



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

CANDLEMAS

31 January 2010

A warm welcome to everyone to our services today.

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

Hymns: 94, 360, 482 and 513

Setting: Rawsthorne

Tea and coffee will be served in church after the 9.30 service and there will be a Bring-&-Buy Sale - please stay on.

Confirmation Class at 4.30 pm.

There is a Evening Prayer at 6.30pm.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: Churches Together in Luton
The Anglican Church in Aoterea, New Zealand and Polynesia
The Anglican Indigenous Network developing liturgy and ministry with indigenous peoples.

The World: The people of Haiti
The Peace Process in Northern Ireland
Victims of religious violence in Nigeria and Pakistan.

The Community and Parish: Our Servers, Deacons and Subdeacons
Our Organist and Choir
Our Readers and Intercessors.

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, Jacqui Lyons, 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: David George Farrell.

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	1	Feb	Toddlers' Group	10.00 – 11.30am
			Finance & General Purposes Committee (Choir Vestry)	8.00pm
Wed	3	Feb	Coffee in Church	10.30am-12 noon
			Bring-&-Share Lunch	12.30pm
Thur	4	Feb	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
			Fairhaven	morning
			Choir Practice	7.00 - 8.30pm
Sat	6	Feb	Another Evening of Entertainment	7.00pm
Sun	7	Feb	<u>SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE LENT</u>	
			Holy Communion (Pres: Fr Geoff)	8.00am
			SUNG EUCHARIST: with crèche and Sunday School	9.30am
			(President and Preacher: Fr Geoff)	
			Confirmation Class	4.30pm
			United Evening Service at Trinity Methodist	6.30pm

NOTICES

TICKETS ARE NOW AVAILABLE FOR ANOTHER EVENING OF ENTERTAINMENT which is in church, this 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: The next Service in the series is at 6 pm on Sunday, 21 February, when Fr Geoff will be leading Stations of the Cross. Please make a note in your diary and take the handbills to give to your friends and neighbours.

LENT GROUPS: Arrangements are being made for our usual Churches Together ecumenical Lent Groups starting w/c 21 February. If you would like to join one of the groups, please see information at the back of church and sign up indicating days and times you could manage. There will also be a St Michael's Lent Group and a sheet for signing up for that is also on the signings table.

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.

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.