



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

ADVENT 2
9 December 2007

A warm welcome to our services today.

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

Hymns: 29, 92, 32 and 27

Setting: Missa Seraphica

Coffee and tea will be served in church after the 9.30 service.

The 11.15 is our annual Christingle Service. Please stay on.

The River Court Service is at 3.00 pm.

A special Evening Service for The Compassionate Friends is at 6.30pm.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: The Diocese of Western New York USA; Bishop Michael Garrison. Little Berkhamsted and associated parishes and Pauline Higham, the Vicar.

The work of The Children's Society.

The World: Peace in Iraq, Afghanistan and Sudan.

The growing number of "stateless" people, and the work of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees.

We give thanks for the comparative freedom of expression we enjoy in this country.

The Community and Parish: Those who will come to The Compassionate Friends Service this evening, to remember their children who died.

The pupils and staff of Laurance Haines School as they come for their Carol Service on Friday.

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, Maureen Williams and Sue Winterbottom.

The Departed: David Camps (aged 89), River Court
John Scott (aged 66), Swiss Avenue.

Collect

○ Lord, raise up, we pray, your power and come among us, and with great might succour us; that whereas, through our sins and wickedness we are grievously hindered in running the race that is set before us, your bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be honour and glory, now and for ever.

FIRST READING Isaiah 11.1–10

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

- ¹ A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
- ² The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.
- ³ His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear;
- ⁴ but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
- ⁵ Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins.
- ⁶ The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them.
- ⁷ The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
- ⁸ The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.
- ⁹ They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.
- ¹⁰ On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

SECOND READING Romans 15.4–13

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

- ⁴ Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope.
- ⁵ May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus,
- ⁶ so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

7 Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of
God.
8 For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the
truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs,
9 and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,
‘Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name’;
10 and again he says, ‘Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people’;
11 and again, ‘Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him’;
12 and again Isaiah says, ‘The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the
Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope.’
13 May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may
abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

GOSPEL Matthew 3.1–12

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

1 In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming,
2 ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.’
3 This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, ‘The voice of one
crying out in the wilderness: “Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths
straight.”’
4 Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his
food was locusts and wild honey.
5 Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region
along the Jordan,
6 and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.
7 But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to
them, ‘You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?
8 Bear fruit worthy of repentance.
9 Do not presume to say to yourselves, “We have Abraham as our ancestor”; for I
tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham.
10 Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does
not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.
11 I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is
coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with
the Holy Spirit and fire.
12 His winnowing-fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing-floor and will
gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable
fire.’

THIS WEEK

Mon	10	Dec	Toddlers' Group	10.00 – 11.30am
Tue	11	Dec	Intercessory Prayer Group (71 Hempstead Road)	2.30pm
Wed	12	Dec	Mothers' Union Short Service (Lady Chapel)	10.00am
			Coffee, mince pies and Bring-&-Buy in church	10.30am
Thu	13	Dec	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
			St Anthony's	morning
			Kids' Club	3.30 – 5.00pm
			Choir Practice	7.00 - 8.30pm
Fri	14	Dec	Laurance Haines School Carols in Church	9.30am
Sat	15	Dec	Radlett Choral Society Christmas Concert (afternoon rehearsal)	
			Mince Pies and Mulled Wine (included in ticket price)	7.15pm
			Concert	8.00pm
Sun	16	Dec	<u>THIRD SUNDAY of ADVENT</u>	
			Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	8.00am
			SUNG EUCHARIST (Crèche available)	9.30am
			followed by Coffee at Vicarage	
			Evensong	6.30pm
			Private Carol Party in Church	8.00pm

NOTICES

CHRISTINGLE: Our Christingle Service is at 11.15 today, Sunday, 9 December. We hope as many as possible will attend this service. There are 'candles' and envelopes in Church for your offerings for The Children's Society.

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 available now

The 'large' card: As last year, there is a card which may be signed by anyone who wishes to send their Christmas greetings to all church members and make a donation to a worthy cause.

FLOWER FUND: Any contributions towards the Christmas flowers will be gratefully received. If you are able to gift aid your contribution, please use a white gift aid envelope.

FINAL COPY DATE FOR THE Christmas/January SWORD is MIDDAY next Sunday, 16 December. Hard copy, floppy disc or email to DENNIS.H.BEACH@sky.com.