



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

ADVENT 2
7 December 2014

A warm welcome to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Eucharist Fr Geoff celebrates, Martin Heath preaches and Pat Beach leads the intercessions.

Hymns: 26, 37, 58 and 29

Setting: Oldroyd

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

United Service at Trinity Methodist at 6.30pm

For your prayers this week:

The Church: The Parish of St Michael and All Angels, Watford, in our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer.

The Diocese of Kinkizi (Uganda): Dan Zoreka its bishop and all its people.

The work of the Delhi Brotherhood in protecting women and girls against violence.

The World: People with learning disabilities.

The prevention of cruelty to animals.

The fight against the spread of the ebola virus.

The Community and Parish: Residents and Staff at Home Manor and St Anthony's.

The people of Trinity Methodist Church and West Watford Free Church.

The members of South Oxhey Choir and their concert with us.

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

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power and come among us, and with great might succour us; that whereas, through our sins and wickedness we are grievously hindered in running the race that is set before us, your bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be honour and glory, now and for ever.

FIRST READING Isaiah 40.1-11

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

- ¹ Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.
- ² Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.
- ³ A voice cries out: 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
- ⁴ Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.
- ⁵ Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.'
- ⁶ A voice says, 'Cry out!' And I said, 'What shall I cry?' All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field.
- ⁷ The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass.
- ⁸ The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever.
- ⁹ Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, 'Here is your God!'
- ¹⁰ See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.
- ¹¹ He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

SECOND READING 2 Peter 3.8–15a

A reading from the second letter of Peter.

- ⁸ Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day.
- ⁹ The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance.
- ¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.
- ¹¹ Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness,
- ¹² waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire?
- ¹³ But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.
- ¹⁴ Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish;
- ¹⁵ and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

GOSPEL Mark 1.1–8

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

- ¹ The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.
- ² As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, ‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way;
- ³ the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: “Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,”’
- ⁴ John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.
- ⁵ And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.
- ⁶ Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey.
- ⁷ He proclaimed, ‘The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals.
- ⁸ I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.’

THIS WEEK

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| Mon | 8 | Dec | Toddlers' Group | 10 – 11.30am |
| Wed | 10 | Dec | Mothers' Union Short Service in Lady Chapel | 10.00am |
| | | | Coffee, mince pies and bring-and-buy in Church for all and Food Bank | 10.30 - 12 noon |
| | | | Home Manor | 3.00pm |
| Thu | 11 | Dec | Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language) | 10.00am |
| | | | St Anthony's | morning |
| | | | Choir Practice | 7.00 – 8.30pm |
| Sat | 13 | Dec | SOUTH OXHEY CHOIR Concert in Church | 7.00pm |
| | | | (rehearsal during afternoon) | |
| Sun | 14 | Dec | <u>ADVENT 3</u> | |
| | | | Holy Communion (Pres: Fr George) | 8.00am |
| | | | SUNG EUCHARIST (President and Preacher: Fr George) | 9.30am |
| | | | followed by a Bring-&-Buy sale in aid of Christingle | |
| | | | (The Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church | 1.00 – 5.00pm) |
| | | | Service for The Compassionate Friends | 6.00pm) |

NOTICES

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 11.15 am, Messy Church

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.