



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

SECOND SUNDAY of ADVENT

7 December 2008

A warm welcome to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Eucharist, the Rev John Orme celebrates and preaches and Sarah Dunning leads the intercessions. A crèche is available. Sunday School is in Littlebury Hall.

Hymns: 93, 37, 58 and 29

Setting: White

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

There is a United Evening Service at Trinity Methodist Church at 6.30 pm.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: Bathuel Tiwade, Bishop of Kolhapur, North India.
The Deanery of Hertford & Ware. Joint Rural Deans: Pauline Higham and Nick Sharp; Lay Chairman: Janet Mayes.

The World: Peace in all troubled places.
The people of Zimbabwe as they suffer from a cholera epidemic.
The world of commerce, trade and business.

The Community and Parish: Interfaith understanding in our local community.
The Watford Schools Trust as they take the Christmas message to local schools
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, 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, Lionel Jones, 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: Nancy Rook (aged 87), Croxley View.

Collect

O 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 40.1–11

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

- 1 Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.
- 2 Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.
- 3 A voice cries out: 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
- 4 Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.
- 5 Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.'
- 6 A voice says, 'Cry out!' And I said, 'What shall I cry?' All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field.
- 7 The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass.
- 8 The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever.
- 9 Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, 'Here is your God!'
- 10 See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.
- 11 He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

SECOND READING 2 Peter 3.8–15a

A reading from the second letter of Peter.

- 8 Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day.
- 9 The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance.
- 10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.
- 11 Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness,
- 12 waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire?
- 13 But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.
- 14 Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish;
- 15 and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

GOSPEL Mark 1.1–8

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

- 1 The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.
- 2 As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, ‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way;
- 3 the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: “Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,”’
- 4 John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.
- 5 And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.
- 6 Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey.
- 7 He proclaimed, ‘The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals.
- 8 I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.’

THIS WEEK

Mon	8	Dec	Toddlers' Group (Choir Vestry)	10.00 – 11.30am
			Service at The Chase Care Home	3.00pm
			Worship Committee (Clergy Vestry)	7.30 pm
Wed	10	Dec	Mothers' Union Short Service in Lady Chapel	10.00am
			followed by coffee, mince pies and Bring-&-Buy in church for everyone	10.30am
			Service at Home Manor	3.00pm
Thu	11	Dec	Holy Communion	10.00am
			St Anthony's	morning
			Kids' Club	3.30 - 5.00pm
			Choir Practice	7.00 - 8.30pm
Fri	12	Dec	Laurance Haines School Carols in church	9.30am
Sat	13	Dec	RADLETT CHORAL SOCIETY CHRISTMAS CONCERT	
			Afternoon rehearsal; mulled wine and mince pies from	7.15pm
			CONCERT	8.00pm
Sun	14	Dec	<u>THIRD SUNDAY of ADVENT</u>	
			SUNG EUCHARIST	9.30 am
			(crèche available). Sunday School in Littlebury Hall	
			Christingle Service	11.15am
			Service at River Court	3.00pm
			Service for Compassionate Friends	6.30pm

NOTICES

CHRISTINGLE SERVICE: Please note that the Christingle Service this year will be at 11.15 am next 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 today (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.

LAST SUNDAY'S BRING-&-BUY SALE raised the splendid total of £98. Many thanks to everyone who contributed and particularly to Norma.

CHRISTMAS CARDS: Church Christmas Cards are on sale after the 9.30 service at 10 cards for £4.

CHRISTMAS CARDS (see tables in north aisle):

Distribution round the parish: 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 are now available.

The 'large' card is also available; the collection will be for Save the Children to be directed to the Congo.

FINAL COPY DATE FOR THE CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR SWORD is MIDDAY next Sunday, 14 December. Hard copy, floppy disc or email to DENNIS.H.BEACH@sky.com.