



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

ADVENT 2

6 December 2009

A warm welcome to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Eucharist, Fr Geoff celebrates and preaches and John Adams leads the intercessions. A crèche is available and there is Sunday School.

Hymns: 29, 36, 58 and 40

Setting: Missa Seraphica

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

Baptism for Leighton Pierce Blythe at 2.30 pm.

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: Vocations to Ordained and Lay Ministry.
People in Training for Ministry and in the Selection Process.
The Diocesan Vision for Action initiative.

The World: The world of commerce, trade and business.
Human Rights.
The Fairtrade Movement.

The Community and Parish: Schools coming to our Church for visits and services.
People in Retirement Homes in our Parish.
Ministers at St Michael's.

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

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 Malachi 3.1–4

A reading from the book of the prophet Malachi.

Thus says the LORD God:

¹ See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight – indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts.

² But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap;
³ he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness.

⁴ Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

SECOND READING Philippians 1.3–11

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.

My brothers and sisters,

³ I thank my God every time I remember you,
⁴ constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you,
⁵ because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now.

⁶ I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ.

7 It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold
me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in
my imprisonment and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel.
8 For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion
of Christ Jesus.
9 And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more
with knowledge and full insight
10 to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ
you may be pure and blameless,
11 having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through
Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

GOSPEL Luke 3.1–6

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

1 In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius
Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his
brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and
Lysanias ruler of Abilene,
2 during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God
came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness.
3 He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism
of repentance for the forgiveness of sins,
4 as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, 'The
voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the
Lord, make his paths straight.
5 Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made
low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways
made smooth;
6 and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

THIS WEEK

Mon	7	Dec	Toddlers' Group	10.00 – 11.30am
Wed	9	Dec	Coffee in Church	10.30am-12 noon
			Mothers' Union Short Service in Lady Chapel	10.00am
			followed by coffee, mince pies and bring-&-buy in church - everyone welcome	10.30am
Thur	10	Dec	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
			St Anthony's	morning
			Kids' Club	3.30 – 5.00pm
			Choir Practice	7.00 – 8.30pm
Fri	11	Dec	Laurence Haines School Carols in Church	9.30am
Sun	13	Dec	ADVENT 3	
			Holy Communion (Pres: Fr Geoff)	8.00am
			SUNG EUCHARIST: with crèche and Sunday School	9.30am
			(President Fr Geoff, preacher: Martin Heath)	
			CHRISTINGLE SERVICE	11.15am
			Service at River Court	3.00pm
			Confirmation Group (Vicarage)	4.00pm
			Service for the Compassionate Friends	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. Please complete a form from the envelope marked "Blank Forms" and then put it in the "Completed Forms" envelope **TODAY**, making a donation in the box provided or if possible using a Gift Aid envelope.

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 next 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. If anyone who would like to help MAKE THE CHRISTINGLES on Saturday, 12 December, please see or ring Norma to find out details (249327).

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.

FINAL COPY DATE FOR THE JANUARY SWORD is MIDDAY next Sunday, 13 December. Hard copy or floppy disc to Dennis Beach or email to dhbeach@sky.com.