



# THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

*St Michael and All Angels*

Watford

**ADVENT 4**  
**18 December 2016**

A warm welcome to our services.

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

**Hymns: 49, 75 (i), 238 and 58**

**Setting: Oldroyd**

Children's Church in Littlebury Hall.

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

**CAROL SERVICE followed by mince pies and mulled wine at 6.00pm.**

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

**The Church:** The Parish of Panshanger in our Diocese.

The Diocese of Kilmore, Elphin and Ardagh (Ireland), Ferran Glenfield its Bishop and all its People.

The Church's support for children worldwide.

**The World:** The people of Aleppo.

The work of the international Charities we support.

All those who will be refugees at Christmas.

**The Community and Parish:** . All our visitors and returning friends at Christmas.

The work of the local Charities we support.

All who will be homeless in our area at 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**

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 Isaiah 7.10–16**

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

- <sup>10</sup> The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying,  
<sup>11</sup> ‘Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.’  
<sup>12</sup> But Ahaz said, ‘I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.’  
<sup>13</sup> Then Isaiah said: ‘Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also?’  
<sup>14</sup> Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel.  
<sup>15</sup> He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good.  
<sup>16</sup> For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.’

**SECOND READING Romans 1.1–7**

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

- <sup>1</sup> Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God,  
<sup>2</sup> which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures,  
<sup>3</sup> the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh

4 and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the  
spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our  
Lord.  
5 Through Christ we have received grace and apostleship to bring  
about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his  
name,  
6 including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,  
7 To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to  
you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

## **GOSPEL Matthew 1.18–25**

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

18 The birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his  
mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived  
together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit.  
19 Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose  
her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly.  
20 But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord  
appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be  
afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is  
from the Holy Spirit.  
21 She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save  
his people from their sins.'  
22 All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through  
the prophet:  
23 'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name  
him Emmanuel,' which means, 'God is with us.'  
24 When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord  
commanded him; he took her as his wife,  
25 but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and  
he named him Jesus.



## THIS WEEK

Mon	19	Dec	Toddlers' Group	10 – 11.30am
			WGSB Organist Rehearsing	3.30 – 6.30pm
Tue	20	Dec	WGSB Rehearsals	8.30am – 5.00pm
			Watford Grammar School for Boys Carol Service	7.30pm
Wed	21	Dec	Food Bank	10.00am – 12 noon
			Coffee in Church	10.30am – 12 noon
Thur	22	Dec	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
			Choir Practice	7.00-8.30pm
Fri	23	Dec	Rehearsal for Crib Service	3.30pm
Sat	24	Dec	Crib Service	4.00pm
			MIDNIGHT MASS	11.30pm
Sun	25	Dec	<b><u>CHRISTMAS DAY</u></b>	
			Holy Communion (Pres: Fr Geoff)	8.00am
			<b>CHRISTMAS MORNING COMMUNION</b>	<b>9.30am</b>
			(President and Preacher: Fr Geoff)	9.30am
			NO Evening Service.	
Mon	26	Dec	<b><i>BOXING DAY</i></b>	
			NO Toddlers' Group	

## **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 GREETINGS BOOKLETS:** These are available at the back of church, as is a tub for donations for those who have an entry in the booklet. It would be good if all the donations could be made this week (gift-aided if possible).

**THE BRING-&-BUY SALE** last Sunday raised £44 - many thanks.

**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.