



# THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

*St Michael and All Angels*

Watford

**ADVENT 4**  
**22 December 2019**

We wish you a Happy Christmas and a warm welcome to our services today. At the 9.30 am Sung Eucharist Fr George celebrates and preaches. Sarah Dunning leads the intercessions.

**Hymns: 376, 27, 607 and 362**

Children's Church in Littlebury Hall.

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

**CAROL SERVICE followed by mince pies and mulled wine at 6.00pm.**

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

**The Church:** Christian leaders preparing Christmas messages.  
Christians who will find it hard to worship at Christmas.  
The Archbishops of Canterbury and York, and our Bishops in St Albans Diocese.

**The World:** Peace and goodwill for all people everywhere.  
The people in Australia in peril from wildfires.  
The work of Shelter, New Hope, and other charities for homeless people.

**The Community and Parish:** Our Christmas services, and all who will take part.  
Families coming together, families far apart, and families under stress.  
Everyone remembering a bereavement at Christmas.

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

**The Departed:** Bob Small, Jennifer Wright and Caroline Wycherley.

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**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 Isaiah 7.10–16**

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

- <sup>10</sup> The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying,  
<sup>11</sup> ‘Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.’  
<sup>12</sup> But Ahaz said, ‘I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.’  
<sup>13</sup> Then Isaiah said: ‘Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also?’  
<sup>14</sup> Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel.  
<sup>15</sup> He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good.  
<sup>16</sup> For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.’

**SECOND READING Romans 1.1–7**

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

- <sup>1</sup> Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God,  
<sup>2</sup> which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures,  
<sup>3</sup> the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh

4 and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the  
spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our  
Lord.  
5 Through Christ we have received grace and apostleship to bring  
about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his  
name,  
6 including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,  
7 To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to  
you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

## **GOSPEL Matthew 1.18–25**

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

18 The birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his  
mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived  
together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit.  
19 Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose  
her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly.  
20 But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord  
appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be  
afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is  
from the Holy Spirit.  
21 She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save  
his people from their sins.'  
22 All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through  
the prophet:  
23 'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name  
him Emmanuel,' which means, 'God is with us.'  
24 When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord  
commanded him; he took her as his wife,  
25 but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and  
he named him Jesus.



## THIS WEEK

Mon	23	Dec	NO Toddlers' Group	
Tue	24	Dec	Crib Service	4.00pm
			<b>MIDNIGHT MASS</b>	<b>11.30pm</b>
Wed	25	Dec	<b><u>CHRISTMAS DAY</u></b>	
			Holy Communion (Pres: Fr Geoff)	8.00am
			<b>CHRISTMAS MORNING COMMUNION</b>	<b>9.30am</b>
			(President and Preacher: Fr Geoff)	9.30am
			NO Food bank or coffee morning	
Thu	26	Dec	<b>BOXING DAY</b>	
			NO 10.00am Holy Communion Service	
Sat	28	Dec	(Rehearsal by Watford Youth Sinfonia	1.00pm – 7.00pm)
Sun	29	Dec	<b><u>CHRISTMAS 1</u></b>	
			<b>Carols Round the Crib, with Eucharist</b>	<b>9.30am</b>
			(Rehearsal by Watford Youth Sinfonia	1.00pm – 7.00pm)

## NOTICES

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

**CHRISTIAN AID:** I should be grateful to have last donations for the Christmas Messages booklet and any others before Christmas please. Perhaps you would give me a ring if you still wish to donate. Thanks. Vicki.

**KNITTING:** Please would anyone knitting squares let me know if they will have any for the first week in January and leave them in the cupboard in the north transept. Many thanks. Vicki (01923 229408).

**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.

**FINAL COPY DATE** for January Sword is today, Sunday, 22 December. Hard copy to Rob White or email to [swordparishmagazine@googlemail.com](mailto:swordparishmagazine@googlemail.com)

**WATFORD YOUTH SINFONIA** will be giving their Winter concert at St Michael's on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm. Ticket prices are:

Adults £15; Concessions £10; Students £6.

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