



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

CHRISTMAS 1
29 December 2019

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. Phil Gough leads the intercessions.

Hymns: 67, 73, 76 and 68.

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

(Concert rehearsal noon – 7.00pm).

For your prayers this week:

The Church: The Parish of Redbourn in our Diocese.
The Dioceses of Gahini in Rwanda and Gambia in West Africa,
their bishops and people.
The Christians of the Holy Land.

The World: All children suffering through the ravages of war.
Her Majesty the Queen and the Royal Family.
Her Majesty's Government and Loyal Opposition.

The Community and Parish: People who are homeless in our area.
That we may have positive and achievable New Year Resolutions.

A happy and fruitful 2020 at St Michael's.

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:

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 Isaiah 63.7–9

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

- 7 I will recount the gracious deeds of the LORD, the praiseworthy acts of the LORD, because of all that the LORD has done for us, and the great favour to the house of Israel that he has shown them according to his mercy, according to the abundance of his steadfast love.
- 8 For he said, 'Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely';
- 9 and he became their saviour in all their distress. It was no messenger or angel but his presence that saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

SECOND READING Hebrews 2.10–18

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

- 10 It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings.
- 11 For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, saying,
- 12 'I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters, in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.'
- 13 And again, 'I will put my trust in him.' And again, 'Here am I and the children whom God has given me.'
- 14 Since the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil,
- 15 and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death.
- 16 For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham.

- 17 Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people.
- 18 Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

GOSPEL Matthew 2.13–23

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

- 13 After the wise men had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, ‘Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.’
- 14 Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt,
- 15 and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, ‘Out of Egypt I have called my son.’
- 16 When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men.
- 17 Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:
- 18 ‘A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.’
- 19 When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said,
- 20 ‘Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child’s life are dead.’
- 21 Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel.
- 22 But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee.
- 23 There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, ‘He will be called a Nazorean.’

THIS WEEK

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| Mon | 30 | Dec | NO Toddlers' Group (Rehearsal by Watford Youth Sinfonia Concert by Watford Youth Sinfonia) | 1.30pm – 7.00pm 7.30pm |
| Tue | 31 | Dec | Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church | 3.00pm - 11.00pm |
| Wed | 1 | Jan | <i>NEW YEAR'S DAY</i> Food Bank and Coffee in Church (volunteers should not feel obliged to come!) | 10.00am – 12 noon |
| Thu | 2 | Jan | Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language) | 10.00am |
| Sun | 5 | Jan | <u>EPIPHANY</u> Holy Communion FIRST SUNDAY of MONTH SUNG EUCHARIST (President: Fr Geoff; All-Age Presentation) Followed by refreshments Evening Prayer | 8.00am 9.30am 6.00pm) |

NOTICES

CHRISTIAN AID: I should be grateful to have last donations for the Christmas Messages booklet 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.

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