



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

EPIPHANY
8 January 2012

A warm welcome to everyone to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Eucharist, Fr George celebrates and preaches and Paul Jenkins leads the intercessions.

Hymns: 86 (i), 85, 83 and 89

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.

Evening Prayer is at 6.00pm.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: The ministers and people of the parish of Anstey, in our Diocese.
Christians in China.
The Anglican Church of Australia.

The World: People still recovering from the Haiti earthquake.
People with life-threatening illnesses.
Race relations in our towns and cities.

The Community and Parish: Residents and staff at River Court, Home Manor and St Anthony's.
Those who manage our Church finances.
Our fellow Christians of other denominations.

The Ill and the Housebound: Especially Bruce Alexander, Billie Bainbridge (age 4), Christopher Bilson, Peter Coley, Bill and Marion Craddock-Jones, Jean Crouch, Darrell Dunning, David and Janet Freeman, Ben Heath, Jessie Hobby, Leena Hosie, Jenny Houghton, Harvey Jaquest, Mary Kearns, Lesley Kinch, Loretta Lynch, Maggie Maguire, Stella Nicholas, Faith Nkugwa, Dorcas Ochola, Helen Perry, Myrtle Powell, David Simon, Eric and Anne Wightman.

The Departed: Agnes Kabura (wife of David Mwangi).

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.

SERVICES FOR WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY:

Wednesday 18th January, St Mary's. Service at 12.30pm, led by Fr Geoff; soup
coffee & tea available from 12.00 noon. Sunday 22nd January, Service at
6.00pm, at "Wellspring" (the new Watford Community Church building).

THIS WEEK

Mon	9	Jan	Toddlers Group	10.00 – 11.30am
			Service at River Court	3.00pm
Wed	11	Jan	Coffee in Church	10.30am-12 noon
			Service at Home Manor	3.00pm
			Bible Study (Choir Vestry)	8.00pm
Thur	12	Jan	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
			St Anthony's	morning
			Choir Practice	7.00 – 8.30pm
			Finance & General Purposes Committee (Choir Vestry)	8.30pm
Sun	15	Jan	<u>EPIPHANY 2</u>	
			Holy Communion (Pres: Fr Geoff)	8.00am
			SUNG EUCHARIST (Pres. and preacher: Fr Geoff)	9.30am
			Six O'Clock Series	6.00pm

NOTICES

FLOWER FUND: Many thanks to all who gave contributions towards the Christmas and Epiphany flowers. A list of those in whose memory the flowers have been given is displayed at the west end and at the entrance to the Lady Chapel.

SWORD: The Christmas/New Year edition is available to take and distribute. **SWORD SUBSCRIPTIONS** for 2012 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 the celebration last year, the Social Committee, making use of the expertise of Fr Geoff, is arranging a Burns Night Celebration on Wednesday, 25 January 2012. Punch will be served on arrival (from 7.00pm) and soup will be served at 7.15 pm, haggis (vegetarian or meat) will be served with due ceremony at 7.45 pm. Desserts and cheese will follow. The celebration will finish at 10 pm. We plan to hold this occasion at the west end of the church. Tickets cost £8 and are available now from members of the Social Committee. To ensure a portion of vegetarian haggis please purchase a green ticket. 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 some appropriate dancing.