



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

EPIPHANY

Sunday 7 January 2024

We are now able to receive the wine 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.

We wish you a Happy New Year and a warm welcome to our First Sunday of the Month Service today. Hymns for Sunday are: 84 Brightest and Best (t.1), 89 O worship the Lord, 83 As with gladness men of old, 513 Lord, the light of your love.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: The Parish of Astwick in our Diocese
The Scottish Episcopal Church
Churches celebrating Orthodox Christmas.

The World: The people of Japan following Monday's earthquake
People killed in bomb attacks in Iran and Lebanon
The prevention of escalating warfare and violence in the Middle East.

The Community and Parish: Residents, staff and families at the Chase care home
The people who look after our Church finances
Our Food Bank volunteers and service users.

The Ill and the Housebound: Especially Jean Alexander, Violet Allen-Smith, Julie Alvarez, Janet Chandler, Jemima Hill, Owen Hutchinson, Lisa Mills, Brian O'Riordan, Valerie O'Riordan, Josephine Stadden, Catherine Stone, Fay Storey, Adelaide Tonkin, and all who care for them.

The Departed:

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.

Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.
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.
Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

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.
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.
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.

This is the word of the Lord

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.

Our service today is available to attend in person
or via livestream on our YouTube channel
“St Michael’s Church Watford”

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC8GTX0MfiICGmcDUkXTGFSw>

The 10.00am Eucharist each Thursday is available to attend in person, and livestreamed.

The Church will be open for tea and coffee on Wednesday mornings from 10.00am – 12.00 noon.