



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

ADVENT 2
8 December 2019

A warm welcome to our services.

At the 9.30 am Sung Eucharist Fr Geoff celebrates and preaches. Vicki Matthews leads the intercessions.

Hymns: 87, 40, 29 and 26

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 – 5.00pm

Service for The Compassionate Friends at 6.00pm.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: The Parish of Ayot St Peter in our Diocese.
The Work of the Mothers' Union around the World.
The Anglican Diocese of Tamale, Ghana and its work against poverty.

The World: People in countries blighted by corruption.
The protection of human rights across the world.
The Children's Society and its work.

The Community and Parish: Residents and staff at the Chase and St Anthony's Care Homes.
The Compassionate Friends.
Preparations for Celebration 2020.

The Ill and the Housebound: Especially Christopher Bilson, Marion Craddock-Jones, Audrey Dixon, Cynthia Dixon, Claire Dunning, Fr Robert Featherstone, Jemima Hill, Peter Hinchey, Mary Kearns, Keith Levinson, Loretta Lynch, Craig McKay, Lisa Mills, Sylvia Obeng, Dorcas Ochola, Brian Rees, Michelle Rodford, Christina Simon, Mark Simon, Baby Adelaide Tonkin, Peter White; and all who care for them.

The Departed:

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 Isaiah 11.1–10

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

- ¹ A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
- ² The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.
- ³ His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear;
- ⁴ but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
- ⁵ Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins.
- ⁶ The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them.
- ⁷ The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
- ⁸ The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.
- ⁹ They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.
- ¹⁰ On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

SECOND READING Romans 15.4–13

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

- ⁴ Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope.
- ⁵ May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus,
- ⁶ so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

7 Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of
God.
8 For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the
truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs,
9 and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,
‘Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name’;
10 and again he says, ‘Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people’;
11 and again, ‘Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him’;
12 and again Isaiah says, ‘The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the
Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope.’
13 May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may
abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

GOSPEL Matthew 3.1–12

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

1 In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming,
2 ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.’
3 This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, ‘The voice of one
crying out in the wilderness: “Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths
straight.”’
4 Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his
food was locusts and wild honey.
5 Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region
along the Jordan,
6 and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.
7 But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to
them, ‘You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?
8 Bear fruit worthy of repentance.
9 Do not presume 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.
10 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.
11 I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is
coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with
the Holy Spirit and fire.
12 His winnowing-fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing-floor and will
gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable
fire.’

THIS WEEK

Mon	9	Dec	Toddlers' Group	10 – 11.30am
Tue	10	Dec	St Michael's Christmas Dinner at West Herts College	6.30pm
Wed	11	Dec	Food Bank	10.00am – 12 noon
Christmas Coffee Morning with Bring-&-Buy Sale				
(All proceeds to Christingle)				
				10.00am – 12 noon
Thu	12	Dec	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
				11.00am
				11.00am
Sun	15	Dec	<u>ADVENT 3</u>	
				8.00am
				9.30am
				6.00pm

NOTICES

REV JOHN WEIR who was our curate in late 70's-80's and his wife Hannele are visiting today, please go and greet them over coffee.

ST MICHAEL'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGES BOOKLET 2019. Thank you to everyone who has submitted their entries for this year's booklet. If you have managed to miss the final date, please make your entry TODAY. Forms plus an envelope for them, Christian Aid envelopes for donations and another envelope to put them in are all on the table at the back of church - where magazines and sign-up forms are displayed. Donations for entries will as usual be sent to Christian Aid. Please see Vicki if there any problems.

ST MICHAEL'S CAROL SERVICE: This will be at 6 pm on Sunday, 22 December. Mulled wine and mince pies will be served after the Service for which **donations of mince pies will be gratefully received.**

THE CHURCH FINANCIAL YEAR ends on 31st December and the Treasurer will be preparing accounts for 2019 soon. Please can anyone with money to pay to the church make sure it is paid over by the end of the year. Similarly if anyone needs to claim money relating to 2019 please do so soon.

WATFORD YOUTH SINFONIA will be giving their Winter concert at St Michael's on Monday 30th December at 7.30pm. Ticket prices are:
Adults £15; Concessions £10; Students £6.

Programme: Dvorak: The Noon Witch
Nielson: Flute Concerto
Rimsky Korsakov: Scheherazade

ADVANCE DATES FOR DECEMBER:

Tuesday 24 th :	Crib Service	4.00pm
	Midnight Mass	11.30pm
Wednesday 25 th :	Christmas Morning Communion	9.30am