



# THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

*St Michael and All Angels*

Watford

EPIPHANY 3

24 January 2010

A warm welcome to everyone to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Eucharist, Fr Geoff celebrates, Martin Heath preaches and Anne Eccleshall leads the intercessions. A crèche is available and there is Sunday School.

**Hymns: 591, 515, 625 and 430**

**Setting: Rawsthorne**

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

Confirmation Class at 4.30 pm.

There is a United Service for Churches Together in Central South and West Watford at St Michael's at 6.30pm.

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

**The Church:** Christian Unity  
Anglican Methodist Covenant Relationships  
The Church in Burundi

**The World:** The people of Haiti  
Aid and Rescue Organisations working in Haiti  
Unemployed people in Britain

**The Community and Parish:** Our PCC

Our Confirmation Candidates  
People in our area with Learning Disabilities

**The Ill and the Housebound:** Especially Ray Angles, 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:** Ellen Benoy (Andy's mother).

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**Collect**

Almighty God, whose Son revealed in signs and miracles the wonder of your saving presence:  
renew your people with your heavenly grace, and in all our weakness sustain us by your mighty power;  
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 Nehemiah 8.1–3, 5–6, 8–10**

A reading from the book of Nehemiah.

- 1 All the people gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the LORD had given to Israel.
- 2 Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month.
- 3 He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law.
- 5 And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up.
- 6 Then Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God and all the people answered, 'Amen, Amen,' lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshipped the LORD with their faces to the ground.
- 8 So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.
- 9 And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, 'This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep.' For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law.
- 10 Then he said to them, 'Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our LORD; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.'

**SECOND READING I Corinthians 12.12–31a**

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

- 12 Just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.
- 13 For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body – Jews or Greeks, slaves or free – and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.
- 14 Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many.
- 15 If the foot would say, 'Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,' that would not make it any less a part of the body.

16 And if the ear would say, 'Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,' that  
would not make it any less a part of the body.  
17 If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were  
hearing, where would the sense of smell be?  
18 But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose.  
19 If all were a single member, where would the body be?  
20 As it is, there are many members, yet one body.  
21 The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I have no need of you,' nor again the head to the feet,  
'I have no need of you.'  
22 On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable,  
23 and those members of the body that we think less honourable we clothe with greater  
honour, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect;  
24 whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged  
the body, giving the greater honour to the inferior member,  
25 that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same  
care for one another.  
26 If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honoured, all rejoice  
together with it.  
27 Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.  
28 And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers;  
then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership  
various kinds of tongues.  
29 Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles?  
30 Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret?  
31 But strive for the greater gifts.

## **GOSPEL Luke 4.14-21**

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

14 Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him  
spread through all the surrounding country.  
15 He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.  
16 When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue  
on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read,  
17 and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found  
the place where it was written:  
18 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to  
the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to  
the blind, to let the oppressed go free,  
19 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.'  
20 And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all  
in the synagogue were fixed on him.  
21 Then he began to say to them, 'Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.'

## THIS WEEK

Mon	25	Jan	Toddlers' Group	10.00 – 11.30am
			Burns Night Supper (Vicarage – ticket only)	7.30pm
Wed	27	Jan	Coffee in Church	10.30am-12 noon
			PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL	7.45 for 7.55pm
Thur	28	Jan	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
			Choir Practice	7.00 - 8.30pm
Sun	31	Jan	<b><u>CANDLEMAS</u></b>	
			Holy Communion (Pres: Fr Geoff)	8.00am
			<b>SUNG EUCHARIST:</b> with crèche and Sunday School	<b>9.30am</b>
			(President and Preacher: Fr Geoff)	
			followed by a Bring-&-Buy Sale	
			Confirmation Class	4.30pm
			Evening Prayer in Lady Chapel	6.30pm

## NOTICES

TICKETS ARE NOW AVAILABLE FOR ANOTHER EVENING OF ENTERTAINMENT which is on Saturday, 6 February 2010 at 7 pm with a bring-and-share pot luck supper. Tickets are on sale at £5 per head (children free with one paying adult) - get yours today. BYO drinks. 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). Kristine and Pat also have the tickets. In aid of church funds.

THE SIX O'CLOCK SERIES: This made a very good start last Sunday evening with Choral Evensong. The Choir sounded good and the congregation attendance was most encouraging. The next Service in the series is at 6 pm on Sunday, 21 February, when Fr Geoff will be doing Stations of the Cross. Please make a note in your diary.

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.

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.

FINAL COPY DATE FOR THE FEBRUARY SWORD is MIDDAY today Sunday, 24 January. Hard copy or floppy disc to Dennis Beach or email to dhbeach@sky.com.

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.