



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT

19 November 2017

A warm welcome to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Eucharist Fr Geoff celebrates and Martin Heath preaches. Sarah Dunning leads the intercessions.

Hymns: 334, 474, 290 and 430

Setting: Thorne

Children's Church in Littlebury Hall.

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

Watford Interfaith Pilgrimage starts at 12.45pm (see Notices)

NO Evening Prayer tonight.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: The Parish of St Hugh and St John Chells (Stevenage).
The Diocese of Uyo (Nigeria), Prince Asukwo Antai, its Bishop, and all its people.

The Council of Anglican Provinces in Africa.

The World: The people of Zimbabwe.
Sustainable development in African Countries.
Victims of flash floods in Greece.

The Community and Parish: The Multicultural Community Centre.

Our Christmas Fair.

Fellowship among people of different faiths.

The Ill and the Housebound: Especially Christopher Bilson, Janet Bridge, Peter Coley, Marion Craddock-Jones, Audrey Dixon, Sister Dominic, Claire Dunning, Jemima Hill, Peter Hinchey, Blossom Hutchinson, Kristine Jenkins, Mary Kearns, Lesley Kinch, Loretta Lynch, Dorcas Ochola, Brian O’Riordan, Michele Rodford, Rick Sear, Christina Simon, Mark Simon, Peter White; and all who care for them.

The Departed: Judith Degen.

Collect

Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son was revealed to destroy the works of the devil and to make us the children of God and heirs of eternal life:
grant that we, having this hope, may purify ourselves even as he is pure;
that when he shall appear in power and great glory we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom;
where he is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING Zephaniah 1.7, 12–18

A reading from the book of the prophet Zephaniah.

- 7 Be silent before the Lord GOD! For the day of the LORD is at hand; the LORD has prepared a sacrifice, he has consecrated his guests.
- 12 At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the people who rest complacently on their dregs, those who say in their hearts, 'The LORD will not do good, nor will he do harm.'
- 13 Their wealth shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them.
- 14 The great day of the LORD is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter, the warrior cries aloud there.
- 15 That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements.
- 17 I will bring such distress upon people that they shall walk like the blind; because they have sinned against the LORD, their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like dung.
- 18 Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the Lord's wrath; in the fire of his passion the whole earth shall be consumed; for a full, a terrible end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

SECOND READING I Thessalonians 5.1–11

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Thessalonians.

- 1 Concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you.
- 2 For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.
- 3 When they say, 'There is peace and security,' then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labour pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape!
- 4 But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief;
- 5 for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness.

6 So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober;
7 for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night.
8 But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and
love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation.
9 For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord
Jesus Christ,
10 who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him.
11 Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

GOSPEL Matthew 25.14–30

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

Jesus said to his disciples,

14 'The kingdom of heaven is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and
entrusted his property to them;
15 to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his
ability. Then he went away.
16 The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and
made five more talents.
17 In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents.
18 But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and
hid his master's money.
19 After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them.
20 Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more
talents, saying, "Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more
talents."
21 His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been
trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of
your master."
22 And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, "Master, you handed over
to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents."
23 His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been
trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of
your master."
24 Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, "Master, I
knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where
you did not scatter seed;
25 so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is
yours."
26 But his master replied, "You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap
where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter?
27 Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would
have received what was my own with interest.
28 So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents.
29 For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but
from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away.
30 As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be
weeping and gnashing of teeth."

THIS WEEK

Mon	20	Nov	Toddlers' Group	10 – 11.30am
Wed	22	Nov	Food Bank	10.00am – 12 noon
			Coffee in Church	10.30am – 12 noon
Thur	23	Nov	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
Fri	24	Nov	Funeral in church of Carmen Sweeney	11.00am
Sat	25	Nov	CHRISTMAS FAIR	11.30am – 2.30pm
Sun	26	Nov	<u>CHRIST THE KING</u>	
			Holy Communion (Pres: Fr George)	8.00am
			SUNG EUCHARIST	9.30am
			(Pres & Preacher: Fr George)	
			Children's Church in Littlebury Hall	
			(Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church)	1.00 – 5.00pm
			Evening Prayer	6.00pm

NOTICES

WATFORD INTERFAITH PILGRIMAGE starts at Watford and District Synagogue at 12.45 today with Kosher cakes and refreshments served by members of the Jewish youth community on Mitzvah Day. It then moves to Val Murugan Hindu Temple, on to Central Mosque, Holy Rood Catholic Church and finishing at the Sri Guru Singh Sabha Gurdwara at 5.00 pm where there will be refreshments. At each place of worship there will be either a talk or someone will show pilgrims around, with a chance to ask questions.

HOW MUCH CAN WE RAISE on the 25th at our Christmas Fair? £2,000? Who else can we invite? Who else can we bring along to have lunch? Where else can we put posters? What else can we do? Elizabeth and Gillian will be delighted to hear your ideas and suggestions!

HELP AT THE CHRISTMAS FAIR (25 November 11.30 am-2.30 pm)

There are many ways in which you can help at the Christmas Fair. Some take longer than others; some can be done at home. Here are a few suggestions -

Prizes are needed for the Tombola. Please give to Valerie O'Riordan.

Cook something for the lunches (see list for suggestions).

Volunteer some time to help with a stall.

Make a cake(s); preserves are also welcome.

Look at the list at the west end to see which stalls need someone to run them.

Donate some books, bric-a-brac, anything for prizes.

BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY COURSE: Saturday 17th February 2018, 9.30 - 3.30 pm at St Luke's, Langley Way, Watford.

To book: www.stalbans.anglican.org/ministry/find-a-course. Closing date 9 February.

FINAL COPY DATE FOR THE NOVEMBER SWORD is MIDDAY next Sunday, 26 November. Hard copy to Rob White or email to swordparishmagazine@googlemail.com