



# THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

*St Michael and All Angels*

Watford

**CHRISTMAS 1**  
**31 December 2017**

We wish you a Happy Christmastide and a warm welcome to our services today. At the 9.30 am Eucharist Fr Geoff celebrates and preaches. Sylvia Moring leads the intercessions.

**Hymns: 63, 55, 76 and 44**

**Setting: Thorne**

Children's Church in Littlebury Hall.

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

NO Evening Service tonight.

*(Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church 5.00pm – 11.00pm)*

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

**The Church:** The Parish of Wheathampstead in our Diocese.  
The Diocese of Zululand, Monument Makhanya its Bishop, and all its people

All religious leaders giving New Year messages.

**The World:** All those working for peace in 2018.

Persecuted Christians in our world.

Wisdom and integrity in world leaders.

**The Community and Parish:** A happy and fulfilled New Year for our Church and all connected with it.

God's guidance and wisdom for our plans for 2018.

Leaders of faith communities in Watford.

**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**

Almighty God, who wonderfully created us in your own image and yet more wonderfully restored us through your Son Jesus Christ:  
grant that, as he came to share in our humanity, so we may share the life of his divinity; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**FIRST READING Isaiah 61.10 – 62.3**

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

- <sup>10</sup> I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
- <sup>11</sup> For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.
- <sup>1</sup> For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch.
- <sup>2</sup> The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give.
- <sup>3</sup> You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

**SECOND READING Galatians 4.4–7**

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Galatians.

- <sup>4</sup> When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law,
- <sup>5</sup> in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children.
- <sup>6</sup> And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba! Father!'
- <sup>7</sup> So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

## GOSPEL Luke 2.15–21

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

- <sup>15</sup> When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, ‘Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.’
- <sup>16</sup> So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.
- <sup>17</sup> When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child;
- <sup>18</sup> and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them.
- <sup>19</sup> But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.
- <sup>20</sup> The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.
- <sup>21</sup> After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.



## **THIS WEEK**

Mon	1	Jan	<b>NEW YEAR'S DAY – BANK HOLIDAY</b> (NO Discovering the Bible or Toddlers' Group today)	
Wed	3	Jan	Food Bank	10.00am – 12 noon
			Coffee in Church	10.30am – 12 noon
Thur	4	Jan	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
Sat	6	Jan	Christingle Workshop	10.00am
Sun	7	Jan	<b><u>EPIPHANY</u></b> Holy Communion	8.00am
			<b>FIRST SUNDAY of MONTH SUNG EUCHARIST</b> (With All-Age Presentation)	<b>9.30am</b>
			Bring and Share Lunch	12.30pm
			followed by <b>CHRISTINGLE SERVICE</b>	2.00pm
			This is a shared event with the Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church	

## **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.

**PERSONAL CHRISTMAS CARDS**. Please check and take any cards from the table that are addressed to you.

**CHRISTINGLE SERVICE**: Candlesticks and collecting envelopes for next Sunday's Service are available at the back of the church.

### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:**

16 January      Intercessory Prayer Group at 2.30 pm (Choir Vestry)  
 17 January      PCC at 7.30 pm (Choir Vestry)  
 21 January      Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Service  
                          at Beechen Grove Baptist Church at 3.30 pm