



# THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

*St Michael and All Angels*

Watford

**EPIPHANY**

3 January 2010

A warm welcome to our services today and a Happy New Year to everyone. At the 9.30 am Eucharist, Fr Geoff celebrates and preaches and Sylvia Moring leads the intercessions. A crèche is available and there is Sunday School.

**Hymns: 83, 85, 87 and 84 (i)**

**Setting: Rawsthorne**

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

Confirmation Class at 4.30pm

United Evening Service at St Michael's at 6.30pm

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

**The Church:** The Anglican Church of Australia; Phillip Aspinall, Archbishop.  
Church architects and surveyors.  
We celebrate God's Plan of Salvation for us at the beginning of a New Year.

**The World:** Role of the United Nations.  
Security on our aircraft.

**The Community and Parish:** Local councillors and their work of representing local needs.

The mothers and toddlers as the group resumes tomorrow (4<sup>th</sup>).

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

**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:**

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**Collect**

O God, who by the leading of a star manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth:  
mercifully grant that we, who know you now by faith, may at last behold your glory face to face;  
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 Isaiah 60.1–6**

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

- <sup>1</sup> Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.
- <sup>2</sup> For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you.
- <sup>3</sup> Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.
- <sup>4</sup> Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.
- <sup>5</sup> Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you.
- <sup>6</sup> A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

**SECOND READING Ephesians 3.1–12**

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians.

- <sup>1</sup> I, Paul, am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles –
- <sup>2</sup> for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you,
- <sup>3</sup> and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words,
- <sup>4</sup> a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ.
- <sup>5</sup> In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit:
- <sup>6</sup> that is, the Gentiles have become fellow-heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

7 Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was  
given me by the working of his power.  
8 Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to  
the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ,  
9 and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God  
who created all things;  
10 so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be  
made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.  
11 This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ  
Jesus our Lord,  
12 in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

## **GOSPEL Matthew 2.1–12**

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

1 In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men  
from the East came to Jerusalem, asking,  
2 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star  
at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.'  
3 When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him;  
4 and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of  
them where the Messiah was to be born.  
5 They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:  
6 "And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers  
of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel."  
7 Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time  
when the star had appeared.  
8 Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child;  
and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him  
homage.'  
9 When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the  
star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child  
was.  
10 When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy.  
11 On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt  
down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him  
gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.  
12 And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own  
country by another road.

## THIS WEEK

Mon	4	Jan	Toddlers' Group	10.00 – 11.30am
Tue	5	Jan	Intercessory Prayer group	2.30pm
			Guild of Servants of the Sanctuary AGM	8.00pm
Wed	6	Jan	Coffee in Church	10.30am-12 noon
			Bring-&-Share Lunch	12.30pm
			Concert with Australian Musicians	7.00pm
Thur	7	Jan	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
			Fairhaven	morning
			NO Kids Club	
			Choir Practice	7.00 - 8.30pm
			Pause (23 Whippendell Road)	7.30pm
Sun	10	Jan	<b><u>BAPTISM of CHRIST</u></b>	
			Holy Communion (Pres: Fr George)	8.00am
			<b>SUNG EUCHARIST:</b> with crèche and Sunday School	<b>9.30am</b>
			(President and Preacher: Fr Geoff)	
			<b>SIMPLE EUCHARIST</b>	11.15am
			Youth Group Lunch	12.30pm
			River Court	3.00pm
			Evening Prayer in Lady Chapel	6.30pm

## NOTICES

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

FREE WILL OFFERING envelopes for 2010 are available for you to collect. If you would like to have a set of envelopes please see Valerie Alvarez.

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

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 3<sup>rd</sup> at about 10.30pm and leaving on the 8<sup>th</sup> at 7.30am.. On Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> 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.

THE SIX O'CLOCK SERIES: This starts at 6 pm on Sunday, 17 January, with Choral Evensong which will be followed by refreshments and an opportunity to discuss the year's plans for the Six O'Clock Series. Please make a note in your diary and tell anyone you think would be interested in joining us. A full list of the different types of evening worship that can be experienced in this series was given in the Advent Sword and is on the noticeboard at the back of the church.

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.