



# THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

*St Michael and All Angels*

Watford

**EPIPHANY 4**

27 January 2013

We wish you a warm welcome to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Sung Eucharist, Fr Geoff celebrates and Steve Bolton preaches about the Food Bank. John Adams leads the intercessions.

**Hymns: 534 (t424), 625, 318 and 591**

**Setting: Wilson**

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

(Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church 1.00-5.00pm)

Evening Prayer in Lady Chapel at 6.00pm.

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

**The Church:** The Parish of Bedford St Andrew in our Diocese.  
The Diocese of Lokoja (Nigeria), The Rt Revd Emmanuel Sokowamju Egbunu its Bishop, and its people.  
Christian Unions and Clubs in Schools.

**The World:** The major aid organisations' campaign to "end hunger forever".  
All those involved in combating violent extremism.  
All children suffering or vulnerable to abuse of any kind.

**The Community and Parish:** Our local Police and Police Community Support Officers.  
Our local Street Cleaners.  
Our PCC Members.

**The Ill and the Housebound:** Especially Bruce Alexander, Jean and Robert Caton. Peter Coley, Bill and Marion Craddock-Jones, Jean Crouch, Pam Hart, Ben Heath, Jessie Hobby, Jenny Houghton, Trevor Hutchinson, Audrey and Harvey Jaquest, Mary Kearns, Lesley Kinch, Loretta Lynch, Jacqui Lyons, Maggie Maguire, Dorcas Ochola, Brian O'Riordan, Helen Perry, Myrtle Powell, Christina and David Simon, Eric and Anne Wightman and Rosemary Wybrow.

**The Departed:**

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**Collect**

God our creator, who in the beginning commanded the light to shine out of darkness:

we pray that the light of the glorious gospel of Christ may dispel the darkness of ignorance and unbelief, shine into the hearts of all your people, and reveal the knowledge of your glory in the face of 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 Nehemiah 8.1–3, 5–6, 8–10**

A reading from the book of Nehemiah.

- <sup>1</sup> All the people gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the LORD had given to Israel.
- <sup>2</sup> Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month.
- <sup>3</sup> He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law.
- <sup>5</sup> And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up.
- <sup>6</sup> Then Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God and all the people answered, 'Amen, Amen,' lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshipped the LORD with their faces to the ground.
- <sup>8</sup> So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.
- <sup>9</sup> And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, 'This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep.' For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law.
- <sup>10</sup> Then he said to them, 'Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our LORD; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.'

**SECOND READING I Corinthians 12.12–13a**

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

- <sup>12</sup> Just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.
- <sup>13</sup> For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body – Jews or Greeks, slaves or free – and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.
- <sup>14</sup> Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many.
- <sup>15</sup> If the foot would say, 'Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,' that would not make it any less a part of the body.

<sup>16</sup> And if the ear would say, 'Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,' that would not make it any less a part of the body.

<sup>17</sup> If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be?

<sup>18</sup> But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose.

<sup>19</sup> If all were a single member, where would the body be?

<sup>20</sup> As it is, there are many members, yet one body.

<sup>21</sup> The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I have no need of you,' nor again the head to the feet, 'I have no need of you.'

<sup>22</sup> On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable,

<sup>23</sup> and those members of the body that we think less honourable we clothe with greater honour, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect;

<sup>24</sup> whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honour to the inferior member,

<sup>25</sup> that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another.

<sup>26</sup> If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honoured, all rejoice together with it.

<sup>27</sup> Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

<sup>28</sup> And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership various kinds of tongues.

<sup>29</sup> Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles?

<sup>30</sup> Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret?

<sup>31</sup> But strive for the greater gifts.

## **GOSPEL Luke 4.14-21**

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

<sup>14</sup> Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country.

<sup>15</sup> He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

<sup>16</sup> When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read,

<sup>17</sup> and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

<sup>18</sup> 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free,

<sup>19</sup> to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.'

<sup>20</sup> And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him.

<sup>21</sup> Then he began to say to them, 'Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.'

## THIS WEEK

Mon	28	Jan	Toddlers' Group	10.00 - 11.30am
			Emmaus Course (Vicarage)	1.00pm
Tue	29	Jan	Emmaus Course (Vicarage)	7.00pm
Wed	30	Jan	Coffee in Church	10.30am-12 noon
			PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (Choir Vestry)	7.55pm
Thu	31	Jan	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
			Choir Practice	7.00 – 8.30pm
Sun	3	Feb	<b><u>CANDLEMAS</u></b>	
			Holy Communion (Pres: Fr George)	8.00am
			<b>SUNG EUCHARIST:</b> President and Preacher: Fr Geoff	9.30am
			Evening Prayer in Lady Chapel	6.00pm

## **NOTICES**

SWORD SUBSCRIPTIONS for 2013 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.

FEBRUARY SWORD AND SEE ROUND: Available for collection now.

EMMAUS –The next meetings will be 28<sup>th</sup> and 29th January in the Vicarage. It's not too late to join in come along (with sandwiches/buffet food) for the next meeting.

GIVING ENVELOPES FOR 2013 are on a table in the north aisle. Please collect yours. If you wish to join the envelope giving scheme please see Valerie Alvarez.

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

13 February - Ash Wednesday: Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion at 10.00 am and 7.30 pm.

2 March: Lent Lunch and Bring-and-Buy Sale in aid of mission. Delicious homemade soup served by St Michael's Brownies followed by bread and cheese.. Bargains for sale. An occasion not to be missed – make a note of the date now. Sale starts at 11.30 am; lunch served from 12 noon.

10 March: Mothering Sunday