



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

EPIPHANY
2 January 2011

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

Hymns: 83, 85, 86(i) and 84 (i)

Setting: Rawsthorne

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

Evening Prayer is at 6.00pm.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: Alexander Malik, Bishop of Lahore, Pakistan
The Anglican Church in Zambia
The "Living God's Love" initiative in our Diocese.

The World: The United Nations
All work for peace and justice in the world
Victims of HIV/AIDS and programmes of help and prevention.

The Community and Parish: Grace for us to do God's work during this year
Our families and those we love
The work of our Church in 2011.

The Ill and the Housebound: Especially Christopher Bilson, Peter Coley, Bill and Marion Craddock-Jones, Thomas Cristensen, Jean Crouch, Darrell Dunning, David and Janet Freeman, Jocelyn Harewood, Susetta Hartropp, Peter Hatswell, Gladys Holloway, Leena Hosie, Jenny Houghton, Mary Kearns, Dorothy Kiddle, Vera Levinson, Loretta Lynch, Jacqui Lyons, Rachel Macdonald, Maggie Maguire, Dorcas Ochola, Gaynor Osbourne, Celia Pain, Myrtle Powell, Bryony Purse, Marianne Rees, Elaine Robinson, June Tatnall, Eric and Anne Wightman.

The Departed:

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.

- ¹ Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.
- ² 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.
- ³ Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.
- ⁴ 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.
- ⁵ 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.
- ⁶ 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.

- ¹ I, Paul, am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles –
- ² for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you,
- ³ and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words,
- ⁴ a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ.
- ⁵ 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:
- ⁶ 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	3	Jan	<i>Bank Holiday</i> NO Toddlers Group	
Tue	4	Jan	Drama students from Wesley College, Melbourne, arrive	
Wed	5	Jan	Coffee in Church	10.30am-12 noon
			Social Committee (Choir Vestry)	7.30pm
Thur	6	Jan	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
			Fairhaven	morning
			Choir Practice	7.00 – 8.30pm
Sun	9	Jan	<u>BAPTISM of CHRIST</u> Holy Communion (Pres: Fr Geoff)	8.00am
			SUNG EUCHARIST: with crèche and Sunday School (President and Preacher: Fr Geoff)	9.30am
			Simple Eucharist	11.15am
			Wedding of Stefano Mariconda and Caroline Smith	1.00pm
			Evening Prayer	6.00pm
			Romeo and Juliet – Drama Students from Wesley College	6.45pm

NOTICES

SINCERE THANKS to all who have done so much to prepare for Christmas – the special services that we have around Christmas; the decorations, the Christmas trees, the booklet of Christmas greetings, the delivery of some Christmas leaflets in the parish. Your help is greatly appreciated.

BRING-&-SHARE LUNCHESES: The next Lunch is on 2 February. NO January Lunch.

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

VISIT BY AUSTRALIAN STUDENTS: This group of drama students from Wesley College, Melbourne, is coming to Watford from 4-10 January 2011 and staying at homes in the parish. They will be arriving at St Michael's early on the 4th and given breakfast in the Choir Vestry and leaving early on the 10th. On Sunday, 9 January, at 6.45 pm they will be performing their own version of Romeo & Juliet in church for anyone who would like to come. Please tell your friends and neighbours. Admission free.

SWORD: The Christmas/New Year edition is available to take and distribute. **SWORD SUBSCRIPTIONS** for 2011 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.

GIVING ENVELOPES FOR 2011 are on a table in the south aisle. Please collect yours. If you wish to join the envelope giving scheme please see Valerie Alvarez.