



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

ADVENT 2/CHRISTINGLE

4 December 2016

A warm welcome to our services today.

At 9.30 am there is our First Sunday of the Month Eucharist; Fr Geoff celebrates and there is an all-age presentation. The theme for our service is Christingle

Hymns: Leaflet

Setting: Oldroyd

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

The Grand Draw will be held after the service.

(Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church – 2.00 - 5.30 pm)

Evening Prayer at 6.00 pm.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: The Parish of St John, Watford in our Diocese.

The Diocese of Karnataka North in South India, Ravikumar J Niranjana its Bishop, and all its people.

Church Army's Research Unit.

The World: The work of the Children's Society.

The people of Aleppo and Mosul.

All those affected by the plane crash in Colombia.

The Community and Parish: The South Oxhey Choir.

Local Schools' Christmas Celebrations.

Residents and Staff at River Court and Fairhaven homes.

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: Sheila Molly Burger.

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 Isaiah 9.2, 6, 7

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

² The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them light has shined.

⁶ For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷ His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

GOSPEL Matthew 3.1–12

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

¹ In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming,

² ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.’

³ This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, ‘The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: “Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.”’

⁴ Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey.

⁵ Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan,

⁶ and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷ But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, ‘You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?

⁸ Bear fruit worthy of repentance.

⁹ Do not presume 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.

¹⁰ 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.

¹¹ I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

¹² His winnowing-fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing-floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.’

THIS WEEK

Mon	5	Nov	Toddlers' Group	10 – 11.30am
			Discovering the Bible (Choir Vestry)	2.30pm
Tue	6	Nov	Finance Committee	10.00am
			Service at River Court	2.30pm
			Christmas Meal at West Herts College	6.30pm
Wed	7	Nov	Food Bank	10.00am – 12 noon
			Coffee, mince pies and Christmas Bring-&-Buy	10.30am – 12 noon
			Proceeds to be used for the Christingle materials	
			Laurance Haines School rehearsal	1.30pm
Thur	8	Dec	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
			St Anthony's	morning
			NO Choir Practice	
Sat	10	Dec	(South Oxhey Choir rehearsal	from 2.00pm)
			SOUTH OXHEY CHOIR CONCERT	7.00pm
Sun	11	Dec	<u>THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT</u>	
			Holy Communion (Pres: Fr George)	8.00am
			SUNG EUCHARIST	9.30am
			(President: Fr Geoff. Preacher: Fr George)	9.30am
			Children's Church in Littlebury Hall	
			Followed by Bring-&-Buy Sale	
			(Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church	1.00 – 5.00pm)
			Service for The Compassionate Friends	6.00pm.

NOTICES

THE THEME FOR OUR SERVICE THIS MORNING IS CHRISTINGLE: There will be envelopes and candles to collect for the Children's Society.

THE CHRISTMAS FAIR last Saturday raised a final total of £1717.01. Many thanks to everyone who helped at the fair, contributed items and came along to purchase. It was a very enjoyable occasion bringing many visitors to the church.

THIS YEAR'S GRAND DRAW: The draw will take place after the Christingle service this morning.

PARISH CHRISTMAS GREETINGS: Please place your contributions in the box at the back of church.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS: Unfortunately we will not be able to have contributions for flowers this year. However, if you would like to provide a potted plant this will be welcome. Please give any plants to Fay.

FINAL COPY DATE for the Christmas/New Year Sword is **Friday, 16 December**. Hard copy to Rob White or email to robwhite.watford@googlemail.com

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY:

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

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