



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

CHRISTMAS 1
29 December 2013

We wish you a Happy Christmastide and a warm welcome to our services today.

At 9.30 am we have “Carols Round the Crib” which will be led by Father Geoff.

Coffee and tea will be served in church after the 9.30 service – please stay on.

NO Evening Service.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: Persecuted Christians across the world.
The Parish of Wrestlingworth in our Diocese.
The Diocese of Lake Rukwa in Tanzania, Mathayo Kasagara, its Bishop and all its people.

The World: The work of Us with Syrian Refugees in Lebanon.
Greater world peace in 2014.
The work of night shelters.

The Community and Parish: Wise and constructive New Year Resolutions.
Our Parish Magazine editing and production team.
A prayerful and holy 2014 for our Parish.

The Ill and the Housebound: Especially Bruce Alexander, Janet Bridge, Jean and Robert Caton, Peter Coley, Bill and Marion Craddock-Jones, Jean Crouch, Pamela Cutler, Audrey Dixon, Sandra Fullerton, Jenny Houghton, Audrey Jaquest, Mary Kearns, Lesley Kinch, Loretta Lynch, Jacqui Lyons, Audrey Morgan, Dorcas Ochola, Brian O’Riordan, Helen Perry, Myrtle Powell, Mark Pritchard, Christina and David Simon, Mark Simon, and Anne Wightman.

The Departed:

Collect

Almighty God, who wonderfully created us in your own image and yet more wonderfully restored us through your Son Jesus Christ: grant that, as he came to share in our humanity, so we may share the life of his divinity; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

NT READING Hebrews 2.10–18

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

¹⁰ It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

¹¹ For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, saying,

¹² ‘I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters, in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.’

¹³ And again, ‘I will put my trust in him.’ And again, ‘Here am I and the children whom God has given me.’

¹⁴ Since the children share flesh and blood, he 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 Matthew 2.13–23

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

¹³ After the wise men had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, ‘Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.’

¹⁴ Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt,

¹⁵ and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, ‘Out of Egypt I have called my son.’

¹⁶ When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men.

¹⁷ Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:

¹⁸ ‘A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.’

¹⁹ When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said,

²⁰ ‘Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child’s life are dead.’

²¹ Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel.

²² But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee.

²³ There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, ‘He will be called a Nazorean.’

THIS WEEK

Mon	30	Dec	NO Toddlers' Group	
Tue	31	Dec	NEW YEAR'S EVE	
Wed	1	Jan	NEW YEAR'S DAY <i>Bank Holiday (No coffee)</i>	
Thu	2	Jan	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language) Fairhaven	10.00am morning
Sun	5	Jan	<u>EPIPHANY</u> Holy Communion (Pres: Fr George) SUNG EUCHARIST: President and Preacher: Fr Geoff	8.00am 9.30am
			Joint Service with Trinity Methodist at St Michael's	6.00pm

NOTICES

GIVING ENVELOPES FOR 2014 are on a table in the north aisle. Please collect yours. If you wish to join the envelope giving scheme please see Valerie Alvarez.

LEPROSY MISSION – A reminder that we have a box at the back of church for used stamps, being collected on behalf of the Leprosy Mission. Perfect for all the stamps from your Christmas Cards!

ST MICHAEL'S GOT TALENT: "Join us for a memorable evening of entertainment with buffet supper." This will take place on Saturday 18th January, and will feature the talents of members of St Michael's in performance, food, and others, to start off our forthcoming Stewardship Campaign. Tickets will be available shortly, but please keep the date free. Any offers to perform music, recitations etc, will be gratefully received, please speak to Fr Geoff.

HEALTHWISE AT ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH: The Healthwise sessions will take a break over Christmas and re-start on Thursday, 9 January 2014, from 2.30-3.30. Any inquiries to Sarah Hill (0754 214 2810). Attendance at the Healthwise sessions could be an excellent new year's resolution.

St Michael and All Angels PCC is a Registered Charity No 1132010

