



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

ADVENT SUNDAY

29 November 2015

We wish you a warm welcome to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Eucharist Fr Geoff celebrates and preaches. Violet Allen-Smith leads the intercessions. Sunday School in Choir Vestry.

Hymns: 28, 36, 39 and 31

Setting: Thorne

Refreshments will be served in church after the 9.30 service – please stay on.

There is a Baptism at 3.00pm.

Evening Prayer at 6.00pm.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: The Parish of All Saints Oxhey in our Diocese.
The Diocese of West Malaysia, Ng Moon Hing its Bishop and all its people.
Intercession and Thanksgiving for the Missionary work of the Church.

The World: The work of Church Army with lonely and vulnerable people.
All who suffer because of climate change.
That governments may work together towards peace and justice for all.

The Community and Parish: Thanksgiving for our Christmas fair and all who gave time, energy, items and money.
Staff and residents at River Court and Fairhaven.
Our PCC members.

The Ill and the Housebound: Especially Bruce Alexander, Sonia Anderson, Tina Bennett, Janet Bridge, Jean and Robert Caton, Peter Coley, Marion Craddock-Jones, Audrey Dixon, Claire Dunning, Sandra Fullerton, Jenny Houghton, Kristine Jenkins, Mary Kearns, Lesley Kinch, Loretta Lynch, Dorcas Ochola, Brian O’Riordan, Helen Perry, Mark Pritchard, Christina Simon, Mark Simon, Karen Stride and Nicholas Weeks.

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 Jeremiah 33.14–16

A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah.

¹⁴ The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfil the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah.

¹⁵ In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.

¹⁶ In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: 'The LORD is our righteousness.'

SECOND READING I Thessalonians 3.9–13

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

⁹ How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you?

¹⁰ Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

¹¹ Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you.

¹² And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you.

¹³ And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

GOSPEL Luke 21.25–36

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

Jesus said to his disciples:

25 ‘There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves.

26 People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

27 Then they will see “the Son of Man coming in a cloud” with power and great glory.

28 Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.’

29 Then he told them a parable: ‘Look at the fig tree and all the trees;
30 as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near.

31 So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near.

32 Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place.

33 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

34 Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life,

35 and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth.

36 Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.’

THIS WEEK

Mon	30	Nov	Toddlers' Group	10.00am – 11.30am
Tue	1	Dec	Christmas Lunch at West Herts College	12.30pm
			Service at River Court	2.30pm
Wed	2	Dec	Food Bank	10.00am – 12 noon
			Coffee in Church	10.30am – 12 noon
			PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL	7.55pm
Thu	3	Dec	Holy Communion	10.00am
			Fairhaven	morning
			Choir Practice	7.00 – 8.30pm
Sun	6	Dec	ADVENT 2	
			Holy Communion (Pres: Fr George)	8.00am
			SUNG EUCHARIST (President and Preacher: Fr George)	9.30am
			Sunday School	
			followed by a Bring-&-Buy Sale in aid of Christingle materials	
			United Evening Service at Trinity Methodist	6.30pm

NOTICES

CHRISTMAS FAIR Many thanks to all who helped and supported this event. There are still some items for sale - please visit Norma after the 9.30 service.

PARISH CHRISTMAS GREETINGS Forms are on the signing up table at the back of church. Do write your messages and make your donations as usual and by 9 December. They will be displayed on notice boards this year. Once again our donations for Christian Aid will be doubled. Brilliant! Many thanks.

VOLUNTEERS needed once a month for -- money counting after the 9.30 Sunday Service and making coffee after the 9.30 Sunday Service. Please see or contact Iola Bilson (01923 227276). New rotas are in preparation so an early response would be very helpful. Thank you.

I WOULD LIKE TO RUN A SHORT TRAINING COURSE (one or possibly two sessions) for those who lead intercessions during the 9.30 Sunday Morning Service, both for people currently undertaking this role, and anyone who would like to take it on. I will be contacting everyone in due course, but if there is anyone who would like to lead intercessions and doesn't already, I would love to hear from you. Fr Geoff

THE CHRISTMAS MEALS AT WEST HERTS COLLEGE are now fully booked. Sorry if you did not manage to book in time. Any queries to Martin Matthews.

SUNDAY SCHOOL If you would like to help with a session during this term please see Fr Geoff, Sue Ellison or Elizabeth Watkin.

CHRISTINGLES: If you would like to help to make some Christingles on Saturday, 12 December, please see Norma to make arrangements.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

13th December Christingle service at 11.15 am.

20th December Carol Service at 6.00 pm

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