



# THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

*St Michael and All Angels*

Watford

ADVENT SUNDAY

30 November 2008

A warm welcome to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Eucharist, Fr George celebrates and preaches and Anne Eccleshall leads the intercessions. A crèche is available. Sunday School is in Littlebury Hall.

**Hymns: 32, 36, 39 and 31**

**Setting: White**

Coffee and tea will be served in church after the 9.30 service and there will be a Bring-&-Buy Sale – please stay on.

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

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

**The Church:** The Anglican Church in the Falkland Islands.  
Anglican Methodist Covenant Relationships in the Diocese.  
Barbara Johnson to be licensed to Goldington.

**The World:** Peace in Iran and Afghanistan.  
The work of the Royal Association for Deaf People.

**The Community and Parish:** God's blessing on our observance of Advent.  
Those who plan the future health and hospital needs of South West Herts.

**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:**

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**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 64.1–9**

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

- <sup>1</sup> O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence –  
<sup>2</sup> as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil – to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence!  
<sup>3</sup> When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.  
<sup>4</sup> From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him.  
<sup>5</sup> You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed.  
<sup>6</sup> We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.  
<sup>7</sup> There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.  
<sup>8</sup> Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand.  
<sup>9</sup> Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD, and do not remember iniquity for ever. Now consider, we are all your people.

**SECOND READING I Corinthians 1.3–9**

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

- My brothers and sisters:  
<sup>3</sup> Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.  
<sup>4</sup> I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus,

5 for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of  
every kind –  
6 just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you –  
7 so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of  
our Lord Jesus Christ.  
8 He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the  
day of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
9 God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus  
Christ our Lord.

## **GOSPEL Mark 13.24–37**

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

Jesus said to his disciples:

24 'In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will  
not give its light,  
25 and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be  
shaken.  
26 Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in clouds" with great power and  
glory.  
27 Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from  
the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.  
28 From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and  
puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near.  
29 So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the  
very gates.  
30 Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have  
taken place.  
31 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.  
32 But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the  
Son, but only the Father.  
33 Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come.  
34 It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in  
charge, each with his work and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch.  
35 Therefore, keep awake – for you do not know when the master of the house  
will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn,  
36 or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly.  
37 And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.'

## THIS WEEK

Mon	1	Dec	Toddlers' Group	10.00 – 11.30am
Tue	2	Dec	Intercessory Prayer Group (Choir Vestry)	2.30pm
			Pause (23 Whippendell Road)	7.30pm
Wed	3	Dec	Coffee in Church	10.30am - 12 noon
			Bring-and-Share Lunch	12.30pm
			<b>PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL</b>	7.45 for 7.55 pm
Thu	4	Dec	Holy Communion	10.00am
			Fairhaven	morning
			Kids' Club	3.30 - 5.00pm
			Choir Practice	7.00 - 8.30pm
Sat	6	Dec	Parish walk	from 10.00am
Sun	7	Dec	<b><u>SECOND SUNDAY of ADVENT</u></b>	
			Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	8.00am
			<b>SUNG EUCHARIST</b>	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 are on sale after the 9.30 service at 10 cards for £4.

**BRING-&-SHARE LUNCH:** Please sign the list for Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

**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. The cards are now available for you to take and should be delivered if possible before Sunday, 14 December.

***Personal Greetings Cards:*** The tables for our internal mail will be set up next Sunday, 7 December.

**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.

**8AM SUNDAY COMMUNION DURING VACANCY:** The PCC has agreed that this will take place on the **FIRST** Sunday of the month only. The next 8 am will therefore be next Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December.