



# THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

*St Michael and All Angels*

Watford

**THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST**

**12 January 2014**

We wish you a warm welcome to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Sung Eucharist, Fr Geoff celebrates and Martin Heath preaches. Pat Beach leads the intercessions.

**Hymns: 90 (i), 93, 191 and 334**

**Setting: Rawsthorne**

Tea and coffee will be served in church after the 9.30 service and this is followed at 11.15 with our 11.15 service which this month is a Simple Eucharist – please stay on.

(Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church 1.00-5.00pm)

Evening Service in the Lady Chapel at 6.00pm.

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

### **The Church:**

Christian Unity

The Parish of Clophill in our Diocese.

The Anglican Church of Australia; Phillip Aspinall - Archbishop of Brisbane & Primate of Australia.

### **The World:**

Healing of the nation of Sri Lanka.

The people of Syria.

Harmony between people of all religions.

### **The Community and Parish:** Our fellow Christians in Watford.

Cultural and religious harmony in West Watford.

Watford Food Bank.

### **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:** Dorothy North.

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**Collect**

Eternal Father, who at the baptism of Jesus revealed him to be your Son, anointing him with the Holy Spirit:  
grant to us, who are born again by water and the Spirit, that we may be faithful to our calling as your adopted children;  
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 42.1–9**

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Thus says the LORD:

- 1 Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations.
- 2 He will not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street;
- 3 a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice.
- 4 He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his teaching.
- 5 Thus says God, the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it:
- 6 I am the LORD, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations,
- 7 to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness.
- 8 I am the LORD, that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols.
- 9 See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

## **SECOND READING Acts 10.34–43**

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

- 34 Peter began to speak to those assembled in the house of Cornelius. 'I truly understand that God shows no partiality,  
35 but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him.  
36 You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ – he is Lord of all.  
37 That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced:  
38 how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.  
39 We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree;  
40 but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear,  
41 not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.  
42 He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead.  
43 All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.'

## **GOSPEL Matthew 3.13–17**

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

- 13 Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him.  
14 John would have prevented him, saying, 'I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?'  
15 But Jesus answered him, 'Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfil all righteousness.' Then he consented.  
16 And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him.  
17 And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.'

## THIS WEEK

Mon	13	Jan	Toddlers' Group	10.00 – 11.30am
			Messy Church Planning Meeting (86 Mildred Avenue)	8.00pm
Wed	15	Jan	Coffee in Church	10.30am-12 noon
			Estates Committee (Choir Vestry)	8.00pm
Thu	16	Jan	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
			Healthwise	2.30 – 3.30pm
			Choir Practice	7.00 – 8.30pm
Sat	18	Jan	<i>Start of Week of Prayer for Christian Unity</i>	
			ST MICHAEL'S GOT TALENT	7.30 – 10.00pm
Sun	19	Jan	<b><u>EPIPHANY 2</u> – Stewardship Sunday</b>	
			Holy Communion (Pres: Fr Geoff)	8.00am
			<b>SUNG EUCHARIST:</b>	9.30am
			President and Preacher: Fr Geoff	
			Messy Church	2.30 – 4.00pm
			Service for Week of Prayer for Christian Unity at West Watford	
			Free Church, Tolpits Lane	6.30pm

## NOTICES

**ST MICHAEL'S GOT TALENT:** "Join us for a memorable evening of entertainment with buffet supper." This will take place **next 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 (£10 adult, £7 child; bring your own drinks) are available from Jessica Adams, the Churchwardens, the Social Committee and the coffee bar. Buy/Order your tickets TODAY! 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.

**SWORD SUBSCRIPTIONS** for 2014 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!

**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.

**SERVICE FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY:** Sunday 19 January at 6.30pm at West Watford Free Church, Tolpits Lane by Westfield School. The service is led by Garth Woodhead and Alan Cockram. There will also be a lunch time service at St Mary's on Wednesday, 22 January. More details next week.

**FOOD BANK:** There is a list of the items of food that can be included in the food parcels. Please put your donations in the box at the west end.

**HEALTHWISE AT ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH:** The Healthwise sessions have restarted on Thursdays from 2.30-3.30. Any inquiries to Sarah Hill (0754 214 2810)

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