



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

CANDLEMAS

The Presentation of Christ

1 February 2009

A warm welcome to everyone to our services today. A very special welcome to the Ven Jonathan Smith, Archdeacon of St Albans who will preside and preach at our 9.30 am service.

At the 9.30 am Eucharist, the Archdeacon of St Albans celebrates and preaches and Sylvia Moring leads the intercessions. A crèche is available. Sunday School is in Littlebury Hall.

Hymns: 493, 360, 94 and 429

Setting: Wilson

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

United Evening Service at Trinity Methodist at 6.30 pm.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: The Bishop of Manicaland, central Africa (to be appointed).
Joanne Wetherall to be licensed as Team Vicar of Aldbury in the Tring Team Ministry.

The World: Peace in the Middle East – especially between Gaza and Israel.
Poverty Action Week which begins today.
World Economic Forum meeting in Davos.

The Community and Parish: Local School Governors and their responsibilities.

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, Christopher Browne, 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 and ever-living God, clothed in majesty, whose beloved Son was this day presented in the Temple, in substance of our flesh:
grant that we may be presented to you with pure and clean hearts, by your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING Malachi 3.1–5

A reading from the book of the prophet Malachi.

Thus says the LORD God:

- ¹ See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight – indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts.
- ² But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap;
- ³ he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness.
- ⁴ Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.
- ⁵ Then I will draw near to you for judgement; I will be swift to bear witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired workers in their wages, the widow, and the orphan, against those who thrust aside the alien, and do not fear me, says the LORD of hosts.

SECOND READING Hebrews 2.14–18

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

- ¹⁴ Since the children share flesh and blood, Jesus himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil,
- ¹⁵ and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death.
- ¹⁶ For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham.
- ¹⁷ Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people.
- ¹⁸ Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

GOSPEL Luke 2.22–40

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

²² When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, Mary and Joseph brought Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord.

²³ (as it is written in the law of the Lord, ‘Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord’),

²⁴ and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, ‘a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.’

²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him.

²⁶ It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah.

²⁷ Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law,

²⁸ Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

²⁹ ‘Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; ³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation,

³¹ which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.’

³³ And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him.

³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, ‘This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed ³⁵ so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed – and a sword will pierce your own soul too.’

³⁶ There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷ then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day.

³⁸ At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

³⁹ When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth.

⁴⁰ The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

THIS WEEK

Mon	2	Feb	Toddlers' Group	10.00 – 11.30am
			Worship Committee (Clergy Vestry)	7.30pm
Tue	3	Feb	Pause (134 Mildred Avenue)	7.30pm
Wed	4	Feb	Coffee in Church	10.30am-12 noon
			Bring-&-Share Lunch	12.30pm
Thu	5	Feb	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
			Fairhaven	morning
			Kids Club	3.30-5.00pm
			Choir Practice	7.00-8.30pm
Sun	8	Feb	<u>Third Sunday before Lent</u>	
			SUNG EUCHARIST:	9.30 am
			(crèche available). Sunday School in Littlebury Hall	
			11.15 Service of Praise and Thanksgiving	11.15am
			River Court Service	3.00pm
			Evening Prayers	3.30pm

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.

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.

BRING-&-SHARE LUNCH: Please sign the list for Wednesday 4th February.

THE NEXT PARISH WALK will be on Saturday 14th February. Meet as usual outside the West Door of St Michael's at 10 am. Any queries check with Martin or Vicki Matthews on 01923 229408.

VACANCY: Short-listed candidates will be invited to see the church, parish and vicarage on Tuesday, 10 February, and interviews will take place on Wednesday, 11 February. A programme is being worked out for the time to be spent in the parish. This includes a look at the vicarage. Just before Christmas the re-wiring work was finished and the vicarage now looks very dusty. The whole house needs a clean to make it look more presentable; we are arranging a working party to do this on Saturday, 7 February, probably during the morning. It should not take too long if there are several of us to work together. Please see Sylvia if you are able to help.