

Happening in church this week..

Monday	5.30pm - Evening Prayer
Wednesday	10am-12noon - Coffee morning and Foodbank 5.30pm - Eucharist
Friday	5.30pm - Evening prayer
Sunday	9.30am - Sung Eucharist

Celebrating Our Community - this week we shine a spotlight on our servers

Our Servers assist the Vicar in ensuring smooth services year-round, including 52 weeks and an additional 4 days during the demanding Easter period. On behalf of the congregation, we sincerely thank you for your time, dedication, and commitment to the church.

To all our servers,
Thank you!

If you would like to shine a spotlight on someone, please email **halfsentence@gmail.com** with their name and a brief explanation.

First Aid Kits

Outside the clergy vestry.
In the ladies toilet.

Baby Changing

In the ladies toilet

Every donation that is made to **SAINT MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS PCC WATFORD** is gratefully received.

Code 20-91-79

Account 70409448.

Gift Aid? Please contact a warden.

Thank you very much!

Contact: Father Stephen Mephram 07852 622904

Stephenmephram07@gmail.com

www.stmichaels-watford.org.uk

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



St Michael & All Angels,
Watford

THE MESSENGER



BAPTISM OF CHRIST

Sunday 12th January
2025

A warm welcome to our service today. At communion, there will be a chalice on your left for those who wish to receive by drinking, and on your right for those who wish to receive by dipping their wafer in the wine. You are also welcome to just receive the bread.

Hymns
for this Sunday
are:

90

Songs of
thankfulness and
praise

34

On Jordan's bank
the Baptist's cry

89

O worship the
Lord in the
beauty of
holiness

84

Brightest and best
of the sons of the
morning

In your prayers this week:

The Church

Parish of Clophill (Amptill and Shefford) In Vacancy (PTO) Eric Shegog
ACP: Church of the Province of West Africa

The World

For those living in conflict zones and those working for peace and resolution. For all affected by climate change and those working towards sustainable solutions.

The Community and Parish

For all those who are working hard to maintain Christ's mission in our parish during the vacancy.

All who find it hard to keep warm during the winter.

All who work outside in all weather.

The Ill and the Housebound

Especially Jean Alexander, Violet Allen-Smith, Julie Alvarez, Janet Chandler, Jemima Hill, Owen Hutchinson, Sylvia Obeng, Valerie O'Riordan, Matthew Paterson, Rocco and Sonny Pigott, Josephine Stadden, Catherine Stone, Fay Storey, Adelaide Tonkin, Allan Warren and all who care for them.

The Departed

Collect

Heavenly Father, at the Jordan you revealed Jesus as your Son: may we recognize him as our Lord and know ourselves to be your beloved children; through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 43.1-7

Restoration and Protection Promised

But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you. Because you are precious in my sight, and honoured, and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life. Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; I will say to the north, ‘Give them up’, and to the south, ‘Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth— everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.’

SECOND READING

Acts of the Apostles 8.14-17

Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus). Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

GOSPEL

Luke 3.15-17,21-22

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, ‘I baptise you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.’

The Baptism of Jesus

Now when all the people were baptised, and when Jesus also had been baptised and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, ‘You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.’