



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

ADVENT 4
21 December 2014

A warm welcome to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Eucharist Fr Geoff celebrates and preaches and Vicki Matthews leads the intercessions.

Hymns: 25 (i), 242, 309 and 35

Setting: Oldroyd

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

Messy Church is at 11.15 am and will be followed by our Christingle Service at 11.45 am.

Service of Carols and Readings at 6.00 pm. Please stay on for refreshments afterwards.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: The Parish of Welwyn and Woolmer Green in our Diocese.
The Diocese of Kontagora in Nigeria: Jonah Ibrahim its Bishop and all its People.

The Christian Community in Gaza.

The Revd Libby Lane, soon to be the Church of England's first woman Bishop.

The World: All those killed, bereaved, injured or traumatised by the atrocity in Peshawar, Pakistan.

The people of Peshawar and their community's grief.

The Community and Parish:.. All those who will be taking part in our services over the Christmas period.

The work of charities helping needy people at Christmas.

All our families coming together at Christmas

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: Sophie Ryan; Lily Roberts.

Collect

God our redeemer, who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of your Son:
grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour, so we may be ready to greet him when he comes again as our judge;
who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING 2 Samuel 7.1–11, 16

A reading from the second book of Samuel.

- ¹ Now when David, the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him,
² the king said to the prophet Nathan, ‘See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.’
³ Nathan said to the king, ‘Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you.’
⁴ But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan:
⁵ Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in?
⁶ I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle.
⁷ Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, ‘Why have you not built me a house of cedar?’
⁸ Now therefore you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel;
⁹ and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth.
¹⁰ And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly,
¹¹ from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you, David, that the Lord will make you a house.
¹⁶ Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure for ever before me; your throne shall be established for ever.

SECOND READING Romans 16.25–27

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

- ²⁵ To God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages
- ²⁶ but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith –
- ²⁷ to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory for ever! Amen.

GOSPEL Luke 1.26–38

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

- ²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth,
- ²⁷ to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary.
- ²⁸ And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.'
- ²⁹ But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be.
- ³⁰ The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God.
- ³¹ And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus.
- ³² He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David.
- ³³ He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.'
- ³⁴ Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?'
- ³⁵ The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God.
- ³⁶ And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren.
- ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God.'
- ³⁸ Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.



THIS WEEK

Mon	22	Dec	Toddlers' Group	10.00 – 11.30am
Wed	24	Dec	CHRISTMAS EVE Crib Service	4.00pm
			MIDNIGHT MASS (President and Preacher: Fr Geoff)	11.30pm
Thu	25	Dec	CHRISTMAS DAY Holy Communion (Pres: Fr Geoff)	8.00am
			PARISH EUCHARIST (President and Preacher: Fr Geoff)	9.30am
Sun	28	Dec	CHRISTMAS 1 Holy Communion (Pres: Fr Geoff)	8.00am
			CAROLS ROUND THE CRIB	9.30am

NOTICES

CAROL SERVICE: tonight at 6 pm. After the service hot mince pies and coffee and mulled wine will be served. Donations of mince pies will be welcome. If anyone would like to help with the refreshments please get in touch with Sylvia Moring.

FINAL COPY DATE for Christmas and New Year Sword is today Sunday 21 December. Hard copy or floppy disc to Rob White or email to robwhite.watford@tiscali.co.uk

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS: We are now taking donations for Christmas flowers, if you would like to make a donation, please give it to Jean Alexander or Fay Storey.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS BOOKLETS: These are available for all at the back of church, as is a tub for donations for those who have an entry in the booklet. It would be good if all the donations could be made this week (gift-aided if possible).

PERSONAL CHRISTMAS CARD delivery – the tables are available for your cards. Please check and take any cards addressed to you.

GIVING ENVELOPES FOR 2014 are on a table in the south aisle. Please collect yours. If you wish to join the envelope giving scheme please see Valerie Alvarez.

ANGEL TREE: Please take a label if you wish to bring a gift for a child or a mother/carer at the Crib Service which is at 4 pm on Christmas Eve. The gifts will be collected for the women's refuge after the service.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY:

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