



# THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

*St Michael and All Angels*

Watford

THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST

9 January 2011

A warm welcome to everyone to our services today.

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: 90, 93, 386 and 191**

**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.

The Wedding of Stefano Mariconda and Caroline Smith is at 1.00pm.

At 6.45pm the drama students from Wesley College, Melbourne are performing their own version of Romeo and Juliet. Admission free. Please come and support them.

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

**The Church:** Coptic Christians in Egypt  
The Anglican Church in Ghana, and USPG supported projects there  
Timothy Stevens, Bishop of Leicester.

**The World:** Work towards world peace and disarmament  
Farmers of St Vincent and the Grenadines suffering devastated crops  
People affected by flooding in Australia.

**The Community and Parish:** Council decisions on funding for voluntary organisations  
Residents at Home Manor and at St Anthony's residential home  
Our local and wider ecumenical partnerships.

**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, June Tatnall, Eric and Anne Wightman.

**The Departed:** Elaine Robinson (62) formerly a member of this church.

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**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 42.1–9**

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Thus says the LORD:

<sup>1</sup> Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations.

<sup>2</sup> He will not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street;  
<sup>3</sup> a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice.

<sup>4</sup> He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

<sup>5</sup> Thus says God, the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it:

<sup>6</sup> I am the LORD, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations,

<sup>7</sup> to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness.

<sup>8</sup> I am the LORD, that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols.

<sup>9</sup> See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

## **SECOND READING Acts 10.34–43**

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

- <sup>34</sup> Peter began to speak to those assembled in the house of Cornelius.  
‘I truly understand that God shows no partiality,  
<sup>35</sup> but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him.  
<sup>36</sup> You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ – he is Lord of all.  
<sup>37</sup> That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced:  
<sup>38</sup> how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.  
<sup>39</sup> We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree;  
<sup>40</sup> but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear,  
<sup>41</sup> not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.  
<sup>42</sup> He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead.  
<sup>43</sup> All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.’

## **GOSPEL Matthew 3.13–17**

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

- <sup>13</sup> Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him.  
<sup>14</sup> John would have prevented him, saying, ‘I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?’  
<sup>15</sup> But Jesus answered him, ‘Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfil all righteousness.’ Then he consented.  
<sup>16</sup> And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him.  
<sup>17</sup> And a voice from heaven said, ‘This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.’

## THIS WEEK

Mon	10	Jan	Toddlers Group <i>Australian students leave</i>	10.00 – 11.30am
Tue	11	Jan	Bible Study (Choir Vestry)	8.00pm
Wed	12	Jan	Coffee in Church Service at Home Manor	10.30am-12 noon 3.00pm
Thur	13	Jan	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language) St Anthony's Choir Practice	10.00am morning 7.00 – 8.30pm
Sun	16	Jan	<b><u>EPIPHANY 2</u></b> Holy Communion (Pres: Fr George) <b>SUNG EUCHARIST:</b> with crèche and Sunday School (President: Fr Geoff; Preacher: Bishop of St Albans on CD) <b>THE SIX O'CLOCK SERIES: A HEALING SERVICE</b>	8.00am <b>9.30am</b> 6.00pm

## NOTICES

VISIT BY AUSTRALIAN STUDENTS: A group of drama students from Wesley College, Melbourne, are staying at homes in the parish from 4-10 January 2011. TODAY at 6.45 pm they will be performing their own version of Romeo & Juliet (which is likely to include some loud music) 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.

POST: There are still some giving envelopes and Christmas cards to be collected from a table in the north aisle. Please check to see if anything on the table is addressed to you.

BURNS NIGHT CELEBRATION: Following the success of a small celebration last year, the Social Committee, making use of the expertise of Fr Geoff, is arranging a Burns Night Celebration on Tuesday, 25 January 2011, starting at 7.30 pm, sitting down to supper at 8 pm and finishing the celebration at 10 pm. We plan to hold this occasion in the Littlebury Hall. Supper will be the traditional menu of haggis and root vegetables followed by special desserts. Vegetarian haggis will be available but please state if you wish to have this when you buy your tickets. Tickets cost £7.50 and are available from members of the Social Committee. We ask you to bring your own drinks (whisky is customary but wine is very acceptable). We plan to finish the evening with suitable entertainment.