



# THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

*St Michael and All Angels*

Watford

**ADVENT SUNDAY**

**27 November 2016**

A warm welcome to our services.

At the 9.30 am Eucharist Fr Geoff celebrates and preaches and Vicki Matthews leads the intercessions.

**Hymns: 334, 28, 39 and 31**

**Setting: Oldroyd**

Children's Church in Littlebury Hall.

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

(Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church 1.00pm – 5.00pm)

Evening Prayer at 6.00 pm.

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

**The Church:** The Parish of All Saints, Leavesden in our Diocese.  
The Diocese of Kansas (USA), Dean Wolfe its bishop and all its people.

Church Army's preparation for Christmas outreach.

**The World:** Safety and respect for women and girls across the world.

All those who are "Just About Managing".

Christian Aid's work in Myanmar (Burma).

**The Community and Parish:** Thanksgiving for all who worked for, and supported, our Christmas Fair.

The children, young people and staff of the schools in our parish.

A spiritually fruitful Advent at St Michael's.

**The Ill and the Housebound:** Especially Bruce Alexander, Sonia Anderson, Gavin Ashenden, Christopher Bilson, Janet Bridge, Robert Caton, Peter Coley, Marion Craddock-Jones, Judith Degen, Audrey Dixon, Claire Dunning, Peter Hinchey, Kristine Jenkins, Mary Kearns, Lesley Kinch, Loretta Lynch, Dorcas Ochola, Brian O'Riordan, Helen Perry, Michele Rodford, Christina Simon, Mark Simon, and all who care for them.

**The Departed:**

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**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 Isaiah 2.1-5**

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

- <sup>1</sup> The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.
- <sup>2</sup> In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it.
- <sup>3</sup> Many peoples shall come and say, 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.' For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.
- <sup>4</sup> He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.
- <sup>5</sup> O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!

## **SECOND READING Romans 13.11–14**

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

- <sup>11</sup> Brothers and sisters, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers;
- <sup>12</sup> the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armour of light;
- <sup>13</sup> let us live honourably as in the day, not in revelling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarrelling and jealousy.
- <sup>14</sup> Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

## **GOSPEL Matthew 24.36–44**

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

Jesus spoke to his disciples:

- <sup>36</sup> ‘About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.
- <sup>37</sup> For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.
- <sup>38</sup> For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark,
- <sup>39</sup> and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man.
- <sup>40</sup> Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left.
- <sup>41</sup> Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left.
- <sup>42</sup> Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.
- <sup>43</sup> But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into.
- <sup>44</sup> Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.’

## **THIS WEEK**

|      |    |     |  |                   |
|------|----|-----|--|-------------------|
| Mon  | 28 | Nov | Toddlers' Group                                    | 10 – 11.30am      |
|      |    |     | Ascot Road Free School visiting Church             | 1.30pm – 3.00pm   |
| Tue  | 29 | Nov | Intercessory prayer group (Choir Vestry)           | 2.30pm            |
| Wed  | 30 | Nov | Food Bank  | 10.00am – 12 noon |
|      |    |     | Coffee in Church                                   | 10.30am – 12 noon |
| Thur | 1  | Dec | Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language) | 10.00am           |
|      |    |     | Choir Practice                                     | 7.00-8.30pm       |
| Sat  | 3  | Dec | Christingle Family Workshop in Church              | 1.30pm – 3.30pm   |
| Sun  | 4  | Dec | <b><u>SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT/CHRISTINGLE</u></b>  |                   |
|      |    |     | Holy Communion (Pres: Fr Geoff)                    | 8.00am            |
|      |    |     | <b>CHRISTINGLE SERVICE</b>                         |                   |
|      |    |     | (President and Preacher: Fr Geoff)                 | 9.30am            |
|      |    |     | Evening Prayer                                     | 6.00pm.           |

## **NOTICES**

**CHRISTMAS FAIR** Thank you to everyone who supported the Fair by coming, helping or making. Any items that are still to be sold will be available after the 9.30 service.

**THE TICKETS FOR THIS YEAR'S GRAND DRAW** are now available. The date of the draw is 4th December, after the Christingle service, so there is only a week left in which to sell them. Please speak to Sue or Elizabeth for further information.

### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:**

**Sunday, 4 December, Christingle Service.** This year, the Christingles will be made at a Family Workshop which will be held in church on **Saturday, 3 December**, from 1.30 - 3.30 pm.

**Wednesday, 7 December**, from 10.30 am to 12 noon, there will be a Christmas Coffee Morning, with a Christmas Bring-and-Buy sale. All the proceeds will pay for the materials that have been used to make the Christingles for the service on the previous Sunday. Everyone welcome.

**Sunday, 18 December, St Michael's Carol Service, 6.00 pm**