



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

CANDLEMAS

30 January 2011

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: 493, 360, 94 and 513

Setting: Rawsthorne

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

There is a Evening Prayer at 6.00pm.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: Thabo Makgoba, Archbishop of Capetown, South Africa
Garth Counsell, Suffragan Bishop of Capetown, SA
The Anglican Church in Malawi.

The World: Homeless people in Watford and other towns and cities
All workers facing the possibility of unemployment
All those affected by the Moscow airport bombing.

The Community and Parish: Residents at Fairhaven residential home
All our home communicants
The work of New Hope Trust.

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, Ben Heath, 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 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	31	Jan	Toddlers Group	10.00 – 11.30am
			Worship Committee (Choir Vestry)	8.00 pm
Wed	2	Feb	Coffee in Church	10.30am-12 noon
			Bring-&-Share lunch	12.30 pm
Thur	3	Feb	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
			Fairhaven during morning	
			Choir Practice	7.00 – 8.30pm
Sat	5	Feb	Parish Walk	Leave Church at 10.00am
Sun	6	Feb	<u>FIFTH 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)	
			Evening Prayer	6.00pm

NOTICES

CONGRATULATIONS to Pat Gandy who celebrated her 90th birthday last Wednesday.

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.

PARISH WALK: The next parish walk will be on Saturday, 5 February, leaving the church at 10 am. Please sign the list on the signings table if you wish to go.

SWORD: The February 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.

BURNS NIGHT SOCIAL: This was a very enjoyable evening. At the end people left with memories of tasty haggis, excellent puddings, and some singing and reciting of Burns' poetry between courses. Over £110 was raised for church funds. The next social occasion to put in your diary is the Shrove Tuesday Social which will be on 8 March and will be a mixture of pancakes and a short quiz night.

MAINTENANCE WORK ON THE CHURCH: One man and a small scaffolding tower are making very good progress working on the lower reaches of the masonry of St Michael's. However it is likely that more scaffolding and workmen will be needed as the work progresses. This is one of three pieces of essential maintenance that the PCC has to fund; in addition there are two other projects that the PCC would like to put in hand. The potential costs are considerable – if you are able to donate anything or feel inclined to arrange a fund-raising occasion (in your own home, choir vestry or church) please see the Vicar or Paul or Sylvia.