



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

2 BEFORE ADVENT

16 November 2014

A warm welcome to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Eucharist Fr Geoff celebrates and preaches and Sylvia Moring leads the intercessions.

Hymns: 334, 374, 290 and 474

Setting: White

Tea and coffee will be served in church after the 9.30 service and there will be a Bring-&-Buy Sale – please stay on.

Messy Church is at 11.15 am

(Watford Interfaith Pilgrimage (see Notices) from 1.00 pm)

Evening Prayer at 6.00 pm.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: The Parish of Knebworth in our Diocese.
The Lusitanian Church in Portugal, Bishop José Jorge De Pina Cabral, and all its people.

Anglican Churches in West Africa, facing the Ebola outbreak.

The World: Greater awareness of the dangers of excessive alcohol use.
People vulnerable to bullying in schools and workplaces.
People affected by dyslexia.

The Community and Parish: Our Mothers' Union Members.
Everyone taking part in the Interfaith Pilgrimage.
Our PCC members.

The Ill and the Housebound: Especially Bruce Alexander, Tina Bennett, Janet Bridge, Jean and Robert Caton, Peter Coley, Marion Craddock-Jones, Pamela Cutler, Audrey Dixon, Sandra Fullerton, Jenny Houghton, Audrey Jaquest, Mary Kearns, Lesley Kinch, Loretta Lynch, Audrey Morgan, Dorcas Ochola, Brian O'Riordan, Helen Perry, Mark Pritchard, Christina Simon, Mark Simon, Karen Stride, Betty Westney and Anne Wightman and Daniel Williamson (age 3).

The Departed: Vera Badams.

Collect

Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son was revealed to destroy the works of the devil and to make us the children of God and heirs of eternal life:
grant that we, having this hope, may purify ourselves even as he is pure;
that when he shall appear in power and great glory we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom;
where he is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING Zephaniah 1.7, 12–18

A reading from the book of the prophet Zephaniah.

- 7 Be silent before the Lord GOD! For the day of the LORD is at hand; the LORD has prepared a sacrifice, he has consecrated his guests.
- 12 At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the people who rest complacently on their dregs, those who say in their hearts, 'The LORD will not do good, nor will he do harm.'
- 13 Their wealth shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them.
- 14 The great day of the LORD is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter, the warrior cries aloud there.
- 15 That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness,
- 16 a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements.
- 17 I will bring such distress upon people that they shall walk like the blind; because they have sinned against the LORD, their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like dung.
- 18 Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the Lord's wrath; in the fire of his passion the whole earth shall be consumed; for a full, a terrible end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

SECOND READING I Thessalonians 5.1–11

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Thessalonians.

- 1 Concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you.
- 2 For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.
- 3 When they say, 'There is peace and security,' then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labour pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape!
- 4 But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief;
- 5 for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness.

6 So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober;
7 for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night.
8 But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and
love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation.
9 For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord
Jesus Christ,
10 who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him.
11 Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

GOSPEL Matthew 25.14–30

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

Jesus said to his disciples,

14 'The kingdom of heaven is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and
entrusted his property to them;
15 to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his
ability. Then he went away.
16 The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and
made five more talents.
17 In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents.
18 But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and
hid his master's money.
19 After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them.
20 Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more
talents, saying, "Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more
talents."
21 His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been
trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of
your master."
22 And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, "Master, you handed over
to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents."
23 His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been
trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of
your master."
24 Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, "Master, I
knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where
you did not scatter seed;
25 so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is
yours."
26 But his master replied, "You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap
where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter?
27 Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would
have received what was my own with interest.
28 So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents.
29 For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but
from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away.
30 As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be
weeping and gnashing of teeth."

THIS WEEK

Mon	17	Nov	Toddlers' Group	10 – 11.30am
Wed	19	Nov	Coffee in Church and Food Bank	10.30 - 12 noon
			PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL	7.55pm
Thur	20	Nov	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
			followed by coffee morning in Choir Vestry	
			Choir Practice	7.00 – 8.30pm
Sun	23	Nov	<u>CHRIST THE KING</u>	
			Holy Communion (Pres: Fr Geoff)	8.00am
			SUNG EUCHARIST (President and Preacher: Fr Geoff)	9.30am
			(Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church)	1.00 – 5.00pm)
			Evening Prayer	6.00pm

NOTICES

THE WATFORD INTERFAITH PILGRIMAGE takes place this afternoon Sunday 16th November, beginning at 1.00 pm at the Synagogue, with visits to St Mary's, Gurdwara, and Mosque, then joining the Hindu Community in the Parade for the Lighting of the Divas as part of their Diwali Celebrations. This is a growing and inspiring event in our town every year. Leaflets available at the back.

HELP FOR CHRISTMAS FAIR (29 NOVEMBER 2014): volunteers still needed to serve tea and coffee during the Fair and also to move furniture, set up stalls and tables, or clearing up afterwards. Please contact Kristine on 07572601529 or jenkinskristine@hotmail.com or Elizabeth Watkin on 01923 255715.

This is an important occasion when we open our doors to all the community and aim to raise money to help to pay our 'household' bills. There are fliers and posters at the back of church for distribution.

FINAL COPY DATE for December Sword is next Sunday 23 November. Hard copy or floppy disc to Rob White or email to robwhite.watford@tiscali.co.uk

FOOD BANK: Don't forget that we are still collecting food as well as acting as a distribution centre. There is a list at the back of church of the items of food that can be included in the parcels. 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.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Advent Sunday, 30 November at 6.00 pm: Advent Sequence - "A procession of light, with anthems, hymns, readings and prayers for Advent".

Saturday 24th January: Parish Awayday for planning, with John Kiddle, Diocesan Mission Advisor. Please put the date in your diary.