



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

EPIPHANY

5 January 2014

We wish you a Happy New Year and a warm welcome to our services today. At the 9.30 am Sung Eucharist, Fr Geoff celebrates and preaches. Sylvia Moring leads the intercessions.

Hymns: 74, 89, 83 and 84 (i)

Setting: Rawsthorne

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

Joint Evening Service with Trinity Methodist at St Michael's at 6.00pm.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: Richard Atkinson, Bishop of Bedford.

The Diocese of Aba Ngwa North (Nigeria): Nathan Kanu its Bishop and all its people.

Placement Volunteers with Us.

The World: The people of Syria.

All who are suffering through bad weather.

Protection of people across the world against terrorist attacks.

The Community and Parish: The Guild of Servants of the Sanctuary.

Our forthcoming Stewardship Campaign.

Staff and Residents at River Court, Home Manor and St Anthony's.

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: Marjorie Cecelia Hutchings.

Collect

O God, who by the leading of a star manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth:
mercifully grant that we, who know you now by faith, may at last behold your glory face to face;
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 Isaiah 60.1–6

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

- ¹ Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.
- ² For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you.
- ³ Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.
- ⁴ Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.
- ⁵ Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you.
- ⁶ A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

SECOND READING Ephesians 3.1–12

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians.

- ¹ I, Paul, am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles –
- ² for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you,
- ³ and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words,
- ⁴ a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ.
- ⁵ In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit:
- ⁶ that is, the Gentiles have become fellow-heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

7 Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was
given me by the working of his power.
8 Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to
the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ,
9 and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God
who created all things;
10 so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be
made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.
11 This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ
Jesus our Lord,
12 in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

GOSPEL Matthew 2.1–12

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

1 In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men
from the East came to Jerusalem, asking,
2 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star
at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.'
3 When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him;
4 and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of
them where the Messiah was to be born.
5 They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:
6 "And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers
of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel."
7 Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time
when the star had appeared.
8 Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child;
and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him
homage.'
9 When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the
star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child
was.
10 When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy.
11 On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt
down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him
gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.
12 And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own
country by another road.

THIS WEEK

Mon	6	Jan	Toddlers' Group	10.00 – 11.30am
			Magazine Committee	8.00pm
Tue	7	Jan	Service at River Court	3.00pm
			Pause (134 Mildred Avenue)	7.30pm
			Stewardship Campaign Planning Group (Choir Vestry)	8.00pm
Wed	8	Jan	Coffee in Church	10.30am-12 noon
			Service at Home Manor	3.00pm
			Guild of Servants of the Sanctuary in Church	8.00pm
Thu	9	Jan	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
			Communion at St Anthony's	11.00am
			Healthwise	2.30pm
			Choir Practice	7.00 – 8.30pm
Sun	12	Jan	<u>BAPTISM of CHRIST</u>	
			Holy Communion (Pres: Fr Geoff)	8.00am
			SUNG EUCHARIST:	9.30am
			President: Fr Geoff and Preacher: Martin Heath	
			The 11.15 Service is a Simple Eucharist	11.15am
			(Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church)	1.00-5.00pm)
			Evening Service	6.00pm

NOTICES

ST MICHAEL'S GOT TALENT: "Join us for a memorable evening of entertainment with buffet supper." This will take place **on Saturday 18th January from 7.30-10 pm**, and will feature the talents of members of St Michael's in performance, food, and others, to start off our forthcoming Stewardship Campaign. Tickets (£7.50; £15 a family ticket) will be available today from Jessica Adams, the Churchwardens, the Social Committee and the coffee bar. Any offers to perform music, recitations etc, will be gratefully received, please speak to Fr Geoff. Offers of food will be welcomed by Sylvia Moring.

MORE VOLUNTEERS urgently required for the Money Counting rota (for after the 9.30 service). If you can help with this, please see Iola Bilson.

FOOD BANK: There is a list of the items of food that can be included in the food parcels in particular there is a need for tinned meat and meat pies, and UHT milk. If you would like to donate any of these items please bring them to church and put them in the box at the west end.

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!

HEALTHWISE AT ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH: The Healthwise sessions restart this week after the Christmas break, 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.