



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

Christ the King

Sunday next before Advent

23 November 2008

A warm welcome to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Eucharist, Fr George celebrates, Martin Heath preaches and Vicki Matthews leads the intercessions. A crèche is available. Sunday School is in Littlebury Hall.

Hymns: 166, 590, 380 and 172

Setting: Wilson

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

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

For your prayers this week:

The Church: The Reformed Episcopal Church of Spain and Bishop Carlos López-Lozano.

A People's Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving in St Albans Cathedral.

Deanery of Cheshunt; Rural Dean: Carole Selby; Lat Chairman: Paul Camp.

The World: Peace in Iran and Afghanistan.

AIDS Awareness Week: pray for those living with HIV/AIDS throughout the world and for those who minister to them

A sense of direction among those who work in the financial industry.

The Community and Parish: Members of our Parochial Church Council.

The success of our Advent Workshop on Saturday.

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:

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 Ezekiel 34. 11–16, 20–24

A reading from the book of the prophet Ezekiel.

- ¹¹ Thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out.
- ¹² As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness.
- ¹³ I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land.
- ¹⁴ I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel.
- ¹⁵ I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord GOD.
- ¹⁶ I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.
- ²⁰ Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep.
- ²¹ Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide,
- ²² I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep.
- ²³ I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd.
- ²⁴ And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the LORD, have spoken. 436

SECOND READING Ephesians 1. 15–23

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians.

- ¹⁵ I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love towards all the saints, and for this reason
- ¹⁶ I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers.
- ¹⁷ I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him,

18 so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to
which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the
saints,
19 and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according
to the working of his great power.
20 God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and
seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places,
21 far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name
that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come.
22 And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things
for the church,
23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

GOSPEL Matthew 25.31–46

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

Jesus said to his disciples:

31 ‘When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will
sit on the throne of his glory.
32 All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from
another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats,
33 and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left.
34 Then the king will say to those at his right hand, “Come, you that are blessed by my
Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world;
35 for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to
drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me,
36 I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in
prison and you visited me.”
37 Then the righteous will answer him, “Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry
and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink?
38 And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave
you clothing?
39 And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?”
40 And the king will answer them, “Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the
least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.”
41 Then he will say to those at his left hand, “You that are accursed, depart from me
into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels;
42 for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to
drink,
43 I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me
clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.”
44 Then they also will answer, “Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty
or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?”
45 Then he will answer them, “Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the
least of these, you did not do it to me.”
46 And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.’

THIS WEEK

Mon	24	Nov	Toddlers' Group	10.00 – 11.30am
Wed	26	Nov	Coffee in Church	10.30am - 12 noon
Thu	27	Nov	Holy Communion	10.00am
			Kids' Club	3.30 - 5.00pm
			Choir Practice	7.00 - 8.30pm
Sat	29	Nov	Advent Workshop	2.00 – 4.00pm
Sun	30	Nov	<u>ADVENT SUNDAY</u>	
			<u>SUNG EUCHARIST</u>	9.30 am
			(crèche available). Sunday School in Littlebury Hall	
			followed by Bring-&-Buy Sale	
			Evening Prayer in Lady Chapel	3.30pm

NOTICES

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).

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

BRING-&-SHARE LUNCH: Please sign the list for Wednesday 3rd December.

CHRISTINGLE SERVICE: Please note that the Christingle Service this year will be at 11.15 am on Sunday, 14 December. All proceeds are in aid of The Children's Society and envelopes and 'candles' for your donations are available in church. There will be a Bring-&-Buy sale on the previous Sunday (7 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, 13 December, please see Norma Twitchin or Fay Storey.

THE NEXT PARISH WALK will be on Saturday 6th December. Meet as usual outside the West Door of St Michael's at 10 am. Any queries check with Martin or Vicki Matthews on 01923 229408.

THE NEXT PAUSE MEETING is at 7.30pm at 23 Whippendell Road on Tuesday 2 December.

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