



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

CHRISTMAS 1
28 December 2014

We wish you a Happy Christmastide and a warm welcome to our services today.

At 9.30 am we have “Carols Round the Crib” which will be led by Father Geoff.

Coffee and tea will be served in church after the 9.30 service – please stay on.

NO Evening Service.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: The Parish of Markyate Street in our Diocese.
The Diocese of Kushtia (Bangladesh): Sunil Mankhin its Bishop,
and all its people.
The hands on health programme of the Anglican Church in
Malawi.

The World: A more peaceful world in the New Year.
All refugees and stateless people.
People who are homeless.

The Community and Parish:... Wisdom in our New Year Resolutions.
That 2015 will be happy and fulfilled for our Church Family.
All who will join us for worship and events in 2015.

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, who wonderfully created us in your own image and yet more wonderfully restored us through your Son Jesus Christ: grant that, as he came to share in our humanity, so we may share the life of his divinity; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING Isaiah 61.10 – 62.3

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

- ¹⁰ I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
- ¹¹ For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.
- ¹ For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch.
- ² The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give.
- ³ You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

GOSPEL Luke 2.22–40

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

- ²² When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, Mary and Joseph brought Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord
- ²³ (as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'),

24 and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of
the Lord, 'a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.'

25 Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this
man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of
Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him.

26 It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see
death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah.

27 Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the
parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary
under the law,

28 Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,
29 'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to
your word;
30 for my eyes have seen your salvation,
31 which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
32 a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people
Israel.'

33 And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being
said about him.

34 Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is
destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a
sign that will be opposed
35 so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed – and a sword will
pierce your own soul too.'

36 There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe
of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven
years after her marriage,
37 then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple
but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day.

38 At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak
about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of
Jerusalem.

39 When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord,
they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth.

40 The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the
favour of God was upon him.

THIS WEEK

Mon	29	Dec	NO Toddlers' Group	
Wed	31	Dec	NEW YEAR'S EVE	
			Coffee in Church	10.30 - 12 noon
Thu	1	Jan	NEW YEAR'S DAY	
			Bank Holiday	
			NO Holy Communion service	
Sun	4	Jan	Holy Communion (Pres: Fr Geoff)	8.00am
			SUNG EUCHARIST:	9.30am
			President and Preacher: Fr Geoff	
			Joint Service with Trinity Methodist at St Michael's	6.00pm

NOTICES

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.

PERSONAL CHRISTMAS CARDS. Please check and take any cards from the table that are 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.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY:

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

St Michael and All Angels PCC is a Registered Charity No 1132010

