



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

St John, Evangelist

27 December 2009

A warm welcome to our services today and a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

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

Hymns: 74, 73, 72 and 46

Setting: Rawsthorne

Coffee and tea will be served in church after the 9.30 service – please stay on.

Evening Prayer in Lady Chapel

6.30pm

For your prayers this week:

The Church: All Churches named in honour of St John
Thanksgiving for all God's blessings during 2009
The Anglican Church in Melanesia

The World: A peaceful New Year
People serving and working overseas
The homeless and refugees

The Community and Parish: Everyone on holiday
Those who have not been able to get to Church for Christmas
The bereaved and those with memories of bereavement at Christmas

The Ill and the Housebound: Especially Ray Angles, Ellen Benoy, Gunter Bouché, Christopher Browne, Mel Browne, John Brown, Marjorie Carlisle, Peter Coley, Bill Craddock-Jones, Marion Craddock-Jones, Jean Crouch, June Dickinson, Kate Dickinson, Jocelyn Harewood, Neil Hart, Gladys Holloway, Jenny Houghton, Lionel Jones, Mary Kearns, Kate Kirwan, Vera Levinson, Loretta Lynch, Maggie Maguire, Stella Nicholas, Dorcas Ochola, Gaynor Osbourne, Myrtle Powell, Bryony Purse, Ann Reed, Elaine Robinson, Maureen Swann, June Tatnall, Anne Wightman and Eric Wightman.

The Departed: Sylvia Lassiter (aged 74), San Diego.

Collect

Merciful Lord, cast your bright beams of light upon the Church: that, being enlightened by the teaching of your blessed apostle and evangelist Saint John, we may so walk in the light of your truth that we may at last attain to the light of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ your incarnate 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 Exodus 33.7–11a

A reading from the book of Exodus.

- 7 Moses used to take the tent and pitch it outside the camp, far off from the camp; he called it the tent of meeting. And everyone who sought the LORD would go out to the tent of meeting, which was outside the camp.
- 8 Whenever Moses went out to the tent, all the people would rise and stand, each of them, at the entrance of their tents and watch Moses until he had gone into the tent.
- 9 When Moses entered the tent, the pillar of cloud would descend and stand at the entrance of the tent, and the LORD would speak with Moses.
- 10 When all the people saw the pillar of cloud standing at the entrance of the tent, all the people would rise and bow down, all of them, at the entrance of their tents.
- 11 Thus the LORD used to speak to Moses face to face, as one speaks to a friend.

SECOND READING I John 1

A reading from the first letter of John.

- 1 We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life –
- 2 this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us –
- 3 we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.
- 4 We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

- 5 This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all.
- 6 If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true;
- 7 but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.
- 8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- 9 If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
- 10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

GOSPEL John 21.19b–25

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

- 19 After this Jesus said to Peter, ‘Follow me.’
- 20 Peter turned and saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following them; he was the one who had reclined next to Jesus at the supper and had said, ‘Lord, who is it that is going to betray you?’
- 21 When Peter saw him, he said to Jesus, ‘Lord, what about him?’
- 22 Jesus said to him, ‘If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you? Follow me!’
- 23 So the rumour spread in the community that this disciple would not die. Yet Jesus did not say to him that he would not die, but, ‘If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you?’
- 24 This is the disciple who is testifying to these things and has written them, and we know that his testimony is true.
- 25 But there are also many other things that Jesus did; if every one of them were written down, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.

THIS WEEK

Mon	28	Dec	<i>Bank Holiday</i> NO Toddlers' Group	
Wed	30	Dec	Coffee in Church	10.30am-12 noon
Thur	31	Dec	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
Sun	3	Jan	<u>EPIPHANY</u> Holy Communion (Pres: Fr George)	8.00am
			SUNG EUCHARIST: with crèche and Sunday School (President and Preacher: Fr Geoff)	9.30am
			Confirmation Class	4.30pm
			United Service at St Michael's	6.30pm

NOTICES

SINCERE THANKS to all who have done so much to prepare for Christmas – the decorations, the Christmas trees, the almost 100% coverage of the parish with the Christmas leaflets. Your help is greatly appreciated. (Paul & Sylvia Churchwardens)

BRING-&-SHARE LUNCHES: The next Lunch is on 6 January. Please sign list.

FLOWER FUND: Thank you for the contributions towards the Christmas flowers.

THANK YOU for all the contributions and collections for the Christingle Service. £140.05 will be sent to the Children's Society.

VISIT BY AUSTRALIAN STUDENTS: This group is coming to Watford from 3-8 January 2010 and staying at homes in the parish. They will be arriving at St Michael's on the 3rd at about 10.30pm and leaving on the 8th at 7.30am.. On Wednesday 6th January, at 7 pm they will be giving a concert in church for anyone who would 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 2010 are now due. Valerie Alvarez has kindly agreed to collect subscriptions for the coming year. The cost of Sword is 60p per month. If you pay for the year in advance an annual subscription for 12 issues will be £6.00, thus giving you 12 issues for the price of 10! If you don't subscribe at present and would like to take out a new annual subscription, please see Dennis Beach.