



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

ADVENT SUNDAY

30 November 2014

A warm welcome to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Eucharist Fr Geoff celebrates and preaches and Paul Chandler leads the intercessions.

Hymns: 28, 36, 277 and 27

Setting: White

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

At 6 pm – **Advent Sequence:**

“A procession of light, with anthems, hymns, readings and prayers for Advent”

For your prayers this week:

The Church:

The Parish of St Matthew, Oxhey, in our Diocese.

The Parish of the Falkland Islands, Stephen Venner its vicar and all its people.

The work of the Anglican Church in Zambia in protecting women and girls against violence.

The World:

Racial harmony and peace in communities in the USA.

People living with HIV/AIDS, the countries and societies devastated by it.

The work of discovering and preventing modern day slavery.

The Community and Parish:

Residents and Staff at River Court and Fairhaven care homes.

Chater Infants School.

A deeper knowledge and understanding of the Bible.

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:

Collect

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility;
that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal;
through him who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING Isaiah 64.1–9

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

- ¹ O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence –
- ² as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil – to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
- ³ When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
- ⁴ From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him.
- ⁵ You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed.
- ⁶ We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
- ⁷ There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.
- ⁸ Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand.
- ⁹ Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD, and do not remember iniquity for ever. Now consider, we are all your people.

SECOND READING I Corinthians 1.3–9

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

My brothers and sisters:

- ³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

4 I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has
5 been given you in Christ Jesus,
6 for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of
7 every kind –
8 just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you –
9 so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of
10 our Lord Jesus Christ.
11 He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the
12 day of our Lord Jesus Christ.
13 God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus
14 Christ our Lord.

GOSPEL Mark 13.24–37

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

Jesus said to his disciples:

24 'In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will
25 not give its light,
26 and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be
27 shaken.
28 Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in clouds" with great power and
29 glory.
30 Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from
31 the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.
32 From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and
33 puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near.
34 So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the
35 very gates.
36 Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have
37 taken place.
38 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.
39 But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the
40 Son, but only the Father.
41 Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come.
42 It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in
43 charge, each with his work and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch.
44 Therefore, keep awake – for you do not know when the master of the house
45 will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn,
46 or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly.
47 And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.'

THIS WEEK

Mon	1	Dec	Toddlers' Group	10 – 11.30am
			Discovering the Bible (Vicarage)	2.30pm
Tue	2	Dec	Service at River Court	3.00pm
			Discovering the Bible (Vicarage)	8.00pm
Wed	3	Dec	Coffee in Church and Food Bank	10.30 - 12 noon
Thu	4	Dec	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
			Fairhaven	morning
			Choir Practice	7.00 – 8.30pm
Sun	7	Dec	ADVENT 2	
			Holy Communion (Pres: Fr Geoff)	8.00am
			SUNG EUCHARIST	9.30am
			(President: Fr Geoff and Preacher: Martin Heath)	
			United Service at Trinity Methodist	6.30pm

NOTICES

CHRISTMAS FAIR Thank you to everyone for their hard work and support for the Christmas Fair yesterday. There will be a sale of some items after the 9.30 service today.

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.

Sunday, 14 December, after the 9.30 service, a bring-&-buy sale to raise money for materials for the Christingle Service next week.

Sunday, 14 December. Service for The Compassionate Friends and Survivors of Bereavement by Suicide at 6 pm.

Sunday 21 December at 11.45 am Christingle Service

Sunday, 21 December, St Michael's Service of Carols and Readings

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