



# THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

*St Michael and All Angels*

Watford

CANDLEMAS

3 February 2013

We wish you a warm welcome to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Sung Eucharist, Fr Geoff celebrates and preaches. Paul Chandler leads the intercessions.

**Hymns: 94, 360, 513 and 429**

**Setting: White**

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

Evening Prayer in Lady Chapel at 6.00pm.

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

**The Church:** The Archdeacon of St Albans, Jonathan Smith.  
The Diocese of Lui (Sudan), the Rt Revd Stephen Dokolo Ismail,  
and its people.

The Anglican Church in Zambia.

**The World:** Medical professionals and support staff.

Peace in the Middle East.

The fight against cancer.

**The Community and Parish:** Residents and Staff at River Court and Fairhaven care homes.

Churches Together in Central, South and West Watford.

Watford's Afro-Caribbean Community.

**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 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.

**The Departed:** Rosemary Wybrow; Harvey Jaquest.

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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:

- 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.

<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	4	Feb	Toddlers' Group	10.00 - 11.30am
			Service at River Court	3.00pm
Tue	5	Feb	Pause (134 Mildred Avenue)	7.30pm
Wed	6	Feb	Coffee in Church	10.30am-12 noon
Thu	7	Feb	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
			Fairhaven	morning
			Choir Practice	7.00 – 8.30pm
Sun	10	Feb	<b><u>Sunday next before Lent</u></b>	
			Holy Communion (Pres: Fr Geoff)	8.00am
			<b>SUNG EUCHARIST:</b> President: Fr Geoff; Preacher: Jamie	
			Wareham	9.30am
			11.15 Service of Thanksgiving and Praise	11.15am
			(Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church	1.00 – 5.00pm)
			Evening Prayer in Lady Chapel	6.00pm

## **NOTICES**

DETAILS of LENT PROGRAMMES for 2013 are available at the back of the church with a sign-up list for the course book - "Christ in the Wilderness", by Stephen Cottrell. This can be ordered from Fr Geoff for £6.89.

LENT COLLECTING BOXES for the Church Army are available at the back of church. The theme is "giving" rather than "giving up" for Lent.

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.

EMMAUS –The next meetings will be 11th and 12th February in the Vicarage. It's not too late to join in - come along (with sandwiches/buffet food) for the next meeting.

NEW PHOTOCOPIER: a number of people have asked for a demonstration of its use. Henry will be available in the Office to give a brief explanation and attempt to answer any questions at 11.00 am after today's service.

LAST SUNDAY'S BRING-&-BUY raised £67.50. Many thanks to contributors.

### 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. The service will be at 10.30 am. Please note.