invited to join North Watford and Garston Churches Together for Songs of Praise at 4 pm at Christ Church. There is also an Open meeting 28th January at 8 pm at St. Luke's Church.

## THIS WEEK

Mon	12	Jan	Toddlers' Group	10.00 – 11.30am
			Service at Chase Care Home	3.00pm
			Pause (23 Whippendell Road)	7.30pm
Tue	13	Jan	Intercessory Prayer group (Choir Vestry)	2.30pm
Wed	14	Jan	Coffee in Church	10.30am-12 noon
			Service at Home Manor	3.00pm
			Bible Study (Choir Vestry)	8.00pm
Thu	15	Jan	<i>Australian Students arrive today</i>	
			Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
			Mothers' Union meets after Communion in Choir Vestry	
			St Anthony's	morning
			Kids Club	3.30 – 5.00pm
			Choir Practice	7.00- 8.30pm
Sun	18	Jan	<b><u>EPIPHANY 2</u> – Week of Prayer for Christian Unity</b>	
			<b>SUNG EUCHARIST</b>	9.30 am
			(crèche available). Sunday School in Littlebury Hall	
			United Service at Beechen Grove	6.30pm

## NOTICES

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.

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 singing songs from Pinocchio for the Toddlers' Group in church and producing 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.

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE WATFORD DEANERY SYNOD is on Monday, 26th January at 7.45pm for 8.00pm. The meeting is being held at All Saints Church, Gosforth Lane, South Oxhey. The Revd. Edward Lewis, chief executive of the Hospital Chaplaincies Council, is going to be our speaker at this open meeting. His talk is entitled "N.H.S. Chaplaincy ..... at a bedside near you." All welcome.

KEYS FOR THE CHOIR VESTRY: This lock will need to be changed in the near future and it would be helpful if you could let either Paul or Sylvia know if you have a key at present and will need to replace it.

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.