



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

ADVENT 3
16 December 2018

A warm welcome to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Eucharist Fr Geoff celebrates and preaches. Pat Beach leads the intercessions.

Hymns: 29, 34, 186 and 563

Setting: Thorne

Children's Church in Littlebury Hall.

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

CAROL SERVICE

6.00pm

For your prayers this week:

The Church: The Parish of Lemsford in our Diocese.
The Diocese of Kivu in Rwanda, Augustin Ahimana its Bishop
and all its People.

The Anglican Church in Bangladesh.

The World: The work of Christian Aid in Lebanon.
Wisdom in discerning the way forward for our country.
The work of Chaplains in Health, Industry, Education, Police and
Prison services.

The Community and Parish: Residents and Staff at the Chase Care Centre.
Chater Infants and Laurance Haines Primary Schools.
Watford Grammar Schools for Girls and for Boys.

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:

Collect

O Lord Jesus Christ, who at your first coming sent your messenger to prepare your way before you:
grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready your way by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just,
that at your second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in your sight; for you are alive and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING Zephaniah 3.14–20

A reading from the book of the prophet Zephaniah.

- ¹⁴ Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem!
- ¹⁵ The LORD has taken away the judgements against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more.
- ¹⁶ On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak.
- ¹⁷ The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing
- ¹⁸ as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it.
- ¹⁹ I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth.
- ²⁰ At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the LORD.

SECOND READING Philippians 4.4–7

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.

- 4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.
5 Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near.
6 Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.
7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

GOSPEL Luke 3.7–18

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

- 7 John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?
8 Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham.
9 Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.'
10 And the crowds asked him, 'What then should we do?'
11 In reply he said to them, 'Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.'
12 Even tax-collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, 'Teacher, what should we do?'
13 He said to them, 'Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.'
14 Soldiers also asked him, 'And we, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.'
15 As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah,
16 John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.
17 His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'
18 So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

THIS WEEK

Mon	17	Dec	Chater Infants School Christmas Celebration	9.00am
			Toddlers' Group	10.00 – 11.30am
Tue	18	Dec	WBGS rehearsal	8.20am – 7.30pm
			Watford Boys' Grammar School Service of Lessons and Carols	7.30pm
Wed	19	Dec	Food Bank	10.00am – 12 noon
			Coffee in Church	10.30am – 12 noon
Thur	20	Dec	Holy Communion	10.00am
			followed by coffee for all in Choir Vestry	
Fri	22	Dec	Laurance Haines School Christmas Celebration	9.00am
Sun	23	Dec	<u>ADVENT 4</u>	
			Holy Communion (Pres: Fr Geoff)	8.00am
			SUNG EUCHARIST (President & Preacher: Fr Geoff)	9.30am
			Children's Church in Littlebury Hall	
			Evening Prayer	6.00pm

NOTICES

THE CHRISTMAS MESSAGES BOOKLET with donations to Christian Aid will be available to all from today. Vicki Matthews would be grateful if those donating would do so at the latest by Sunday 30 December. If people are not able to meet this deadline, please let her know.

FUNDRAISING: The Christmas Fair raised a total of £1494. Many thanks to everyone who helped and contributed. Holly and Jamie's concert raised £315 from a very successful event and we also made a profit of £135 from the sale of drinks at the South Oxhey Choir concert. Norma's last bring and buy sale of the year raised £62.

CHRISTINGLE – 6th January 2019. (1) Please pick up a Children's Society 'candle' to fill with coins to raise funds for this charity. (2) On Sunday 6th, 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