



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

CHRIST THE KING

23 November 2014

A warm welcome to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Eucharist Fr Geoff celebrates and preaches and Sarah Dunning leads the intercessions.

Hymns: 165, 189 (II), 278 and 590

Setting: White

Tea and coffee will be served in church after the 9.30 service – please stay on.

(Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church 1.00 – 5.00pm)

Evening Prayer at 6.00 pm.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: The Parish of St Peter, Broadwater (Stevenage) in our Diocese.
The Reformed Episcopal Church of Spain, Carlos López-Lozano its bishop and all its people.

The World: Anglican Churches working with Us against gender based violence.
All work to seek peace and reconciliation in Jerusalem and the Holy Land.

People affected by snowstorms in the northern USA.

Everyone working with cancer patients and their treatment.

The Community and Parish: Our Christmas Fair, its organisers and helpers, and all who will attend.

Our organist and choir preparing for Advent and Christmas.

Local businesses in our area.

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, Anne Wightman and Daniel Williamson (age 3).

The Departed: Betty Westney.

Collect

Eternal Father, whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven that he might rule over all things as Lord and King:

keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit and in the bond of peace, and bring the whole created order to worship at his feet; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING Ezekiel 34.11–16, 20–24

A reading from the book of the prophet Ezekiel.

- ¹¹ Thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out.
- ¹² As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness.
- ¹³ I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land.
- ¹⁴ I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel.
- ¹⁵ I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord GOD.
- ¹⁶ I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.
- ²⁰ Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep.
- ²¹ Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide,
- ²² I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep.
- ²³ I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd.
- ²⁴ And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the LORD, have spoken.

SECOND READING Ephesians 1.15–23

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians.

- ¹⁵ I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love towards all the saints, and for this reason
- ¹⁶ I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers.
- ¹⁷ I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him,

18 so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to
which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the
saints,
19 and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to
the working of his great power.
20 God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated
him at his right hand in the heavenly places,
21 far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is
named, not only in this age but also in the age to come.
22 And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for
the church,
23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

GOSPEL Matthew 25.31–46

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

Jesus said to his disciples:

31 'When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on
the throne of his glory.
32 All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from
another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats,
33 and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left.
34 Then the king will say to those at his right hand, "Come, you that are blessed by my
Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world;
35 for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to
drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me,
36 I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in
prison and you visited me."
37 Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and
gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink?
38 And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you
clothing?
39 And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?"
40 And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of
these who are members of my family, you did it to me."
41 Then he will say to those at his left hand, "You that are accursed, depart from me into
the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels;
42 for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to
drink,
43 I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing,
sick and in prison and you did not visit me."
44 Then they also will answer, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a
stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?"
45 Then he will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least
of these, you did not do it to me."
46 And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.'

THIS WEEK

Mon	24	Nov	Toddlers' Group	10 – 11.30am
Wed	26	Nov	Coffee in Church and Food Bank	10.30 - 12 noon
Thu	27	Nov	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
			Choir Practice	7.00 – 8.30pm
Fri	28	Nov	Set up for Christmas Fair	afternoon
Sat	29	Nov	CHRISTMAS FAIR	10.30am – 2.00pm
Sun	30	Nov	<u>ADVENT SUNDAY</u>	
			Holy Communion (Pres: Fr George)	8.00am
			SUNG EUCHARIST (President and Preacher: Fr Geoff)	9.30am
			ADVENT SEQUENCE	6.00pm
			“A procession of light, with anthems, hymns, readings and prayers for Advent”	

NOTICES

CHRISTMAS FAIR: Thank you to everyone who has offered to help. We will be setting up on Friday 28 November 2 - 6 pm, so please bring your contributions then, including cakes and produce for the MU stall. Please take fliers today to your neighbours and friends and promote the event wherever you can. If you cannot offer to help, please come along anyway - *we need some customers!* See Sue Ellison for sales of prize draw tickets and contact Kristine (07572601529) or Elizabeth (01923 255715) for queries about the Fair. The proceeds of the event will go towards our household bills, so it is vital that we make this event a success. It is also a great way to introduce ourselves to the community around us.

FINAL COPY DATE for December Sword is today 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:

Saturday 13 December at 7 pm - **SOUTH OXHEY CHOIR CHRISTMAS CONCERT** will be held in St Michael's. Tickets £10. Further details from Pat Beach.

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