



# THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

*St Michael and All Angels*

Watford

ADVENT 2  
10 December 2017

A warm welcome to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Eucharist Fr George celebrates and John Way from Watford Schools Trust will give a talk. Sylvia Moring leads the intercessions.

**Hymns: 24, 25, 26 and 31**

**Setting: Thorne**

Children's Church in Littlebury Hall.

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

(Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church 1.00 – 5.00pm)

Service for The Compassionate Friends at 6.00pm.

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

**The Church:** The Parish of St John, Bishop's Hatfield.  
The Diocese of Western North Carolina (USA), Jose Antonio McLaughlin its Bishop and all its people.  
Church Schools.

**The World:** USPG's work in helping to eradicate cholera in Ghana.  
Christian Aid's work with farming communities in Burkina Faso.  
Peace in the Middle East.

**The Community and Parish:** Residents and Staff at Home Manor.  
The Compassionate Friends organisation.  
Laurance Haines and Watford Boys' Grammar Schools.

**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:** Anne Wightman.

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**Collect**

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power and come among us, and with great might succour us; that whereas, through our sins and wickedness we are grievously hindered in running the race that is set before us, your bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be honour and glory, now and for ever.

**FIRST READING Isaiah 40.1-11**

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

- <sup>1</sup> Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.
- <sup>2</sup> Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.
- <sup>3</sup> A voice cries out: 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
- <sup>4</sup> Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.
- <sup>5</sup> Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.'
- <sup>6</sup> A voice says, 'Cry out!' And I said, 'What shall I cry?' All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field.
- <sup>7</sup> The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass.
- <sup>8</sup> The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever.
- <sup>9</sup> Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, 'Here is your God!'
- <sup>10</sup> See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.
- <sup>11</sup> He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

## SECOND READING 2 Peter 3.8–15a

A reading from the second letter of Peter.

<sup>8</sup> Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day.

<sup>9</sup> The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance.

<sup>10</sup> But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

<sup>11</sup> Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness,

<sup>12</sup> waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire?

<sup>13</sup> But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

<sup>14</sup> Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish;

<sup>15</sup> and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

## GOSPEL Mark 1.1–8

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

<sup>1</sup> The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

<sup>2</sup> As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, ‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way;

<sup>3</sup> the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: “Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,”’

<sup>4</sup> John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

<sup>5</sup> And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

<sup>6</sup> Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey.

<sup>7</sup> He proclaimed, ‘The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals.

<sup>8</sup> I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.’

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## THIS WEEK

Mon	11	Dec	Toddlers' Group	10 – 11.30am
Tue	12	Dec	Watford Boys Grammar School - Service of Lessons and Carols	Rehearsals, all day 7.30pm
Wed	13	Dec	Food Bank Coffee in Church Service at Home Manor PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL	10.00am – 12 noon 10.30am – 12 noon 2.30pm 7.25pm
Thur	14	Dec	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language) St Anthony's	10.00am morning
Fri	15	Dec	Laurance Haines Christmas Festivities	2.00pm
Sun	17	Dec	<b><u>ADVENT 3</u></b> Holy Communion <b>SUNG EUCHARIST</b> (President and Preacher: Fr Geoff) Children's Church in Littlebury Hall Holy Baptism <b>Christmas Carol Service</b> followed by mulled wine and mince pies	8.00am <b>9.30am</b>  12 noon <b>6.00pm</b>

## NOTICES

PARISH CHRISTMAS DINNER: 40+ from St Michael's enjoyed a Christmas meal provided by West Herts College Students on Tuesday 5 Dec. and during the evening £150 was raised for CRISIS at CHRISTMAS. Thank you to Martin Matthews for organising this very happy occasion.

A REMINDER THAT THERE WILL BE A CHRISTMAS LUNCH in church on Christmas Day. All are welcome. Please let Gillian or Fr. Geoff know definitely by next Wednesday 13th if you'd like to come.

ST MICHAEL'S CAROL SERVICE: This will be at 6 pm on Sunday, 17 December. Refreshments will be served after the Service for which donations of mince pies will be gratefully received.

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.

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

24 December at 4.00pm – Crib Service

30 December at 7.30pm – Concert given by Watford Youth Sinfonia.

7 January 2018 at 2.00pm – Christingle Service – preceded at 12.30pm with a Bring and Share Lunch. This is a shared event with the Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church.