



# THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

*St Michael and All Angels*

Watford

**ADVENT SUNDAY**

29 November 2009

A warm welcome to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Eucharist, Fr George celebrates, Violet preaches and Vicki Matthews leads the intercessions. A crèche is available and there is Sunday School.

**Hymns: 28, 24, 32 and 31**

**Setting: Missa Seraphica**

Tea and coffee will be served in church after the 9.30 service and there will be a bring-and-buy sale – please stay on.

The Confirmation Group will meet at 4 pm in the Vicarage.

There is Evening Prayer in the Lady Chapel at 6.30 pm.

---

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

**The Church:** The Scottish Episcopal Church.  
The Church's Celebration of Advent.  
The Children's Society.

**The World:** Our Emergency Services.  
Charitable Organisations.  
Carers.

**The Community and Parish:** Our Young People.  
Our PCC who meet this week.

Those who will receive our Christmas Card.

**The Ill and the Housebound:** Especially Ray Angles, Ellen Benoy, Gunter Bouché, Christopher Browne, John Brown, Marjorie Carlisle, Peter Coley, Bill Craddock-Jones, Marion Craddock-Jones, Jean Crouch, June Dickinson, Kate Dickinson, Jocelyn Harewood, Neil Hart, Gladys Holloway, Jenny Houghton, Lionel Jones, Mary Kearns, Kate Kirwan, Loretta Lynch, Maggie Maguire, Stella Nicholas, Dorcas Ochola, Gaynor Osbourne, Myrtle Powell, Bryony Purse, Ann Reed, Elaine Robinson, Maureen Swann, June Tatnall, Anne Wightman and Eric Wightman.

**The Departed:**

---

**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 Jeremiah 33.14–16**

A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah.

<sup>14</sup> The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfil the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah.

<sup>15</sup> In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.

<sup>16</sup> In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: 'The LORD is our righteousness.'

**SECOND READING I Thessalonians 3.9–13**

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

<sup>9</sup> How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you?

<sup>10</sup> Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

<sup>11</sup> Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you.

<sup>12</sup> And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you.

<sup>13</sup> And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

## **GOSPEL Luke 21.25–36**

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

Jesus said to his disciples:

25 ‘There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves.

26 People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

27 Then they will see “the Son of Man coming in a cloud” with power and great glory.

28 Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.’

29 Then he told them a parable: ‘Look at the fig tree and all the trees;  
30 as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near.

31 So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near.

32 Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place.

33 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

34 Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life,

35 and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth.

36 Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.’

## THIS WEEK

Mon	30	Nov	Toddlers' Group	10.00 – 11.30am
Wed	2	Dec	Coffee in Church	10.30am-12 noon
			Bring-and-Share lunch	12.30 pm
			PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL	7.55 pm
Thur	3	Dec	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
			Kids' Club	3.30 – 5.00pm
			Choir Practice	7.00 – 8.30pm
Sun	6	Dec	<b><u>ADVENT 2</u></b>	
			Holy Communion (Pres: Fr George)	8.00am
			<b>SUNG EUCHARIST:</b> with crèche and Sunday School	9.30am
			(President and preacher: Fr Geoff)	
			followed by a Christingle Bring-and-Buy sale.	
			Confirmation Group (Vicarage)	4.00pm
			Evening Prayer	6.30pm

## **NOTICES**

**CHRISTMAS GREETINGS:** If you would like to send your Christmas greetings to friends at St Michael's via the little booklet of greetings being prepared please see the information on the table at the West Door. Either complete or take home a form from the envelope marked "Blank Forms" and then put it in the "Completed Forms" envelope (by 6 December) making a donation in the box provided or if possible using a Gift Aid envelope.

**BRING-AND-SHARE LUNCH** will be on Wednesday, 2 December 2009 at 12.30 pm. Please sign the list on the signings table if you hope to come.

**PERSONAL GREETINGS CARDS:** The tables for your personal greetings cards will be available from Sunday, 13 December.

**PARISH CHRISTMAS CARD:** This is being printed and a list of the roads which we are asked to deliver is on the signings table. Please sign up to deliver some of these cards and thus give our greetings and information about our services to our neighbours in West Watford. West Watford Free Church and Trinity Methodist are also delivering some of the cards in the area.

**CHRISTINGLE SERVICE:** This will be on Sunday, 13 December, at 11.15 am. 'Candles' and envelopes for your gifts of money for the work of The Children's Society are available at the back of the church. Please tell your friends and neighbours about this service. There will be a **Bring-and-Buy** sale to raise money to cover the cost of the Christingles, on Sunday next, 6 December, after the 9.30 service/

**COFFEE ON WEDNESDAY, 9 DECEMBER,** from 10.30 – 12 noon will be arranged by the Mothers' Union and there will be a bring-and-buy stall in aid of MU charities.