



# THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

*St Michael and All Angels*

Watford

ADVENT 2  
6 December 2015

We wish you a warm welcome to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Eucharist Fr Geoff celebrates and preaches. Graham Mordue leads the intercessions. Sunday School in Choir Vestry.

**Hymns: 334, 58, 25 (i) and 29**

**Setting: Thorne**

Refreshments will be served in church after the 9.30 service and there will be a Bring-&-Buy Sale in aid of Christingle materials – please stay on.

United Evening Service at Trinity Methodist at 6.30pm.

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## **For your prayers this week:**

**The Church:** The Parish of St Luke's Watford in our Diocese.  
The Diocese of Western Louisiana, USA, Jacob Owensby its Bishop and all its people.

The work of Us with the Church in Malaysia.

Church Army Evangelists planning Christmas activities.

**The World:** Members of our Armed Forces.

All people living in areas of armed conflict.

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

Our local RAF Association branch.

Peace, harmony and cohesion between people of different faiths in our community.

**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:**

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**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 Malachi 3.1–4**

A reading from the book of the prophet Malachi.

Thus says the LORD God:

<sup>1</sup> See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight – indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts.

<sup>2</sup> But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap;  
<sup>3</sup> he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness.

<sup>4</sup> Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

**SECOND READING Philippians 1.3–11**

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.

My brothers and sisters,

<sup>3</sup> I thank my God every time I remember you,  
<sup>4</sup> constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you,  
<sup>5</sup> because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now.

<sup>6</sup> I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ.

7 It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold  
me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both  
in my imprisonment and in the defence and confirmation of the  
gospel.  
8 For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion  
of Christ Jesus.  
9 And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more  
with knowledge and full insight  
10 to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ  
you may be pure and blameless,  
11 having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through  
Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

### **GOSPEL Luke 3.1–6**

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

1 In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius  
Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and  
his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and  
Lysanias ruler of Abilene,  
2 during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God  
came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness.  
3 He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism  
of repentance for the forgiveness of sins,  
4 as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, 'The  
voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the  
Lord, make his paths straight.  
5 Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made  
low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways  
made smooth;  
6 and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

## THIS WEEK

Mon	7	Dec	Toddlers' Group	10.00am – 11.30am
			Discovering the Bible (Choir Vestry)	2.30pm
Tue	8	Dec	Intercessory Prayer Group	2.30pm
			Christmas Dinner at West Herts College	7.00pm
Wed	9	Dec	Food Bank	10.00am – 12 noon
			Coffee, mince pies and Bring-&-Buy in Church	10.30am
Thu	10	Dec	Holy Communion	10.00am
			St Anthony's	morning
			Service at Home Manor	2.30pm
			NO Choir Practice	
Sat	12	Dec	Christingles to be made	
Sun	13	Dec	<b>ADVENT 3</b>	
			Holy Communion (Pres: Fr Geoff)	8.00am
			<b>SUNG EUCHARIST</b>	
			(President: Fr Geoff and Preacher: Violet Allen-Smith)	<b>9.30am</b>
			Sunday School	
			Christingle Service	11.15am
			(Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church)	1.00 – 5.00pm
			Service for the Compassionate Friends	6.00pm

## NOTICES

CHRISTMAS FAIR Many thanks to all who helped and supported this very enjoyable event. The sum raised (including Sunday sales) amounted to £1,326.49 which will go into church funds.

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

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 for place and time.

CAROL SERVICE This will be on 20<sup>th</sup> December at 6.00 pm.

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