



# THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

*St Michael and All Angels*

Watford

**CHRIST THE KING**

**26 November 2017**

A warm welcome to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Eucharist Fr George celebrates and preaches. Mark Simon leads the intercessions.

**Hymns: 165, 497, 601 and 563**

**Setting: Thorne**

Children's Church in Littlebury Hall.

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

(Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church 1.00 – 5.00pm)

NO Evening Prayer tonight.

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

### **The Church:**

The Parish of Langleybury in our Diocese.

The Diocese of Wad Medani (Sudan): Saman Farajalla Mahdi its Bishop, and all its people.

The Anglican Church in Zimbabwe.

### **The World:**

A good future for the people of Zimbabwe.

Work to remove the stigma of HIV/AIDS and encourage treatment.

All those helping homeless people.

### **The Community and Parish:** Our local schools.

The Watford Schools Trust.

St John's Church of England Free School.

### **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:**

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**Collect**

Eternal Father, whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven that he might rule over all things as Lord and King;

keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit and in the bond of peace, and bring the whole created order to worship at his feet; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**FIRST READING Ezekiel 34. 11–16, 20–24**

A reading from the book of the prophet Ezekiel.

- <sup>11</sup> Thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out.  
<sup>12</sup> As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness.  
<sup>13</sup> I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land.  
<sup>14</sup> I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel.  
<sup>15</sup> I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord GOD.  
<sup>16</sup> I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.  
<sup>20</sup> Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep.  
<sup>21</sup> Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide,  
<sup>22</sup> I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep.  
<sup>23</sup> I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd.  
<sup>24</sup> And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the LORD, have spoken.

**SECOND READING Ephesians 1. 15–23**

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians.

- <sup>15</sup> I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love towards all the saints, and for this reason  
<sup>16</sup> I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers.  
<sup>17</sup> I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him,

18 so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to  
which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the  
saints,  
19 and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to  
the working of his great power.  
20 God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated  
him at his right hand in the heavenly places,  
21 far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is  
named, not only in this age but also in the age to come.  
22 And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for  
the church,  
23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

## **GOSPEL Matthew 25.31–46**

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

Jesus said to his disciples:

31 'When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on  
the throne of his glory.

32 All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from  
another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats,  
33 and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left.

34 Then the king will say to those at his right hand, "Come, you that are blessed by my  
Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world;  
35 for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to  
drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me,

36 I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in  
prison and you visited me."

37 Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and  
gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink?

38 And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you  
clothing?

39 And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?"

40 And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of  
these who are members of my family, you did it to me."

41 Then he will say to those at his left hand, "You that are accursed, depart from me into  
the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels;

42 for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to  
drink,

43 I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing,  
sick and in prison and you did not visit me."

44 Then they also will answer, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a  
stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?"

45 Then he will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least  
of these, you did not do it to me."

46 And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.'

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## **THIS WEEK**

Mon	27	Nov	Toddlers' Group	10 – 11.30am
			Visit to Church of Chater Junior School	1.30 – 2.30pm
Wed	29	Nov	Food Bank	10.00am – 12 noon
			Coffee in Church	10.30am – 12 noon
			Visit to Church of Ascot Road Free School	2.00 – 3.00pm
Thur	30	Nov	NO Service of Holy Communion at 10 am	
Sun	3	Dec	<b><u>ADVENT 1</u></b>	
			Holy Communion	8.00am
			<b>FIRST SUNDAY of MONTH SUNG EUCHARIST</b>	<b>9.30am</b>
			(With All-Age Presentation)	
			NO Evening Prayer	

## **NOTICES**

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

**CHRISTMAS BOOKLET:** Time is getting very short for submitting your messages for this. Please could you fill in a form at the back of church giving your message for the Christmas booklet as soon as possible if you wish to contribute.

**BRING-AND-BUY SALES:** The last two Bring-&-Buy sales this year in aid of Church Funds, will be held after the 9.30 Services on Sunday, 3 December, and Sunday, 10 December.

**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](http://www.stalbans.anglican.org/ministry/find-a-course). Closing date 9 February.

**FINAL COPY DATE FOR THE ADVENT SWORD** is MIDDAY today Sunday, 26 November. Hard copy to Rob White or email to [swordparishmagazine@googlemail.com](mailto:swordparishmagazine@googlemail.com)

**CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING** on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December, 10.30 am – 12 noon served with hot mince pies. There will be a Christmas Bring-&-Buy Sale with all proceeds going to Christingle. The Christingle Service will be held on Sunday, 7 January 2018, at 2 pm and will be shared with our friends from the Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church.