



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

THE CONVERSION OF ST PAUL

25 January 2009

A warm welcome to everyone to our services.

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

Hymns: 237, 423, 501 and 375

Setting: Rawsthorne

Tea and coffee will be served in church after the 9.30 service and there will be a Bring-&-Buy Sale - please stay on.

Evening Prayer in Lady Chapel at 3.30 pm.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: Chilton Knudsen, Bishop of Maine, USA and Stephen Lane, Bishop Coadjutor elect of Maine.
Bishops Hatfield Team Ministry.

All who suffer because of their Christian faith.

The World: Peace in the Middle East – especially between Gaza and Israel.
The American people and their new President, Barack Obama.

The Community and Parish: Watford General Hospital and the NHS Chaplaincy.
The Youth Across Watford meeting in this church on Friday.

For a suitable, vacant shop unit within the Harlequin Centre for a new ministry of 'Listening' by Watford Town Centre Chaplaincy.

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:

THE CONVERSION OF ST PAUL YEARS A B C 25 January

Collect

Almighty God, who caused the light of the gospel to shine throughout the world through the preaching of your servant Saint Paul:
grant that we who celebrate his wonderful conversion may follow him in bearing witness to your truth;
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 1.4–10

A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah.

⁴ The word of the LORD came to me saying,
⁵ ‘Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.’
⁶ Then I said, ‘Ah, Lord GOD! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy.’
⁷ But the LORD said to me, ‘Do not say, “I am only a boy”; for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and you shall speak whatever I command you,
⁸ Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, says the LORD.’
⁹ Then the LORD put out his hand and touched my mouth; and the LORD said to me, ‘Now I have put my words in your mouth.
¹⁰ See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to pull down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant.’

SECOND READING Acts 9.1–22

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

¹ Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest
² and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.
³ Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him.
⁴ He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, ‘Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?’
⁵ He asked, ‘Who are you, Lord?’ The reply came, ‘I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting.
⁶ But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.’
⁷ The men who were travelling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one.

8 Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus.

9 For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

10 Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, 'Ananias.' He answered, 'Here I am, Lord.'

11 The Lord said to him, 'Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight.'

12 But Ananias answered, 'Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem;

13 and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name.'

14 But the Lord said to him, 'Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel;

15 I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.'

16 So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, 'Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.'

17 And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized,

18 and after taking some food, he regained his strength. For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus,

19 and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, 'He is the Son of God.'

20 All who heard him were amazed and said, 'Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem among those who invoked this name? And has he not come here for the purpose of bringing them bound before the chief priests?'

21 Saul became increasingly more powerful and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Messiah.

GOSPEL Matthew 19.27–30

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

27 Peter said to Jesus: 'Look, we have left everything and followed you. What then will we have?'

28 Jesus said to them, 'Truly I tell you, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man is seated on the throne of his glory, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

29 And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or fields, for my name's sake, will receive a hundredfold, and will inherit eternal life.

30 But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.'

THIS WEEK

Mon	26	Jan	Toddlers' Group	10.00 – 11.30am
			Publicity Committee	9.30am
Wed	28	Jan	Coffee in Church	10.30am-12 noon
Thu	29	Jan	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
			Kids Club	3.30-5.00pm
			Choir Practice	7.00-8.30pm
Fri	30	Jan	Youth Across Watford (in Church)	7.30pm
Sun	1	Feb	<u>Presentation of Christ (Candlemas)</u>	
			Holy Communion	8.00am
			SUNG EUCHARIST: President and Preacher – the Archdeacon of St Albans	9.30 am
			(crèche available). Sunday School in Littlebury Hall	
			United Evening Service at Trinity Methodist	6.30pm

NOTICES

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.

YOUTH ACROSS WATFORD: This is a meeting in our church for all the youth in Watford interested in Christianity. The evening will include café time, worship (with a band), mini presentations (including discussion) from young people about work in the community that they have done . Please include this very important meeting in your prayers and encourage any young people you know to attend.

LENT GROUPS: Arrangements are being made for our usual Churches Together ecumenical Lent Groups starting w/c 2nd March. If you would like to join one of the groups, please see information in February Sword and at the back of church and sign up indicating days and times you could manage.

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN CENTRAL SOUTH AND WEST WATFORD: 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 a very important Open meeting about Churches Together on 28th January at 8 pm at St. Luke's Church. See Martin Heath or Sylvia Moring for further information.

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