



# THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

*St Michael and All Angels*

Watford

**ADVENT 4**  
**Christmas Eve**  
**24 December 2017**

We wish you a very Happy Christmas and a warm welcome to our services today. At the 9.30 am Eucharist Fr Geoff celebrates and preaches. Pat Beach leads the intercessions.

**Hymns: 32, 41, 238 and 58**

**Setting: Thorne**

Children's Church in Littlebury Hall.

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

Crib Service at 4.00pm

**MIDNIGHT MASS at 11.30pm.**

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

**The Church:** The Parish of Harpenden in our Diocese.  
The Diocese of Yola in Nigeria, Markus Ibrahm its Bishop and all its people.

The USPG supported St Luke's hospital in the Holy Land.

**The World:** Peace in the Holy Land.

Hospital Maternity Units.

People who are homeless, lonely or bereaved at Christmas.

**The Community and Parish:** All our visitors at Christmas and family members joining us for Christmas.

Our Church musicians.

Our young families and children.

**The Ill and the Housebound:** Especially Christopher Bilson, Janet Bridge, Peter Coley, Marion Craddock-Jones, Kate Dickinson, 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**

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 2 Samuel 7.1–11, 16**

A reading from the second book of Samuel.

- <sup>1</sup> Now when David, the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him,  
<sup>2</sup> the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.'  
<sup>3</sup> Nathan said to the king, 'Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you.'  
<sup>4</sup> But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan:  
<sup>5</sup> Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in?  
<sup>6</sup> I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle.  
<sup>7</sup> Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, 'Why have you not built me a house of cedar?'  
<sup>8</sup> Now therefore you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel;  
<sup>9</sup> and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth.  
<sup>10</sup> And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly,  
<sup>11</sup> from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you, David, that the Lord will make you a house.  
<sup>16</sup> Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure for ever before me; your throne shall be established for ever.

## SECOND READING Romans 16.25–27

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

- <sup>25</sup> To God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages
- <sup>26</sup> but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith –
- <sup>27</sup> to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory for ever! Amen.

## GOSPEL Luke 1.26–38

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

- <sup>26</sup> In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth,
- <sup>27</sup> to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary.
- <sup>28</sup> And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.'
- <sup>29</sup> But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be.
- <sup>30</sup> The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God.
- <sup>31</sup> And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus.
- <sup>32</sup> He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David.
- <sup>33</sup> He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.'
- <sup>34</sup> Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?'
- <sup>35</sup> The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God.
- <sup>36</sup> And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren.
- <sup>37</sup> For nothing will be impossible with God.'
- <sup>38</sup> Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.



## **THIS WEEK**

Mon	25	Dec	<b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b> Holy Communion	8.00am
			<b>SUNG EUCHARIST</b> (President and Preacher: Fr Geoff)	<b>9.30am</b>
			Parish Christmas Dinner	afternoon
Wed	27	Dec	Food Bank	10.00am – 12 noon
Thur	28	Dec	NO Holy Communion at 10.00am (Watford Youth Sinfonia rehearsals	noon – 7.00pm)
Fri	29	Dec	(Watford Youth Sinfonia rehearsals	noon – 7.00pm)
Sat	30	Dec	(Watford Youth Sinfonia rehearsals	2.00pm – 6.00pm)
			<b>CONCERT</b> by WATFORD YOUTH SINFONIA	7.30pm
Sun	31	Dec	<b>CHRISTMAS 1</b> Holy Communion	8.00am
			<b>SUNG EUCHARIST</b> (President and Preacher: Fr Geoff)	<b>9.30am</b>
			Children's Church in Littlebury Hall (Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church	5.00pm – 11.00pm)

## **NOTICES**

THE PARISH CHRISTMAS MESSAGES BOOKLETS are available for all at the back of church. If you did not put a message in the booklet but would like to join Christian Aid's Christmas appeal, that would be great and please donate in one of their envelopes and put it in the box. A wonderful opportunity as the government will match £ for £ and of course you are able to gift aid.

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.

CONCERT in CHURCH by WATFORD YOUTH SINFONIA at 7.30pm, Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> December:

Matthew Taylor – Symphony No. 4 (commissioned by the Arts Council England)  
Korngold – Violin Concerto (Laure Chan, violin)  
Shostakovich – Symphony No. 10

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

6 January 2018 at 10.00am - Christingle Workshop

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.