



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST

10 January 2010

A warm welcome to everyone to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Eucharist, Fr Geoff celebrates and preaches and Pam Hart leads the intercessions. A crèche is available and there is Sunday School.

Hymns: 166, 92, see “Music Notes” and 89

Setting: Rawsthorne

Tea and coffee will be served in church after the 9.30 service and this is followed at 11.15 with our 11.15 service which this month is a Simple Eucharist – please stay on.

Youth Group Lunch at 12.30pm.

The monthly service at River Court is at 3.00 pm.

Confirmation Class at 4.30 pm.

There is Evening Prayer in the Lady Chapel at 6.30pm.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: Churches in the Deanery of Elstow.

The Church in Bangladesh.

The Anglican Church in Peru, and the work of USPG in Peru.

The World: World Peace and Disarmament.

Security from Terrorism.

All who live in unhealthy and overcrowded conditions.

The Community and Parish: Our Australian friends as they continue their European tour.

The work of maintaining our Church buildings.

Disabled and elderly people shut in due to snow.

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: Gladys May Archer, and William Martin Henry Wood.

Collect

Eternal Father, who at the baptism of Jesus revealed him to be your Son, anointing him with the Holy Spirit:
grant to us, who are born again by water and the Spirit, that we may be faithful to our calling as your adopted children;
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 43.1-7

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

- ¹ Thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.
- ² When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.
- ³ For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.
- ⁴ Because you are precious in my sight, and honoured, and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life.
- ⁵ Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you;
- ⁶ I will say to the north, 'Give them up,' and to the south, 'Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth –
- ⁷ everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.'

SECOND READING Acts 8.14–17

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

- ¹⁴ When the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them.
- ¹⁵ The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit
- ¹⁶ (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus).
- ¹⁷ Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

GOSPEL Luke 3.15–17, 21–22

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke. In the wilderness John proclaimed a baptism of repentance.

- ¹⁵ As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah,
- ¹⁶ John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.
- ¹⁷ His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'
- ²¹ Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened,
- ²² and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

THIS WEEK

Mon	11	Jan	Toddlers' Group	10.00 – 11.30am
			Estates Committee	12 noon
			Worship Committee	8.00pm
Wed	13	Jan	Coffee in Church	10.30am-12 noon
			PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL	7.45 for 7.55pm
Thur	14	Jan	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
			St Anthony's	morning
			Kids Club	3.30 – 5.00pm
			Choir Practice	7.00 - 8.30pm
Sun	17	Jan	<u>EPIPHANY 2</u>	
			Holy Communion (Pres: Fr Geoff)	8.00am
			SUNG EUCHARIST: with crèche and Sunday School	9.30am
			(President and Preacher: Fr George)	
			Confirmation Class	4.30pm
			CHORAL EVENSONG	6.00pm

NOTICES

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.

THE SIX O'CLOCK SERIES: This starts at 6 pm next 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.

SMALL TRICYCLES for use by toddlers and young children are needed. If anyone has any which they no longer require and would like to donate them to St Michael's, would they please see Lesley Kinch. Thank you.

ANOTHER EVENING OF ENTERTAINMENT is being planned for Saturday, 6 February 2010 at 7 pm with a bring-and-share pot luck supper. Volunteers are invited to give 5 minutes of entertainment – singing, music, poetry, story, juggling, magic, any other talent. Please let Kristine Jenkins or Pat Beach know what you would like to do (01923 247982/463263). Tickets £5 per head (children free with one paying adult. BYO. In aid of church funds.

THE NEXT BIBLE STUDY will be on 20th January 8.00pm.

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.