



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

EPIPHANY 3

23 January 2011

A warm welcome to everyone to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Eucharist, Fr Geoff celebrates, Violet Allen-Smith preaches and Graham Mordue leads the intercessions. A crèche is available and there is Sunday School.

Hymns: 305, 590, 318 and 429

Setting: Rawsthorne

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

There is no evening prayer at St Michaels tonight. There is a United Service at St Mary's at 6.30 pm.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: Charles Jenkins, Bishop of Louisiana, USA,
The World Council of Churches
The Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia.

The World: The people of Tunisia
Flood victims in Brazil, Sri Lanka and Australia
The people of Haiti, for greater progress in reconstruction.

The Community and Parish: Churches together in Central, South and West
Watford

West Watford Free Church and Trinity Methodist Church
Independent Christian congregations worshipping in our area.

The Ill and the Housebound: Especially Christopher Bilson, Peter Coley, Bill and Marion Craddock-Jones, 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, Maggie Maguire, Dorcas Ochola, Gaynor Osbourne, Celia Pain, Myrtle Powell, Bryony Purse, June Tatnall, Eric and Anne Wightman.

The Departed:

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 Isaiah 9.1–4

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

- 1 There will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.
- 2 The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them light has shined.
- 3 You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder.
- 4 For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

SECOND READING I Corinthians 1.10–18

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

- 10 I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same purpose.
- 11 For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters.
- 12 What I mean is that each of you says, 'I belong to Paul,' or 'I belong to Apollos,' or 'I belong to Cephas,' or 'I belong to Christ.'
- 13 Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?
- 14 I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius,
- 15 so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name.

- ¹⁶ I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.
- ¹⁷ For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power.
- ¹⁸ For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

GOSPEL Matthew 4.12–23

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

- ¹² When Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee.
- ¹³ He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali,
- ¹⁴ so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:
- ¹⁵ ‘Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles –
- ¹⁶ the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned.’
- ¹⁷ From that time Jesus began to proclaim, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.’
- ¹⁸ As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the lake – for they were fishermen.
- ¹⁹ And he said to them, ‘Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.’
- ²⁰ Immediately they left their nets and followed him.
- ²¹ As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them.
- ²² Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him.
- ²³ Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

THIS WEEK

Mon	24	Jan	Toddlers Group	10.00 – 11.30am
Tue	25	Jan	BURNS NIGHT SUPPER (Littlebury Hall)	7.30pm
Wed	26	Jan	Coffee in Church	10.30am-12 noon
Thur	27	Jan	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
			Choir Practice	7.00 – 8.30pm
Sat	29	Jan	Kids' Saturday	2.00 - 4.00pm
Sun	30	Jan	<u>CANDLEMAS</u>	
			Holy Communion (Pres: Fr Geoff)	8.00am
			SUNG EUCHARIST: with crèche and Sunday School	9.30am
			(President: Fr Geoff; Preacher: Martin Heath)	
			followed by a Bring-&-Buy Sale	
			Baptism	1.00pm
			Evening Prayer	6.00pm

NOTICES

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 or other alternatives are very acceptable). We plan to finish the evening with suitable entertainment. **PLEASE GET YOUR TICKETS TODAY.**

FINAL COPY DATE FOR THE FEBRUARY SWORD is midday TODAY Sunday, 23 January. Hard copy or floppy disc to Dennis Beach or email to dhbeach@sky.com.

KIDS' SATURDAY is this Saturday, 29 January, from 2-4 pm. If you have friends or neighbours with children of primary school age please give them a handbill.

BRING-&-SHARE LUNCH: The next lunch will be on Wednesday, 2 February, at 12.30 pm. Please sign the list on the signings table if you wish to attend.

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.