



# THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

*St Michael and All Angels*

Watford

**ADVENT 4**  
**20 December 2015**

We wish you a warm welcome to our services today.

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

**The service will be a special Christmas Mass based on popular carol melodies.**

(Words provided on handout sheets.)

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

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

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

**The Church:** Unity and peace between all Christians and fellowship with people of other faiths.

All Christians living in countries where it is difficult to celebrate Christmas.

All Christians living as refugees.

**The World:** Peace on earth and goodwill among all people.

Armed forces personnel serving abroad at Christmas.

Everyone travelling at Christmas time.

**The Community and Parish:** All visitors to our Christmas services.

Homeless, housebound, bereaved and lonely people in our Community.

All our family and friends living far away or coming home for Christmas..

**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:**

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**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 Micah 5.2–5a**

A reading from the book of the prophet Micah. The LORD says to his people:

<sup>2</sup> But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.

<sup>3</sup> Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labour has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel.

<sup>4</sup> And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth;

<sup>5</sup> and he shall be the one of peace.

**SECOND READING Hebrews 10.5–10**

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

<sup>5</sup> When Christ came into the world, he said, ‘Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me;

<sup>6</sup> in burnt-offerings and sin-offerings you have taken no pleasure.

<sup>7</sup> Then I said, “See, God, I have come to do your will, O God” (in the scroll of the book, it is written of me).’

<sup>8</sup> When Christ said, ‘You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings’ (these are offered according to the law),  
<sup>9</sup> then he added, ‘See, I have come to do your will.’ He abolishes the first in order to establish the second.  
<sup>10</sup> And it is by God’s will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

## **GOSPEL Luke 1.39–45**

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

<sup>39</sup> Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country,  
<sup>40</sup> where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.  
<sup>41</sup> When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit  
<sup>42</sup> and exclaimed with a loud cry, ‘Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.  
<sup>43</sup> And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me?  
<sup>44</sup> For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy.  
<sup>45</sup> And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.’

## THIS WEEK

Mon	21	Dec	Toddlers' Group	10.00am – 11.30am
Wed	23	Dec	Food Bank	10.00am – 12 noon
			Coffee in Church	10.30am – 12 noon
Thu	24	Dec	<b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b>	
			Crib Service	4.00pm
			<b>MIDNIGHT MASS</b> (President and Preacher: Fr Geoff)	<b>11.30pm</b>
Fri	25	Dec	<b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b>	
			Holy Communion (Pres: Fr Geoff)	8.00am
			<b>CHRISTMAS EUCHARIST</b> (President and Preacher: Fr Geoff)	<b>9.30am</b>
Sun	27	Dec	<b><u>ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST</u></b>	
			Holy Communion (Pres: Fr Geoff)	8.00am
			<b>Carols round the Crib with Eucharist</b>	<b>9.30am</b>

## 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.

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

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY** and many congratulations to Pat Ricketts who celebrates her 90th birthday today. Please stay after the service to give your greetings to Pat.

**PLEASE NOTE** that there will be no celebration of Holy Communion at 10 am on Thursday, 24 December nor on Thursday, 31 December.

**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. This year the gifts will be given to the Watford and Three Rivers Refugee Project.

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

**GIVING ENVELOPES FOR 2016** are on a table in the north aisle. Please collect yours. If you wish to join the envelope giving scheme please see Valerie Alvarez.

**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.