



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

EPIPHANY 2

18 January 2009

A warm welcome to everyone to our services.

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

Hymns: 278, 512, 546, 393

Setting: Rawsthorne

Tea and coffee will be served in church after the 9.30 service - please stay on.

Today is the start of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and there is a United Service at Beechen Grove at 6.30pm.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: Jackton Lugumira, Bishop of Lweru, Tanzania.

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

World Council of Churches and all institutions and organisations promoting Christian unity.

The World: Peace in the Middle East – especially between Gaza and Israel.

Barack Obama as he is inaugurated as President of the USA on Tuesday.

Those who are trying to overcome personal debt problems.

The Community and Parish: Members of Wesley College, Melbourne, Australia as they perform in this country.

Everyone who has seen the advertisement for the vacancy at this church and who is thinking about applying for this appointment.

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

Almighty God, in Christ you make all things new:
transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal
of our lives make known your heavenly glory;
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 I Samuel 3.1–10

A reading from the first book of Samuel.

- ¹ The boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD under Eli. The word of the LORD was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.
- ² At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room;
- ³ the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was.
- ⁴ Then the LORD called, 'Samuel! Samuel!' and he said, 'Here I am!'
- ⁵ and ran to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' But he said, 'I did not call; lie down again.' So he went and lay down.
- ⁶ The LORD called again, 'Samuel!' Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' But he said, 'I did not call, my son; lie down again.'
- ⁷ Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him.
- ⁸ The LORD called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy.
- ⁹ Therefore Eli said to Samuel, 'Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, "Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening."' So Samuel went and lay down in his place.
- ¹⁰ Now the LORD came and stood there, calling as before, 'Samuel! Samuel!' And Samuel said, 'Speak, for your servant is listening.'

SECOND READING Revelation 5.1–10

- ¹ I saw in the right hand of the one seated on the throne a scroll written on the inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals;
- ² and I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, 'Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?'
- ³ And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it.
- ⁴ And I began to weep bitterly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it.

⁵ Then one of the elders said to me, 'Do not weep. See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals.'

⁶ Then I saw between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders a Lamb standing as if it had been slaughtered, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth.

⁷ He went and took the scroll from the right hand of the one who was seated on the throne.

⁸ When he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell before the Lamb, each holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.

⁹ They sing a new song: 'You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slaughtered and by your blood you ransomed for God saints from every tribe and language and people and nation;

¹⁰ you have made them to be a kingdom and priests serving our God, and they will reign on earth.'

GOSPEL John 1.43–51

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

⁴³ The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, 'Follow me.'

⁴⁴ Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter.

⁴⁵ Philip found Nathanael and said to him, 'We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth.'

⁴⁶ Nathanael said to him, 'Can anything good come out of Nazareth?' Philip said to him, 'Come and see.'

⁴⁷ When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, 'Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!'

⁴⁸ Nathanael asked him, 'Where did you come to know me?' Jesus answered, 'I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you.'

⁴⁹ Nathanael replied, 'Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!'

⁵⁰ Jesus answered, 'Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these.'

⁵¹ And he said to him, 'Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.'

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	19	Jan	Toddlers' Group <i>Taming of the Shrew</i> followed by supper in Church for Australian students, and host families and anyone else	10.00 – 11.30am 5.30pm
Tue	20	Jan	<i>Australian students leave</i>	
Wed	21	Jan	Coffee in Church	10.30am-12 noon
Thu	22	Jan	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language) Kids Club Choir Practice	10.00am 3.30 – 5.00pm 7.00- 8.30pm
Sat	24	Jan	January Sale in aid of Church funds with coffee	10.30 – 12 noon
Sun	25	Jan	<u>The CONVERSION of St PAUL</u> SUNG EUCHARIST (crèche available). Sunday School in Littlebury Hall followed by a Bring-&-Buy Sale Evening Prayer in Lady Chapel	9.30 am 3.30pm

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 15-20th 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.

An EVENING of ENTERTAINMENT (Songs, poems, music, stories; bring and share pot luck supper) on Saturday 21st February at 7 pm. Please speak to Pat Beach or Kristine urgently to offer to share your hidden talents with us all and to buy your tickets (£4, BYO drink) Tel: (01923) 247982/463263. See handbills for more information.

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.

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.

FINAL COPY DATE FOR THE FEBRUARY SWORD is MIDDAY next Sunday, 25 January. Hard copy, floppy disc or email to DENNIS.H.BEACH@sky.com.