



# THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

*St Michael and All Angels*

Watford

**CANDLEMAS**

**29 January 2012**

A warm welcome to everyone to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Eucharist, Fr Geoff celebrates, Jamie Wareham preaches and Sylvia Moring leads the intercessions.

**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 Bring-&-Buy Sale – please stay on.

Evening Prayer is at 6.00pm.

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

**The Church:** The parish of St Mark's Bedford, in our Diocese.  
The Anglican Church of Burundi, the Most Revd Bernard Ntahoturi  
Archbishop of the Province of Burundi & Bishop of Matana.  
The Anglican Church of Japan and its earthquake relief centres.

**The World:** Christian Aid Partners working with famine victims in East Africa.  
People affected by the bombings in Nigeria.  
Peace and stability in the Middle East.

**The Community and Parish:** Residents and staff at Fairhaven care home.  
Couples preparing for marriage.  
Watford Celebration 2012.

**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:**

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**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:

- <sup>1</sup> 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.
- <sup>2</sup> 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;
- <sup>3</sup> 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.
- <sup>4</sup> Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.
- <sup>5</sup> 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.

- <sup>14</sup> 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,
- <sup>15</sup> and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death.
- <sup>16</sup> For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham.
- <sup>17</sup> 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.
- <sup>18</sup> 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.

<sup>22</sup> 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.

<sup>23</sup> (as it is written in the law of the Lord, ‘Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord’),

<sup>24</sup> 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.’

<sup>25</sup> 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.

<sup>26</sup> It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah.

<sup>27</sup> 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,

<sup>28</sup> Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

<sup>29</sup> ‘Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; <sup>30</sup> for my eyes have seen your salvation,

<sup>31</sup> which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

<sup>32</sup> a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.’

<sup>33</sup> And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him.

<sup>34</sup> 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 <sup>35</sup> so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed – and a sword will pierce your own soul too.’

<sup>36</sup> 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, <sup>37</sup> 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.

<sup>38</sup> 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.

<sup>39</sup> When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth.

<sup>40</sup> The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

## THIS WEEK

Mon	30	Jan	Toddlers Group	10.00 – 11.30am
Wed	1	Feb	Coffee in Church Centenary Group (14 Mildred Avenue)	10.30am-12 noon 7.30pm
Thur	2	Feb	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language) Fairhaven Choir Practice	10.00am morning 7.00 – 8.30pm
Sun	5	Feb	<b><u>THIRD SUNDAY before LENT</u></b> Holy Communion (Pres: Fr George) <b>SUNG EUCHARIST</b> (President: Fr Geoff; preacher: Violet Allen-Smith) Evening Prayer	8.00am <b>9.30am</b> 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 today, Sunday, 29 January.**

SWORD: The February 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.

LENTEN OBSERVANCE: During Lent Fr Geoff plans to have a devotional service on Wednesday evenings which will start at 7.30 pm – please make a note in your diary.

GOLDEN WEDDING: Henry & Sylvia Moring will be celebrating their Golden Wedding next weekend. We hope that everyone will be able to stay after the 9.30 service and share in some refreshments.

OFFERTORY CARDS: People give their offerings for the work of St Michael's in different ways. If you put an envelope or cash offering in the plate then you will have something to do when the offertory plate is passed round. If you give your offering by standing order from the bank then you will have nothing to put in the offertory plate nor does your offering go to the altar for a blessing. This doesn't seem fair so in common with a lot of churches we have produced some cards for people who give by standing order. Take one as you arrive at church and then place in the plate at offertory time and it will go to the altar for a blessing. Please don't take cards home with you, they will always be available as you arrive at church for any of the services.