



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

ADVENT 4

20 December 2009

A warm welcome to our services today.

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

Hymns: 238, 243, 25 and 362

Setting: Missa Seraphica

Coffee and tea will be served in church after the 9.30 service – please stay on.

(No Confirmation Group this afternoon – next meeting 4.30pm on 4th January.)

Our Carol Service is at 6 pm and this is followed by mince pies and coffee.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: Anglican Methodist Relationships.

The Church in Myanmar/Burma.

Christmas church services across the world.

The World: The victims and potential victims of climate change.

Armed Forces personnel serving overseas at Christmas.

People with memories of bereavement at Christmas.

The Community and Parish: Our Christmas visitors.

The extended family of our Church.

All those wondering whether to come to Church at Christmas.

The Ill and the Housebound: Especially Ray Angles, Ellen Benoy, Gunter Bouché,

Christopher Browne, Mel 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,

Vera Levinson, 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: Emily Ivey (aged 90), Melrose Place.

Collect

God our redeemer, who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of your Son:
grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour, so we may be ready to greet him when he comes again as our judge;
who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING Micah 5.2–5a

A reading from the book of the prophet Micah.

The LORD says to his people:

² But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.

³ Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labour has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel.

⁴ And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth;

⁵ and he shall be the one of peace.

SECOND READING Hebrews 10.5–10

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

⁵ When Christ came into the world, he said, ‘Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me;

⁶ in burnt-offerings and sin-offerings you have taken no pleasure.

⁷ Then I said, “See, God, I have come to do your will, O God” (in the scroll of the book, it is written of me).’

⁸ When Christ said, ‘You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings’ (these are offered according to the law),

⁹ then he added, ‘See, I have come to do your will.’ He abolishes the first in order to establish the second.

¹⁰ And it is by God’s will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

GOSPEL Luke 1.39–45

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

³⁹ Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country,
⁴⁰ where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.

⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit

⁴² and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.

⁴³ And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me?

⁴⁴ For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy.

⁴⁵ And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'



THIS WEEK

Mon	21	Dec	Toddlers' Group	10.00 – 11.30am
Wed	23	Dec	<i>No coffee in church today</i>	
Thur	24	Dec	CHRISTMAS EVE	
			Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
			CRIB SERVICE	4.00pm
			MIDNIGHT EUCHARIST	11.30pm
			(Pres & Preacher: Fr Geoff)	
Fri	25	Dec	CHRISTMAS DAY	
			Holy Communion (Pres: Fr Geoff)	8.00am
			SUNG EUCHARIST	9.30am
			(Pres: Fr George; Preacher: Martin Heath)	
Sun	27	Dec	<u>St JOHN, EVANGELIST</u>	
			Holy Communion (Pres: Fr George)	8.00am
			SUNG EUCHARIST: with crèche and Sunday School	9.30am
			(President Fr George, Preacher: Violet Allen-Smith)	
			Evening Prayer	6.30pm

NOTICES

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

PARISH CHRISTMAS CARD: There are still a few cards to deliver. Please sign up to deliver some of these and thus give our greetings and information about our services to our neighbours in West Watford.

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: Tonight (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.

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'.

BRING-&-SHARE LUNCHESES: The next Lunch is on 6 January. Please sign list.

COLIN ROBINSON and family send their best wishes to everyone at St Michael's. Colin is now Head Server at St Mary's Priory Church in Monmouth.

SWORD: The Christmas/New Year edition is available to take and distribute. **SWORD SUBSCRIPTIONS** for 2010 are now due. Valerie Alvarez has kindly agreed to collect subscriptions for the coming year. The cost of Sword is 60p per month. If you pay for the year in advance an annual subscription for 12 issues will be £6.00, thus giving you 12 issues for the price of 10! If you don't subscribe at present and would like to take out a new annual subscription, please see Dennis Beach.