



# THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

*St Michael and All Angels*

Watford

Second Sunday before Advent  
16 November 2008

A warm welcome to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Eucharist, the Rev Ian Pankhurst celebrates and preaches and Phil Gough leads the intercessions. A crèche is available. Sunday School is in Littlebury Hall.

**Hymns: 474, 461, 262 and 581**

**Setting: Wilson**

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

The Baptism of Remmize Ansell-Petrie is at 2 pm.

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

---

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

**The Church:** The Portuguese Episcopal Church and Bishop Fernando Soares.  
L'Arche Internatioanl – building communities with people who have learning difficulties.

The Parish of Royston; Vicar: Leslie Harman; Curates: John Fidler and Barbara Johnson.

**The World:** Peace in Iran and Afghanistan.  
Our Caribbean links.

People suffering from the effects of the global financial situation.

**The Community and Parish:** We give thanks for opportunities to work together for the good of St Michael's and its future.

The Guild of Servants of the Sanctuary.

Remmize Ansell-Petrie, to be baptised this afternoon, and her parents and Godparents.

**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:** Gwendoline Mary Wells (aged 93), Homemantor House.

---

**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 Zephaniah 1.7, 12–18**

A reading from the book of the prophet Zephaniah.

- <sup>7</sup> Be silent before the Lord GOD! For the day of the LORD is at hand; the LORD has prepared a sacrifice, he has consecrated his guests.
- <sup>12</sup> At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the people who rest complacently on their dregs, those who say in their hearts, 'The LORD will not do good, nor will he do harm.'
- <sup>13</sup> Their wealth shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them.
- <sup>14</sup> The great day of the LORD is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter, the warrior cries aloud there.
- <sup>15</sup> That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness,
- <sup>16</sup> a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements.
- <sup>17</sup> I will bring such distress upon people that they shall walk like the blind; because they have sinned against the LORD, their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like dung.
- <sup>18</sup> Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the Lord's wrath; in the fire of his passion the whole earth shall be consumed; for a full, a terrible end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

**SECOND READING I Thessalonians 5.1–11**

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

- <sup>1</sup> Concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you.
- <sup>2</sup> For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.

3 When they say, 'There is peace and security,' then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labour pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape!  
4 But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief;  
5 for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness.  
6 So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober;  
7 for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night.  
8 But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation.  
9 For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,  
10 who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him.  
11 Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

## **GOSPEL Matthew 25.14–30**

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew. Jesus said to his disciples,

14 'The kingdom of heaven is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them;  
15 to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away.  
16 The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents.  
17 In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents.  
18 But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.  
19 After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them.  
20 Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, "Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents."  
21 His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master."  
22 And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, "Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents."  
23 His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master."  
24 Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, "Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed;  
25 so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours."  
26 But his master replied, "You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter?  
27 Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest.  
28 So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents.  
29 For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away.  
30 As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

## THIS WEEK

Mon	17	Nov	Toddlers' Group	10.00 – 11.30am
Tue	18	Nov	Guild of Servants of the Sanctuary	8.00pm
Wed	19	Nov	Coffee in Church	10.30am - 12 noon
			Mission & Stewardship Committee (Clergy Vestry)	10.00am
			Special meeting of the PCC (Choir Vestry)	8.00pm
Thu	20	Nov	Holy Communion	10.00am
			Kids' Club	3.30 - 5.00pm
			Choir Practice	7.00 - 8.30pm
Sun	23	Nov	<b><u>CHRIST THE KING</u></b> <b><u>SUNG EUCHARIST</u></b>	9.30 am
			(crèche available). Sunday School in Littlebury Hall	
			Evening Prayer in Lady Chapel	3.30pm

## NOTICES

**CHRISTMAS FAIR:** The total now stands at £1331.31. Thank you to everyone who came and bought and to all helpers. It made a very enjoyable occasion as well as raising much needed funds for St Michael's.

**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.

**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.

**FINAL COPY DATE FOR THE DECEMBER SWORD** is MIDDAY next Sunday, 23 November. Please submit copy before this time if possible. Hard copy, floppy disc or email to DENNIS.H.BEACH@sky.com.

**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.