



# THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

*St Michael and All Angels*

Watford

**CHRISTMAS 1**  
**30 December 2018**

We wish you a warm welcome to our services today.

At the 9.30 am there is a Eucharist with Carols Round the Crib. Fr Geoff celebrates and preaches. Sylvia Moring leads the intercessions.

**Hymns: 67, 64, 76 and 68.**

Coffee and tea will be served in church after the 9.30 service – please stay on.  
(Concert rehearsal 2.30 – 7.00pm)

Concert by Watford Youth Sinfonia at 7.30 pm.

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

**The Church:** The Parish of Wheathampstead in our Diocese.  
The Diocese of Kyoto (Japan), Stephen Takashi Kochi its Bishop,  
and all its people.  
The work of the Church in fostering peace and goodwill among all people.

**The World:** A peaceful 2019 in our world.  
The Church's worldwide work in healthcare provision.  
The people of Indonesia and Italy following recent tsunami and earthquake devastation.

**The Community and Parish:** Our service of the Lord at St Michael's in 2019.  
The Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church.  
Watford Youth Sinfonia.

**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, Baby Adelaide Tonkin, Peter White; and all who care for them.

**The Departed:** Norma Stone.

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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 I Samuel 2.18–20, 26**

A reading from the first book of Samuel.

- <sup>18</sup> Samuel was ministering before the LORD, a boy wearing a linen ephod.
- <sup>19</sup> His mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year, when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice.
- <sup>20</sup> Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, 'May the LORD repay you with children by this woman for the gift that she made to the LORD'; and then they would return to their home.
- <sup>26</sup> Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favour with the LORD and with the people.

**SECOND READING Colossians 3.12–17**

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Colossians.

- <sup>12</sup> As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.
- <sup>13</sup> Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.
- <sup>14</sup> Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.
- <sup>15</sup> And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful.

- <sup>16</sup> Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God.
- <sup>17</sup> And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

## **GOSPEL Luke 2.41–52**

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

- <sup>41</sup> Every year the parents of Jesus went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover.
- <sup>42</sup> And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival.
- <sup>43</sup> When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it.
- <sup>44</sup> Assuming that he was in the group of travellers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends.
- <sup>45</sup> When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him.
- <sup>46</sup> After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions.
- <sup>47</sup> And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers.
- <sup>48</sup> When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, 'Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety.'
- <sup>49</sup> He said to them, 'Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?'
- <sup>50</sup> But they did not understand what he said to them.
- <sup>51</sup> Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.
- <sup>52</sup> And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favour.

## **THIS WEEK**

Mon	31	Dec	NO Toddlers' Group Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church	5.30 – 10.30pm
Tue	1	Jan	<b><u>NEW YEAR'S DAY</u></b>	
Wed	2	Jan	Food Bank Coffee in Church	10.00am – 12 noon 10.30am – 12 noon
Thur	3	Jan	Holy Communion	10.00am
Sun	6	Jan	<b><u>EPIPHANY</u></b> Holy Communion FIRST SUNDAY of MONTH SUNG EUCHARIST (President: Fr Geoff; All-Age Presentation) Followed by refreshments Bring & Share Lunch CHRISTINGLE SERVICE Evening Prayer	8.00am 9.30am  12 noon 2.00pm 6.00pm

## **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 today Sunday 30 December. If people are not able to meet this deadline, please let her know.

**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. If you are able to Gift Aid your donation please use a Christingle envelope. (2) On Sunday 6<sup>th</sup>, bring and share lunch with our Jacobite friends at noon. (3) Join the service at 2:00pm. and donate your 'candle' or envelope at the offertory.

### **TONIGHT**

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.