



# THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

*St Michael and All Angels*

Watford

**ADVENT 3**

13 December 2009

A warm welcome to our services today.

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

**Hymns: 26, 34, 38 and 35**

**Setting: Missa Seraphica**

Coffee and tea will be served in church after the 9.30 service.

This is followed at 11.15 by our annual Christingle Service – please stay on.

The monthly service at River Court is at 3.00 pm.

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

Service for The Compassionate Friends is at 6.30 pm.

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

**The Church:** The staff of our Diocesan Office  
Interfaith Groups in our Diocese  
Unity in the Anglican Communion

**The World:** Nations working to counteract climate change  
Indigenous communities across the world  
Homeless people

**The Community and Parish:** The work of the Multicultural Community Centre  
Our Confirmation candidates  
People receiving 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:**

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**Collect**

O Lord Jesus Christ, who at your first coming sent your messenger to prepare your way before you:  
grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready your way by turning the hearts of the disobedient  
to the wisdom of the just,  
that at your second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in your sight; for you are alive and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**FIRST READING Zephaniah 3.14–20**

A reading from the book of the prophet Zephaniah.

- <sup>14</sup> Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem!
- <sup>15</sup> The LORD has taken away the judgements against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more.
- <sup>16</sup> On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak.
- <sup>17</sup> The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing
- <sup>18</sup> as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it.
- <sup>19</sup> I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth.
- <sup>20</sup> At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the LORD.

## **SECOND READING Philippians 4.4–7**

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.

- 4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.  
5 Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near.  
6 Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.  
7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

## **GOSPEL Luke 3.7–18**

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

- 7 John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, ‘You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?  
8 Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, “We have Abraham as our ancestor”; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham.  
9 Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.’  
10 And the crowds asked him, ‘What then should we do?’  
11 In reply he said to them, ‘Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.’  
12 Even tax-collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, ‘Teacher, what should we do?’  
13 He said to them, ‘Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.’  
14 Soldiers also asked him, ‘And we, what should we do?’ He said to them, ‘Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.’  
15 As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah,  
16 John answered all of them by saying, ‘I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.  
17 His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.’  
18 So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

## THIS WEEK

Mon	14	Dec	Toddlers' Group	10.00 – 11.30am
Tue	15	Dec	Service at Chase Care Home	3.00pm
			Watford Boys Grammar School Nine Lessons and Carols (Church in use all day for rehearsals)	7.30pm
Wed	16	Dec	Coffee in Church	10.30am-12 noon
			(Private booking in Choir Vestry	6.30-8.30pm)
Thur	17	Dec	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
			Kids' Club	3.30 – 5.00pm
			Choir Practice	7.00 – 8.30pm
Sun	20	Dec	<b><u>ADVENT 4</u></b>	
			Holy Communion (Pres: Fr George)	8.00am
			<b>SUNG EUCHARIST:</b> with crèche and Sunday School (President Fr Geoff, preacher: Fr George)	9.30am
			Rehearsal for the Choir	afternoon
			<b>CAROL SERVICE</b>	6.00pm

## **NOTICES**

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

**PARISH CHRISTMAS CARD:** This is ready 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. Members of West Watford Free Church and Trinity Methodist are also delivering some of the cards in the area.

**CHRISTINGLE SERVICE:** This is today 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. Thank you to everyone who supported last week's sale which raised £70 towards the cost of the Christingles; the remainder will be sent to The Children's Society.

**CRIB SERVICE:** If you can bring a gift to this service on Christmas Eve (for either a boy, a girl, or a mum at the women's refuge) please take a tag from the Christmas tree at the back of the church.

**MINCE PIES:** Next Sunday (20 December) after the Carol Service we shall be serving warm mince pies with tea and coffee. If you are able to donate any mince pies, please bring them to church, preferably in the morning.

**FLOWER FUND:** Contributions towards the Christmas flowers will be gratefully received by Fay Storey and Jean Alexander. If you are able to gift aid your contribution, please use a gift aid envelope and mark it 'Flower Fund'.

**THE MOTHERS' UNION** coffee morning and bring-and-buy stall in aid of MU charities last Wednesday raised £51. Thank you.

**FINAL COPY DATE FOR THE JANUARY SWORD** is MIDDAY today Sunday, 13 December. Hard copy or floppy disc to Dennis Beach or email to [dhbeach@sky.com](mailto:dhbeach@sky.com).