



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

EPIPHANY 3

22 January 2012

A warm welcome to everyone to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Eucharist, Fr Geoff celebrates and preaches and Valerie Alvarez leads the intercessions.

Hymns: 165, 592 (i), 87 and 429

Setting: Rawsthorne

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

This evening at 6.30pm there is a United Service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity at “Wellspring”. No evening prayer at St Michael’s.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: Christian Unity.

The Anglican Episcopal Church in Brazil, The Most Revd Mauricio Jose Araujo de Andrade, Primate of Brazil & Bishop of Brasilia.

The persecuted Anglican Church in Zimbabwe.

The parish of Barton le Clay in vacancy.

The World: All those injured, traumatised or bereaved through the Cruise ship disaster.

Poor people in Egypt and the work of Christian Aid partners there.

The Community and Parish: Our local ecumenical partners, West Watford Free Church and Trinity Methodist Church.

Churches Together in Central, South, and West Watford.

Christians Across Watford.

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, Christina and David Simon, Rosie Waite, Eric and Anne Wightman.

The Departed: Lucie Bennett (Lesley Rees’s mother).

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 Genesis 14.17–20

A reading from the book of Genesis.

- ¹⁷ After Abram's return from the defeat of Chedorlaomer and the kings who were with him, the king of Sodom went out to meet him at the Valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley).
- ¹⁸ And King Melchizedek of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was priest of God Most High.
- ¹⁹ He blessed him and said, 'Blessed be Abram by God Most High, maker of heaven and earth;
- ²⁰ and blessed be God Most High, who has delivered your enemies into your hand!' And Abram gave him one-tenth of everything.

SECOND READING Revelation 19.6–10

A reading from the book of Revelation.

- ⁶ I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the sound of many waters and like the sound of mighty thunder-peals, crying out, 'Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns.
- ⁷ Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready;
- ⁸ to her it has been granted to be clothed with fine linen, bright and pure' – for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.

- ⁹ And the angel said to me, 'Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.' And he said to me, 'These are true words of God.'
- ¹⁰ Then I fell down at his feet to worship him, but he said to me, 'You must not do that! I am a fellow-servant with you and your comrades who hold the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.'

GOSPEL John 2.1-11

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

- ¹ There was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there.
- ² Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding.
- ³ When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.'
- ⁴ And Jesus said to her, 'Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come.'
- ⁵ His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.'
- ⁶ Now standing there were six stone water-jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons.
- ⁷ Jesus said to them, 'Fill the jars with water.' And they filled them up to the brim.
- ⁸ He said to them, 'Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward.' So they took it.
- ⁹ When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him,
- ¹⁰ 'Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.'
- ¹¹ Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

THIS WEEK

Mon	23	Jan	Toddlers Group	10.00 – 11.30am
Tue	24	Jan	Prayer group (Choir Vestry)	2.30pm
Wed	25	Jan	Coffee in Church	10.30am-12 noon
			BURNS NIGHT SUPPER	7.00 - 10.00pm
Thur	26	Jan	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
			Choir Practice	7.00 – 8.30pm
Sun	29	Jan	<u>CANDLEMAS</u>	
			Holy Communion (Pres: Fr George)	8.00am
			SUNG EUCHARIST	
			(President: Fr Geoff; preacher: Jamie Wareham)	9.30am
			followed by a Bring-&-Buy Sale	
			Evening Prayer	6.00 pm

NOTICES

LENT COURSE 2012: Churches Together are planning 5 group meetings, following the York Course and entitled 'Handing on the Torch'. They will start in the week commencing Sunday 26 February. It is hoped that each group will contain members from different churches. Forms are available at the back of church to indicate the days when you can attend. **Please return forms by next Sunday, 29 January.**

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.

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 7.00 pm) 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. 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. For 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). The evening will finish at 10 pm after some appropriate dancing.

THE NEW HOPE TRUST is looking for help with delivering postcards in Chorleywood and Cassiobury estate 27-29 January. Please let Martin Heath know if you can help.

FINAL COPY DATE FOR FEBRUARY SWORD: Midday today. Sunday 22nd January. Please submit copy to Dennis Beach before this time if possible - hard copy, floppy disc or e-mail to:- dhbeach@sky.com