



# THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

*St Michael and All Angels*

Watford

ADVENT 2  
9 December 2018

A warm welcome to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Eucharist Fr Geoff celebrates and preaches. Phil Gough leads the intercessions.

**Hymns: 26, 442, 32 and 516**

**Setting: Thorne**

Children's Church in Littlebury Hall.

Coffee and tea will be served in church after the 9.30 service – please stay on.

(Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church 1.00 – 5.00 pm)

Service for The Compassionate Friends at 6.00 pm.

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

**The Church:** Church Schools in our Diocese.

The Parish of St Etheldreda with St Luke, Bishop's Hatfield, in our Diocese.

The Parish of the Falkland Islands.

**The World:** Wisdom and compassion in our elected representatives.

The prevention of abuse against women and girls.

Peace for the people of Yemen.

**The Community and Parish:** Our Choir and Organists.

The Compassionate Friends.

Staff and Residents at Home Manor and St Anthony's.

**The Ill and the Housebound:** Especially Christopher Bilson, Fr John Brown, Marion Craddock-Jones, Audrey Dixon, Cynthia Dixon, Claire Dunning, Fr Robert Featherstone, Jemima Hill, Peter Hinchey, Michael Jennings, Mary Kearns, Lesley Kinch, Loretta Lynch, Craig McKay, Lisa Mills, Sylvia Obeng, Dorcas Ochola, Christina Simon, Mark Simon, Norma Stone, Baby Adelaide Tonkin, Peter White; and all who care for them.

**The Departed:**

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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 Malachi 3.1–4**

A reading from the book of the prophet Malachi.

Thus says the LORD God:

<sup>1</sup> See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight – indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts.

<sup>2</sup> But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap;  
<sup>3</sup> he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness.

<sup>4</sup> Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

**SECOND READING Philippians 1.3–11**

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.

My brothers and sisters,

<sup>3</sup> I thank my God every time I remember you,  
<sup>4</sup> constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you,  
<sup>5</sup> because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now.

<sup>6</sup> I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ.

7 It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold  
me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both  
in my imprisonment and in the defence and confirmation of the  
gospel.  
8 For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion  
of Christ Jesus.  
9 And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more  
with knowledge and full insight  
10 to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ  
you may be pure and blameless,  
11 having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through  
Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

### **GOSPEL Luke 3.1–6**

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

1 In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius  
Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and  
his brother Philip ruler of the region of Iturea and Trachonitis, and  
Lysanias ruler of Abilene,  
2 during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God  
came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness.  
3 He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism  
of repentance for the forgiveness of sins,  
4 as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, 'The  
voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the  
Lord, make his paths straight.  
5 Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made  
low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways  
made smooth;  
6 and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

### **THIS WEEK**

Mon	10	Dec	Toddlers' Group	10.00 – 11.30am
Wed	12	Dec	Food Bank	10.00am – 12 noon
			Coffee in Church	10.30am – 12 noon
			Service at Home Manor	2.30pm
Thur	13	Dec	Holy Communion	10.00am
			Communion at St Anthony's	11.00am
			St Michael's Christmas Dinner at West Herts College	6.30pm
Sun	16	Dec	<b><u>ADVENT 3</u></b>	
			Holy Communion (Pres: Fr Geoff)	8.00am
			SUNG EUCHARIST (President & Preacher: Fr Geoff)	9.30am
			Children's Church in Littlebury Hall	
			CAROL SERVICE	6.00pm

### **NOTICES**

CHRISTINGLE – 6<sup>th</sup> January 2019. (1) Please pick up a Children's Society 'candle' to fill with coins to raise funds for this charity. (2) On Sunday 6<sup>th</sup>, bring and share lunch with our Jacobite friends at noon. (3) Join the service at 2:00p.m. and donate your 'candle' at the offertory.

GIFTS FOR THE ANGEL TREE are to go to WTRRP and these are the things they would like, preferably unwrapped or with a tag with contents or age suitability. Children's stationery e.g. gel pens, highlighters, coloured paper, crayons, chunky crayons, thick markers, calculators and playdo pots. Thank you.

SWORD – new year, new price. £0.75 per copy. £7.50 for 12.

### DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

Sunday 30 December at 7.30pm – Watford Youth Sinfonia concert