



# THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

*St Michael and All Angels*

Watford

**ADVENT 3**  
**11 December 2016**

A warm welcome to our services.

At the 9.30 am Eucharist Fr George celebrates and preaches and Sylvia Moring leads the intercessions.

**Hymns: 37, 24, 34 and 35**

**Setting: Oldroyd**

Children's Church in Littlebury Hall.

Refreshments will be served in church after the 9.30 service and there will be a Bring-&-Buy sale – please stay on.

(Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church 1.00pm – 5.00pm)

Service for The Compassionate Friends at 6.00 pm.

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

**The Church:** The Parish of St Michael and All Angels Bishops Hatfield.  
The Diocese of Kericho in Kenya, its Bishop and all its People.  
USPG-supported work with Tea Plantation families in Sri Lanka.

**The World:** Church Army's work with Communities in Ireland.  
All victims of abuse.

The work of Christian Aid against worldwide poverty.

**The Community and Parish:** Chater Infants and Laurance Haines Schools.

All who look after our Church finances.

Everyone who has to work over Christmas.

**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**

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 Isaiah 35.1–10**

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

- <sup>1</sup> The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,  
<sup>2</sup> and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God.  
<sup>3</sup> Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees.  
<sup>4</sup> Say to those who are of a fearful heart, 'Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.'  
<sup>5</sup> Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped;  
<sup>6</sup> then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert;  
<sup>7</sup> the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.  
<sup>8</sup> A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray.  
<sup>9</sup> No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there.  
<sup>10</sup> And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

## SECOND READING James 5.7–10

A reading from the letter of James.

- <sup>7</sup> Be patient, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains.
- <sup>8</sup> You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near.
- <sup>9</sup> Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors!
- <sup>10</sup> As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

## GOSPEL Matthew 11.2–11

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

- <sup>2</sup> When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples
- <sup>3</sup> and said to Jesus, ‘Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?’
- <sup>4</sup> Jesus answered them, ‘Go and tell John what you hear and see:
- <sup>5</sup> the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them.
- <sup>6</sup> And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.’
- <sup>7</sup> As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: ‘What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind?
- <sup>8</sup> What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces.
- <sup>9</sup> What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet.
- <sup>10</sup> This is the one about whom it is written, “See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.”
- <sup>11</sup> Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.’

## **THIS WEEK**

Mon	12	Nov	Chater Infants School Christmas Celebration Toddlers' Group	9.00am 10 – 11.30am
Wed	14	Nov	Food Bank Coffee in Church Service at Home Manor <b>PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (Budget meeting)</b>	10.00am – 12 noon 10.30am – 12 noon 2.30pm <b>7.25pm</b>
Thur	15	Dec	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language) Followed by coffee in the Choir Vestry Choir Practice	10.00am  7.00-8.30pm
Fri	16	Dec	Laurance Haines School Christmas Carol Service	9.00am – 12 noon
Sun	18	Dec	<b><u>FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT</u></b> Holy Communion (Pres: Fr Geoff) <b>SUNG EUCHARIST</b> (President and Preacher: Fr Geoff) Children's Church in Littlebury Hall Choir rehearsal CAROL SERVICE followed by refreshments	8.00am <b>9.30am</b> 9.30am  afternoon 6.00pm.

## **NOTICES**

**CAROL SERVICE:** 6 pm on Sunday, 18 December. After the service hot mince pies and coffee and mulled wine will be served. Donations of mince pies will be welcome please bring them on the morning or evening of the 18th. If anyone would like to help with the refreshments please get in touch with Sylvia Moring.

**WE WILL NOT BE HAVING THE “ANGEL TREE” THIS YEAR,** but if people would like to continue the tradition of bringing presents for needy children and adults, they are very welcome. The presents will be given to families who are being supported by the Watford and Three Rivers Refugee Partnership at their party in February, so presents should be marked with who they are for, i.e. adult, child age, male/female etc., and not Christmas-specific.

**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](mailto:robwhite.watford@googlemail.com)

### **CHRISTMAS DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

Christmas Eve	Crib Service	4 00 pm
Midnight Mass	(Pres & Preacher: Fr Geoff)	11.30 pm
Christmas Morning Communion		9.30 am