



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

ADVENT 3
13 December 2015

We wish you a warm welcome to our services today.

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

Hymns: 34, 234 (t 213), 38 and 26

Setting: Thorne

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

Our Christingle Service follows at 11.15 am.

(Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church 1.00 – 5.00 pm)

Service for the Compassionate Friends is at 6.00 pm.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: The Parish of Codicote in our Diocese.

The Diocese of the Windward Islands, Calvert Friday its Bishop and all its People.

The work of Us with the Church in Uganda.

The World: A world full of hope for children and young people.

People who will be refugees at Christmas.

Christian Aid's Christmas Appeal.

The Community and Parish: Watford Grammar School for Boys, Chater

Infants, and Laurance Haines Schools.

Watford's homeless, lonely and poor people at Christmas.

All who take part in Compassionate Friends groups.

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, Christina Simon, Mark Simon, Karen Stride and

Nicholas Weeks.

The Departed:

Collect

O Lord Jesus Christ, who at your first coming sent your messenger to prepare your way before you:
grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready your way by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just,
that at your second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in your sight; for you are alive and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING Zephaniah 3.14–20

A reading from the book of the prophet Zephaniah.

- ¹⁴ Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem!
- ¹⁵ The LORD has taken away the judgements against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more.
- ¹⁶ On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak.
- ¹⁷ The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing
- ¹⁸ as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it.
- ¹⁹ I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth.
- ²⁰ At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the LORD.

SECOND READING Philippians 4.4–7

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.

- 4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.
5 Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near.
6 Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.
7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

GOSPEL Luke 3.7–18

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

- 7 John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, ‘You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?
8 Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, “We have Abraham as our ancestor”; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham.
9 Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.’
10 And the crowds asked him, ‘What then should we do?’
11 In reply he said to them, ‘Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.’
12 Even tax-collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, ‘Teacher, what should we do?’
13 He said to them, ‘Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.’
14 Soldiers also asked him, ‘And we, what should we do?’ He said to them, ‘Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.’
15 As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah,
16 John answered all of them by saying, ‘I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.
17 His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.’
18 So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

THIS WEEK

Mon	14	Dec	Chater Infants School Christmas Celebrations Toddlers' Group	9.00am 10.00am – 11.30am
Tue	15	Dec	Watford Boys Grammar School Nine Lessons and Carols (Church in use all day for rehearsals)	7.30pm
Wed	16	Dec	Food Bank Coffee in Church	10.00am – 12 noon 10.30am – 12 noon
Thu	17	Dec	Holy Communion followed by coffee in Choir Vestry – everyone welcome Choir Practice	10.00am 10.45am 7.00 – 8.30pm
Fri	18	Dec	Laurance Haines School Christmas Celebrations	9.00am – 12noon
Sun	20	Dec	ADVENT 4 Holy Communion (Pres: Fr Geoff) SUNG EUCHARIST (President and Preacher: Fr Geoff) Sunday School Rehearsal for Carol Service Carol Service followed by refreshments	8.00am 9.30am afternoon 6.00pm

NOTICES

BURNS NIGHT: If you would like to join a group for a Burns Night Supper at West Herts College on Tuesday 26th January, please see Martin Matthews. Menu, cost etc are at the back of Church. Please note that if you went to the Christmas meal at West Herts, your 20% voucher can be used for this, and Fr Geoff has a few more 20% vouchers.

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.

MINCE PIES The Carol Service will be next Sunday, 20 December, at 6 pm. As usual we hope to serve hot mince pies and mulled wine afterwards and the Social Committee would be grateful for any mince pies that church members could donate.

FINAL COPY DATE for Christmas and New Year Sword is **Thursday 17 December.** Hard copy or floppy disc to Rob White or email to robwhite.watford@tiscali.co.uk.

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