



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

**St John the Evangelist
27 December 2015**

We wish you a warm welcome to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Service Fr Geoff celebrates and preaches. Jamie Wareham leads the intercessions.

The service will be a Eucharist with Carols Round the Crib..

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

NO evening service.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: The leaders of all the Christian Churches, for inspiring leadership in 2016.

Faith and strength for all persecuted Christians in the coming year.

The work of the Church in reconciliation and peacemaking in the New Year.

The World: Her Majesty the Queen and the Royal Family in the coming year.

God's blessing on all efforts to seek peace in 2016.

God's wisdom for all decisions of our Government in 2016..

The Community and Parish: A happy and fulfilled 2016 for all our Church family.

All those who will begin the year without homes or jobs.

All who will move into our area in 2016.

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

Merciful Lord, cast your bright beams of light upon the Church: that, being enlightened by the teaching of your blessed apostle and evangelist Saint John, we may so walk in the light of your truth that we may at last attain to the light of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ your incarnate Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING Exodus 33.7–11a

A reading from the book of Exodus.

- 7 Moses used to take the tent and pitch it outside the camp, far off from the camp; he called it the tent of meeting. And everyone who sought the LORD would go out to the tent of meeting, which was outside the camp.
- 8 Whenever Moses went out to the tent, all the people would rise and stand, each of them, at the entrance of their tents and watch Moses until he had gone into the tent.
- 9 When Moses entered the tent, the pillar of cloud would descend and stand at the entrance of the tent, and the LORD would speak with Moses.
- 10 When all the people saw the pillar of cloud standing at the entrance of the tent, all the people would rise and bow down, all of them, at the entrance of their tents.
- 11 Thus the LORD used to speak to Moses face to face, as one speaks to a friend.

SECOND READING I John 1

A reading from the first letter of John.

- 1 We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life –
- 2 this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us –
- 3 we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.
- 4 We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

- 5 This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all.
- 6 If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true;
- 7 but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.
- 8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- 9 If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
- 10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

GOSPEL John 21.19b–25

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

- 19 After this Jesus said to Peter, ‘Follow me.’
- 20 Peter turned and saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following them; he was the one who had reclined next to Jesus at the supper and had said, ‘Lord, who is it that is going to betray you?’
- 21 When Peter saw him, he said to Jesus, ‘Lord, what about him?’
- 22 Jesus said to him, ‘If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you? Follow me!’
- 23 So the rumour spread in the community that this disciple would not die. Yet Jesus did not say to him that he would not die, but, ‘If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you?’
- 24 This is the disciple who is testifying to these things and has written them, and we know that his testimony is true.
- 25 But there are also many other things that Jesus did; if every one of them were written down, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.

THIS WEEK

Mon	28	Dec	NO Toddlers' Group	
Wed	30	Dec	Food Bank	10.00am – 12 noon
Thu	31	Dec	NO Holy Communion at 10am (Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church)	6pm – midnight)
Sun	3	Jan	<u>CHRISTMAS 2</u> Holy Communion	8.00am
			Sung Eucharist	9.30am
			United Evening Service at St Michael's	6.00pm

NOTICES

PLEASE NOTE that there will be no celebration of Holy Communion at 10 am on Thursday, 31 December.

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE who contributed to the work that made our church beautiful for the Christmas Services. Also thanks to Jean Alexander and Fay Storey for the many flower decorations and to everyone who contributed to their cost. Thank you to the choir for a beautiful Carol Service and to the people who helped with the other special Christmas Services.

PERSONAL CHRISTMAS CARD delivery –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.

SWORD for Christmas and the New Year 2016 is available at the back of the Church. Please note that subscriptions for 2016 are now due. These should be paid to Valerie Alvarez. The cost is £6 for the year, ie 12 copies for the price of 10.

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.

