



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

ADVENT SUNDAY

2 December 2007

A warm welcome to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Eucharist, Fr John celebrates, **Anne Peat** (from St Andrew's, Watford) preaches and Vicki Matthews leads the intercessions. A crèche is available.

Hymns: 26, 36, 39 and 31

Setting: Missa Seraphica

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 in aid of the Christingle Service – please stay on.

There is an Ecumenical Advent Service at St Luke's at 6.30pm.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: The Church in west Texas. Churches Together in Hertford. The Parish of All Saints Hertford and the Vicar, Jo Loveridge.

The World: Peace in Iraq, Afghanistan and Darfur. Success for current talks to bring peace to the Middle East. All suffering from AIDS (in this AIDS Awareness week).

The Community and Parish: The work of the Childrens' Centre in Littlebury Hall (to be opened by Claire Ward MP tomorrow).
God's blessing on our observance of Advent.

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, Lesley Kinch, 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: Walter Dixon (aged 87) Sydney Road.
Roy Hoad (aged 78) Rickmansworth.

Collect

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility; that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING Isaiah 2.1-5

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

- ¹ The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.
- ² In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it.
- ³ Many peoples shall come and say, 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.' For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.
- ⁴ He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.
- ⁵ O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!

SECOND READING Romans 13.11–14

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

- ¹¹ Brothers and sisters, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers;
- ¹² the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armour of light;
- ¹³ let us live honourably as in the day, not in revelling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarrelling and jealousy.
- ¹⁴ Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

GOSPEL Matthew 24.36–44

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

Jesus spoke to his disciples:

- ³⁶ ‘About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.
- ³⁷ For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.
- ³⁸ For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark,
- ³⁹ and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man.
- ⁴⁰ Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left.
- ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left.
- ⁴² Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.
- ⁴³ But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into.
- ⁴⁴ Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.’

THIS WEEK

Mon	3	Dec	Toddlers' Group	10.00 – 11.30am
Wed	5	Dec	Coffee in Church	10.30am-12 noon
			Bring-and-Share Lunch	12.30pm
Thu	6	Dec	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
			Fairhaven	morning
			Kids' Club	3.30 – 5.00pm
			Choir Practice	7.00 - 8.30pm
Sun	9	Dec	<u>SECOND SUNDAY of ADVENT</u>	
			Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	8.00am
			SUNG EUCHARIST (Crèche available)	9.30am
			CHRISTINGLE SERVICE	11.15am
			River Court Service	3.00pm
			Evening Service for The Compassionate Friends	6.30pm

NOTICES

BRING-&-SHARE LUNCH: Please sign the list for Wednesday 5th December.

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 is a Bring-&-Buy sale today, 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.

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 22nd and after the 9.30 service on the 23rd December. If you know of any young people who would like to take part please contact Jane Talbot (01923 226276).

CHRISTMAS CARDS (see tables in north aisle):

Distribution round the parish: Please commit yourself, as we always do, to deliver these by signing your name against a particular road or section thereof on the list.

Personal Greetings Cards: The tables for our internal mail will be set up next Sunday, 9 December.

BANGLADESH CYCLONE: Heartfelt thanks to all who contributed to last week's retiring collection. £279 has been sent to the Bishops of Bangladesh by USPG.

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.

BIKE 'n HIKE (8 Sept) SPONSORSHIP: a total of £514 was raised for the Historic Churches Trust from St Michael's this year - £110 from cyclists and £404 from walkers and Church greeters. This was highest ever and so £257 will come back to our Major Works Fund.