



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

Second Sunday before Advent
18 November 2007

A warm welcome to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Eucharist, Fr John celebrates and preaches and Neil Hart leads the intercessions. A crèche is available.

Hymns: 572, 519, 427 and 527

Setting: Aston

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

There is Evensong in the Lady Chapel at 6.30 pm.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: The Church in New Zealand; John Buck Bishop of Waiapu.
The world-wide Anglican Communion and its unity.
Miriam Mugan, to be licensed as Vicar of All Saints, Croxley Green tomorrow.

The World: Peace in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Darfur.
Peaceful elections in the future for Pakistan.
All prisoners and those who work in prisons and Offenders' Centres.

The Community and Parish: Those who receive communion at home or in residential homes.

All who work with children and young people at St Michael's.

The Ill and the Housebound: Especially Ray Angles, Monica Batt, Ellen Benoy, John Burn, Marjorie Carlisle, Jennifer Coley, Bill Craddock-Jones, Jean Crouch, Ifagaani Desiderio, June Dickinson, Kate Dickinson, Jocelyn Harewood, Jenny Houghton, Mary Kearns, Loretta Lynch, Maggie Maguire, Stella Meager, Eva Portas, Myrtle Powell, Ann Reed, Gladys Robertson, Maureen Swann, June Tatnall, Bill Widdowson, Anne Wightman and Maureen Williams.

The Departed:

Collect

Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son was revealed to destroy the works of the devil and to make us the children of God and heirs of eternal life: grant that we, having this hope, may purify ourselves even as he is pure; that when he shall appear in power and great glory we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING Malachi 4.1–2a

A reading from the book of the prophet Malachi.

- 1 See, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble; the day that comes shall burn them up, says the LORD of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch.
- 2 But for you who revere my name the sun of righteousness shall rise, with healing in its wings.

SECOND READING 2 Thessalonians 3.6–13

A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Thessalonians.

- 6 We command you, beloved, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to keep away from believers who are living in idleness and not according to the tradition that they received from us.
- 7 For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us; we were not idle when we were with you,
- 8 and we did not eat anyone's bread without paying for it; but with toil and labour we worked night and day, so that we might not burden any of you.
- 9 This was not because we do not have that right, but in order to give you an example to imitate.
- 10 For even when we were with you, we gave you this command: Anyone unwilling to work should not eat.
- 11 For we hear that some of you are living in idleness, mere busybodies, not doing any work.
- 12 Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living.
- 13 Brothers and sisters, do not be weary in doing what is right.

GOSPEL Luke 21.5–19

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

- 5 When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, Jesus said,
6 ‘As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down.’
7 They asked him, ‘Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?’
8 And Jesus said, ‘Beware that you are not led astray; for many will come in my name and say, “I am he!” and, “The time is near!” Do not go after them.
9 When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified; for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately.’
10 Then he said to them, ‘Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom;
11 there will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and plagues; and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven.
12 But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name.
13 This will give you an opportunity to testify.
14 So make up your minds not to prepare your defence in advance;
15 for I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict.
16 You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, by relatives and friends; and they will put some of you to death.
17 You will be hated by all because of my name.
18 But not a hair of your head will perish.
19 By your endurance you will gain your souls.’

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THE NEXT BIBLE STUDY is on Wednesday 21st November at 8 pm.
We will study the Acts of the Apostles 3, starting at v 1. All welcome.

THIS WEEK

Mon	19	Nov	Toddlers' Group	10.00 – 11.30am
Wed	21	Nov	Coffee in Church	10.30am-12 noon
			Bible Study (Choir Vestry)	8.00 pm
			Publicity Committee (in church)	8.00pm
Thu	22	Nov	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
			Mission & Stewardship Committee (in church)	10.30am
			Kids' Club	3.30–5.00pm
			Choir Practice	7.00-8.30pm
Sun	25	Nov	<u>CHRIST the KING</u>	
			SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE ADVENT	
			Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	8.00am
			SUNG EUCHARIST (Crèche available)	9.30am
			followed by a Bring-&-Buy Sale	
			Sunday School in Littlebury Hall	9.30am
			Baptism of Thomas Weeks	12.30pm
			Evensong in Lady Chapel	6.30pm

NOTICES

CHRISTMAS FAIR: Thank you to everyone who worked for the Christmas Fair and also to everyone who came. The fair has just reached the £1500 total – a significant increase on last year!

FINAL COPY DATE FOR THE DECEMBER SWORD is MIDDAY **today** Sunday, 25 November. Please submit copy as early as possible. Hard copy, floppy disc or email to DENNIS.H.BEACH@sky.com.

ADVENT WORKSHOP: This will be for young people on Saturday, 1 December, from 2-4 pm. If you would like to assist with one of the craft activities please see Jane Talbot (01923 226276).

FOR WOMEN ONLY! The Bridge of Peace warmly invites you to 'The Fashion Today & the Dignity of Women' - a relaxed sharing of views on attitudes to culture at 2.30pm on Sunday 25th November at the Multi Cultural Community Centre in Durban Road.

CHRISTINGLE SERVICE: Please note that the Christingle Service this year will be at 11.15 am on Sunday, 9 December. All proceeds are in aid of The Children's Society. There will be a Bring-&-Buy sale on the previous Sunday (2 December) to raise money for the cost of the materials that make up the Christingles.

PROGRAMME FOR ST MICHAEL'S 2007-08: This is in process of being prepared. If you would like to see any church event included please see Sylvia Moring.