



# THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

*St Michael and All Angels*

Watford

**REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY**

Third Sunday before Advent

9 November 2008

A warm welcome to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Eucharist, Fr George celebrates, Violet Allen-Smith preaches and Paul Chandler leads the intercessions. A crèche is available. Sunday School in Littlebury Hall.

**Hymns: 537, 222, 304 and 427**

**Setting: Wilson**

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

This is followed by the 11.15 Service of Thanksgiving and Praise – please stay on.

The monthly service at River Court is at 3.00 pm.

There is Evening Prayer in the Lady Chapel at 3.30 pm.

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

**The Church:** Pray for the Anglican Church of Bermuda; Bishop Alexander Ratteray. Give thanks for the ministry and leadership of Bishop Christopher during the past thirteen years.

The work of the Royal British Legion.

**The World:** Peace in Iraq, Afghanistan and the Congo.

Senator Barack Obama – President Elect of the United States.

**The Community and Parish:** The staff and residents of River Court Nursing Home and The Chase Care Home..

Those people, particularly the elderly, who find it difficult to go out after dark.

**The Ill and the Housebound:** Especially Ray Angles, Ellen Benoy, Mel Browne, John Burn, Marjorie Carlisle, Jennifer Coley, Bill Craddock-Jones, Jean Crouch, June Dickinson, Kate Dickinson, Simon Fowle, Jocelyn Harewood, Gladys Holloway, Jenny Houghton, Mary Kearns, Lesley Kinch, Loretta Lynch, Maggie Maguire, Stella Meager, Dorcas Ochola, Gaynor Osbourne, Myrtle Powell, Bryony Purse, Ann Reed, Gladys Robertson, Elaine Robinson, Maureen Swann, June Tatnall, Anne Wightman, and Maureen Williams.

**The Departed:** All those who have lost their lives in the wars of the twentieth century.

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**REMRANCE SUNDAY**

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:  
Age shall not weary them, nor the years contemn.  
At the going down of the sun and in the morning,  
We will remember them.

*From Poems for the Fallen - Laurence Binyon (1869-1943)*

**COLLECT**

Almighty Father, whose will is to restore all things in your beloved Son, the king of all:  
govern the hearts and minds of those in authority, and bring the families of the nations, divided and torn apart by the ravages of sin, to be subject to his just and gentle rule; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**FIRST READING Wisdom of Solomon 6.12-16**

A reading from the book of Wisdom.

- <sup>12</sup> Wisdom is radiant and unfading, and she is easily discerned by those who love her, and is found by those who seek her.
- <sup>13</sup> She hastens to make herself known to those who desire her.
- <sup>14</sup> One who rises early to seek her will have no difficulty, for she will be found sitting at the gate.
- <sup>15</sup> To fix one's thought on her is perfect understanding, and one who is vigilant on her account will soon be free from care,
- <sup>16</sup> because she goes about seeking those worthy of her, and she graciously appears to them in their paths, and meets them in every thought.

## SECOND READING I Thessalonians 4.13–18

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

- <sup>13</sup> We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope.
- <sup>14</sup> For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died.
- <sup>15</sup> For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died.
- <sup>16</sup> For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first.
- <sup>17</sup> Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord for ever.
- <sup>18</sup> Therefore encourage one another with these words.

## GOSPEL Matthew 25.1–13

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

Jesus spoke this parable to the disciples:

- <sup>1</sup> 'The kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom.
- <sup>2</sup> Five of them were foolish, and five were wise.
- <sup>3</sup> When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them;
- <sup>4</sup> but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps.
- <sup>5</sup> As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept.
- <sup>6</sup> But at midnight there was a shout, "Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him."
- <sup>7</sup> Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps.
- <sup>8</sup> The foolish said to the wise, "Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out."
- <sup>9</sup> But the wise replied, "No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves."
- <sup>10</sup> And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut.
- <sup>11</sup> Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, "Lord, lord, open to us."
- <sup>12</sup> But he replied, "Truly I tell you, I do not know you."
- <sup>13</sup> Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.'

## THIS WEEK

Mon	10	Nov	Toddlers' Group	10.00 – 11.30am
			Service at the Chase Care Home	3.00 pm
Wed	12	Nov	Coffee in Church	10.30am - 12 noon
			Service at Home Manor	3.00pm
			Bible Study (Choir Vestry)	8.00pm
Thu	13	Nov	Holy Communion	10.00am
			St Anthony's (during morning)	
			Kids' Club	3.30 - 5.00pm
			Choir Practice	7.00 - 8.30pm
Fri	14	Nov	(Work on organ in church)	All day)
Sun	16	Nov	<b><u>SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT</u></b>	
			<b>SUNG EUCHARIST</b> (Pres & Preacher: Rev Ian Pankhurst) 9.30 am	
			(crèche available). Sunday School in Littlebury Hall	
			Baptism of Remmize Ansell-Petrie	2.00pm
			Evening Prayer in Lady Chapel	3.30pm

## **NOTICES**

**CHRISTMAS FAIR:** Thank you to everyone who worked for the Christmas Fair and also to everyone who came. There will probably be a few items left which will be available to purchase after the 9.30 service.

**CHRISTMAS CARDS:** Church Christmas Cards produced from the same source as last year will be on sale after the 9.30 service. The price remains the same at 10 cards for £4.

**BIBLE STUDY:** The next meeting of the Bible Study Group will be on Wednesday, 12 November 2008 at 8 pm in the Choir Vestry. We shall continue our study of 1 Samuel, commencing at Chapter 7.

**ADVENT WORKSHOP:** This will be for young people on Saturday, 29 November, from 2-4 pm. If you would like to assist with one of the craft activities please see Jane Talbot (01923 226276).

**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL:** There will be a special meeting of the PCC on Wednesday, 19 November 2008, at 8 pm in the Choir Vestry, when the only item on the agenda will be the Parish Profile. Please come to this meeting if you possibly can.

**SCHOOL PRAY DAY:** - 18th November 2008, 12 Noon – 1 pm To mark School Pray Day people all across Europe will be gathering to pray for their local schools. The Watford Schools Trust are holding a time of prayer for the local schools in the Watford Room at the Urban Retreat (above the Presence gift and coffee shop on the High Street, Watford). All are welcome whether you're a parent, governor, teacher, or just have a heart for the children in our town. Feel free to drop in and stay for however long you can. For more information about School Pray Day see <http://prayday.de/>

**8AM SUNDAY COMMUNION DURING VACANCY:** The PCC has agreed that this will take place on the FIRST Sunday of the month only.