



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

ADVENT 4
23 December 2018

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

Hymns: 607, 27, 238 and 242.

Children's Church in Littlebury Hall.

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

Evening Prayer at 6.00 pm.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: Our Bishops, Alan, Michael and Richard.
The Parish of Flamstead in our Diocese.
The Diocese of Kubwa (Nigeria) Duke Akamisoko its Bishop and all its people.

The World: Peace and goodwill among all people.
Church and other leaders preparing Christmas Messages.
Her Majesty the Queen and the Royal Family.

The Community and Parish: All who will attend our Christmas services.
Anyone in our area who is alone at Christmas.
Homeless people and rough sleepers in our area.

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

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 Micah 5.2–5a

A reading from the book of the prophet Micah. The LORD says to his people:

² But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.

³ Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labour has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel.

⁴ And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth;

⁵ and he shall be the one of peace.

SECOND READING Hebrews 10.5–10

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

⁵ When Christ came into the world, he said, ‘Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me;

⁶ in burnt-offerings and sin-offerings you have taken no pleasure.

⁷ Then I said, “See, God, I have come to do your will, O God” (in the scroll of the book, it is written of me).’

8 When Christ said, 'You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in
sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings' (these
are offered according to the law),
9 then he added, 'See, I have come to do your will.' He abolishes the
first in order to establish the second.
10 And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the
offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

GOSPEL Luke 1.39–45

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

39 Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill
country,
40 where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.
41 When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb.
And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit
42 and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and
blessed is the fruit of your womb.
43 And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord
comes to me?
44 For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my
womb leapt for joy.
45 And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of
what was spoken to her by the Lord.'

THIS WEEK

Mon	24	Dec	<u>CHRISTMAS EVE</u> NO Toddlers' Group Children's Crib Service	4.00pm
			MIDNIGHT MASS	11.30pm
Tue	25	Dec	<u>CHRISTMAS DAY</u> Holy Communion	8.00am
			CHRISTMAS DAY COMMUNION	9.30am
Wed	26	Dec	<u>BOXING DAY</u> NO Coffee in Church	
Thur	27	Dec	Holy Communion	10.00am
			Wedding rehearsal	11.00am
Fri	28	Dec	(Rehearsal by Watford Youth Sinfonia	1.00 – 7.00pm)
Sat	29	Dec	Wedding	2.30pm
			(Rehearsal by Watford Youth Sinfonia	4.30 – 9.00pm)
Sun	30	Dec	<u>CHRISTMAS I</u> Holy Communion with Carols Round the Crib	9.30am
			(Rehearsal by Watford Youth Sinfonia	2.30 – 7.00pm)
			Concert by Watford Youth Sinfonia	7.30pm)

NOTICES

THE CHRISTMAS MESSAGES BOOKLET with donations to Christian Aid is available to all. 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.

CHRISTMAS DINNER AT WEST HERTS COLLEGE: Thank you to all those who attended last Thursday evening. CRISIS at Christmas will benefit from £225 which will provide Christmas for ten homeless people.

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 2:00pm. 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.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

Sunday 30 December at 7.30pm – Watford Youth Sinfonia concert including Symphony No 5 by Sibelius and Romance for Bassoon and Orchestra by Elgar.

Tickets are £6.00 students, £8.00 concessions, £12.00 adults.