



# THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

*St Michael and All Angels*

Watford

CHRIST THE KING

Sunday next before Advent

25 November 2007

A warm welcome to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Eucharist, Fr John celebrates, Martin Heath preaches and John Adams leads the intercessions. A crèche is available.

**Hymns: 166, 170, 398 and 590**

**Setting: Aston**

Sunday School meets in Littlebury Hall at 9.30 am

Coffee and tea will be served in church after the 9.30 service and there will be a Bring-&-Buy Sale – please stay on.

The Baptism of Thomas Weeks is at 12.30 pm

There is Evensong in the Lady Chapel at 6.30 pm.

---

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

**The Church:** The Church in New Zealand: Thomas Brown, Bishop of Wellington. Anglican Methodist Covenant Relationships in the Diocese. The Deanery of Welwyn-Hatfield.

**The World:** Peace in Iraq and Afghanistan.  
For all affected by the cyclone in Bangladesh.  
A sense of direction among those who work in the financial industry.

**The Community and Parish:** Thomas Weeks to be baptised this afternoon.  
Members of our Parochial Church Council.  
The success of our Advent Workshop on Saturday.

**The Ill and the Housebound:** Especially Ray Angles, Monica Batt, Ellen Benoy, Günter Bouché, 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:** Thomas Day (aged 76), Cussans House, Croxley View.  
Alexander Weeks (aged 86), Sussex. (Father of Nick and grandfather of Melanie, Natasha and Joseph.)  
Mary Mercier (aged 95), River Court.  
Ada Shaw (aged 86), Chase Care Home.

---

**Collect**

Eternal Father, whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven that he might rule over all things as Lord and King: keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit and in the bond of peace, and bring the whole created order to worship at his feet; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**FIRST READING Jeremiah 23.1–6**

A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah.

- 1 Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the LORD.
- 2 Therefore thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock, and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the LORD.
- 3 Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply.
- 4 I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall not fear any longer, or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the LORD.
- 5 The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.
- 6 In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: 'The LORD is our righteousness.'

**SECOND READING Colossians 1.11–20**

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Colossians.

Brothers and sisters:

- 11 May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience,

12 while joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share  
in the inheritance of the saints in the light.  
13 He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into  
the kingdom of his beloved Son,  
14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.  
15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation;  
16 for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible  
and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers – all  
things have been created through him and for him.  
17 He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together.  
18 He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn  
from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything.  
19 For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,  
20 and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things,  
whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of  
his cross.

## **GOSPEL Luke 23.33–43**

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

33 When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus  
there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left.  
34 Then Jesus said, ‘Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they  
are doing.’ And they cast lots to divide his clothing.  
35 And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him,  
saying, ‘He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of  
God, his chosen one!’  
36 The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine,  
37 and saying, ‘If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!’  
38 There was also an inscription over him, ‘This is the King of the Jews.’  
39 One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and  
saying, ‘Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!’  
40 But the other rebuked him, saying, ‘Do you not fear God, since you are  
under the same sentence of condemnation?  
41 And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we  
deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.’  
42 Then he said, ‘Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.’  
43 Jesus replied, ‘Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.’

## THIS WEEK

Mon	26	Nov	Toddlers' Group	10.00 – 11.30am
			Worship Committee (in Church)	7.00pm
Wed	28	Nov	Coffee in Church	10.30am-12 noon
			PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL	7.45 for 7.55pm
Thu	29	Nov	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
			Kids' Club	3.30 – 5.00pm
			Choir Practice	7.00 - 8.30pm
Sat	1	Dec	Parish Walk	leave at 10.00am
			Advent Workshop (in Church)	2.00 - 4.00pm
Sun	2	Dec	<b><u>ADVENT SUNDAY</u></b>	
			Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	8.00am
			<b>SUNG EUCHARIST</b> (Crèche available)	9.30am
			Preacher: Mrs Anne Peat, Reader at St Andrew's , Watford	
			Service followed by a Bring-&-Buy Sale	
			Sunday School in Littlebury Hall	9.30am
			Ecumenical Advent Service at St Luke's	6.30pm

## **NOTICES**

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

**BRING-&-SHARE LUNCH:** Please sign the list for Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> December.

**THE PARISH WALK** is on Saturday 1st December. 10 am start. Please sign list.

**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 today, Sunday 25th November, at the Multi Cultural Community Centre in Durban Road.

**CHRISTMAS PRESENTATION:** This will be part of the Crib Service which is at 4 pm on Christmas Eve and there will be rehearsals on the morning of the 22<sup>nd</sup> and after the 9.30 service on the 23<sup>rd</sup> December. If you know of any young people who would like to take part please contact Jane Talbot (01923 226276).

**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. If you are able to help with making the Christingles on Saturday, 8 December, please see Norma Twitchin or Fay Storey.

**ACCOMMODATION WANTED** for 18 Australian students from Friday 4 January to Tuesday 8 January 2008 who are coming to Watford to give a jazz concert, see a soccer match and tour London. Please contact Jane Talbot (226276) if you can help.