



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

ADVENT 3
15 December 2019

A warm welcome to our services.

At the 9.30 am Sung Eucharist Fr Geoff celebrates and preaches. Paul Chandler leads the intercessions.

Hymns: 39, 213, 37 and 35

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 6.00pm.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: The Parish of St Mary Magdalene, Hatfield Hyde.
The Dioceses of Sokoto (Nicaragua) and El Salvador (Central America).

The Church's role in peace-making.

The World: Newly elected MPs, and disappointed candidates.
The work of Save the Children.

The roles taken by migrants in our country and others.

The Community and Parish: Chater Infants School and Laurance Haines School.
Watford Grammar Schools for Boys and for Girls.
Littlebury Family Centre.

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; Jennifer Wright, and all who care for them.

The Departed: Victims of the New Zealand volcano eruption.

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 Isaiah 35.1–10

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

- ¹ The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,
² and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God.
³ Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees.
⁴ Say to those who are of a fearful heart, 'Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.'
⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
⁶ then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert;
⁷ the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.
⁸ A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray.
⁹ No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there.
¹⁰ And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

SECOND READING James 5.7–10

A reading from the letter of James.

- ⁷ Be patient, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains.
- ⁸ You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near.
- ⁹ Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors!
- ¹⁰ As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

GOSPEL Matthew 11.2–11

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

- ² When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples
- ³ and said to Jesus, ‘Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?’
- ⁴ Jesus answered them, ‘Go and tell John what you hear and see:
- ⁵ the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them.
- ⁶ And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.’
- ⁷ As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: ‘What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind?
- ⁸ What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces.
- ⁹ What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet.
- ¹⁰ This is the one about whom it is written, “See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.”
- ¹¹ Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.’

THIS WEEK

Mon	16	Dec	Toddlers' Group	10 – 11.30am
Tue	17	Dec	WGSB rehearsal	8.00am – 5.00pm
			Watford Grammar School for Boys Carol Service	7.30pm
Wed	18	Dec	Chater School Carol Service	9.00am
			Food Bank and Coffee in Church	10.00am – 12 noon
Thu	19	Dec	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
			Followed by coffee in Choir Vestry	
Fri	20	Dec	Laurance Haines School Carol Service	9.00am – 12 noon
Sun	22	Dec	<u>ADVENT 4</u>	
			Holy Communion (Pres: Fr George)	8.00am
			SUNG EUCHARIST (President & Preacher: Fr George)	9.30am
			Children's Church in Littlebury Hall	
			CAROL SERVICE	6.00pm

NOTICES

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.**

ON TUESDAY, 30 parishioners enjoyed a meal prepared and served by students at West Herts College. Proceeds of the raffle will benefit CRISIS with £225 which provides for 7 places for London's homeless this Christmas. Many thanks.

THE PARISH CHRISTMAS MESSAGES BOOKLETS are available for all at the back of church. If anyone would still like to contribute to the Christian Aid Christmas Appeal please use the envelope labelled "Donations". Thank you. – Vick.

THE BRING-&-BUY SALES on 1st December raised £32 and on 8th December raised £55 for Church funds. (Many thanks).

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

Tuesday 24th: Crib Service 4.00pm
Midnight Mass 11.30pm

Wednesday 25th: Christmas Morning Communion 9.30am