



# THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

*St Michael and All Angels*

Watford

**ADVENT SUNDAY**

**3 December 2017**

A warm welcome to our services today.

At 9.30 am there is our First Sunday of the Month Eucharist; the children lead the intercessions and there is an all-age presentation.

**Hymns: 1, 35, 616 and 29**

**Setting: Thorne**

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

NO Evening Prayer tonight.

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

**The Church:** The Parish of St Andrew, Watford.

The Diocese of West Buganda (Uganda), Henry Katunga-Tamale its Bishop and all its people.

The work of Church Army in Ireland.

**The World:** The work of the worldwide Church with families affected by HIV/AIDS.

The people of Zimbabwe.

Our politicians and political leaders.

**The Community and Parish:** Residents and staff at River Court.

Chater Junior School and Ascot Road Free School.

Our Church finances.

**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**

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility;  
that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal;  
through him who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**FIRST READING I Corinthians 1.1–9**

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

<sup>1</sup> From Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes,

<sup>2</sup> To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:

<sup>3</sup> Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>4</sup> I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus,

<sup>5</sup> for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind –

<sup>6</sup> just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you –

<sup>7</sup> so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>8</sup> He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>9</sup> God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

This is the word of the Lord

## **GOSPEL Mark 13.24–37**

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

Jesus said to his disciples:

- 24 'In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon  
will not give its light,  
25 and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will  
be shaken.  
26 Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in clouds" with great power  
and glory.  
27 Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds,  
from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.  
28 From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and  
puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near.  
29 So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at  
the very gates.  
30 Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have  
taken place.  
31 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.  
32 But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor  
the Son, but only the Father.  
33 Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come.  
34 It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves  
in charge, each with his work and commands the doorkeeper to be on the  
watch.  
35 Therefore, keep awake – for you do not know when the master of the  
house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn,  
36 or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly.  
37 And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.'
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## THIS WEEK

Mon	4	Dec	Toddlers' Group	10 – 11.30am
			Discovering the Bible	2.30pm
Tue	5	Dec	Service at River Court	2.30pm
			Christmas Meal at West Herts College	6.30pm
Wed	6	Dec	Food Bank	10.00am – 12 noon
			Christmas Coffee Morning	10.30am – 12 noon
			With Bring-&-Buy Sale	
			Finance Committee	7.30pm
Thur	7	Dec	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
Sat	9	Dec	Town Centre Live Nativity	
Sun	10	Dec	<b><u>ADVENT 2</u></b>	
			Holy Communion	8.00am
			<b>SUNG EUCHARIST</b>	<b>9.30am</b>
			(Speaker from Watford Schools Trust)	
			Children's Church in Littlebury Hall	
			Followed by a Bring-&-Buy Sale	
			(Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church	1.00 – 5.00pm)
			Service for The Compassionate Friends	6.00pm

## NOTICES

**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.

**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.

**CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING** on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December, 10.30 am – 12 noon. There will be a Bring-&-Buy Sale with all proceeds going to Christingle.