



# THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

*St Michael and All Angels*

Watford

ADVENT SUNDAY  
28 November 2010

A warm welcome to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Sung Eucharist, Fr Geoff celebrates, Barry Miles preaches and Sarah Dunning leads the intercessions. A crèche is available and there is Sunday School.

**Hymns: 28, 24, 39 and 31**

**Setting: White**

Tea and coffee will be served in church after the 9.30 service and there will be a Bring-&-Buy Sale - please stay on.

The Baptism of Finley Blowers is at 2.30pm.

Evening Prayer in the Lady Chapel is at 6.00pm.

---

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

**The Church:** Oswald Swartz, Bishop of Kimberley and Kuruman, South Africa;  
Anglican Methodist Relations;  
The Anglican Church in Malaysia.

**The World:** All people with HIV/AIDS and initiatives to combat the disease;  
All work to protect animals from cruelty and neglect;  
The Fair Trade Movement.

**The Community and Parish:** Our keeping of Advent;  
The chaplaincy team at West Herts Hospital NHS Trust;  
Our local and national political representatives.

**The Ill and the Housebound:** Especially Christopher Bilson, Peter Coley, Bill and Marion Craddock-Jones, Thomas Cristensen, Jean Crouch, Darrell Dunning, David and Janet Freeman, Jocelyn Harewood, Susetta Hartropp, Peter Hatswell, Gladys Holloway, Leena Hosie, Jenny Houghton, Mary Kearns, Dorothy Kiddle, Vera Levinson, Loretta Lynch, Jacqui Lyons, Maggie Maguire, Dorcas Ochola, Gaynor Osbourne, Celia Pain, Myrtle Powell, Bryony Purse, Marianne Rees, Elaine Robinson, June Tatnall, Eric and Anne Wightman.

**The Departed:** The New Zealand miners who have lost their lives and their families and friends who mourn them.

---

**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 Isaiah 2.1-5**

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

- <sup>1</sup> The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.
- <sup>2</sup> In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it.
- <sup>3</sup> Many peoples shall come and say, 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.' For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.
- <sup>4</sup> He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.
- <sup>5</sup> O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!

## **SECOND READING Romans 13.11–14**

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

- <sup>11</sup> Brothers and sisters, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers;
- <sup>12</sup> the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armour of light;
- <sup>13</sup> let us live honourably as in the day, not in revelling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarrelling and jealousy.
- <sup>14</sup> Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

## **GOSPEL Matthew 24.36–44**

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

Jesus spoke to his disciples:

- <sup>36</sup> ‘About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.
- <sup>37</sup> For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.
- <sup>38</sup> For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark,
- <sup>39</sup> and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man.
- <sup>40</sup> Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left.
- <sup>41</sup> Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left.
- <sup>42</sup> Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.
- <sup>43</sup> But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into.
- <sup>44</sup> Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.’

## THIS WEEK

|      |    |     |   |                         |
|------|----|-----|---|-------------------------|
| Mon  | 29 | Nov | Toddlers Group  | 10.00 – 11.30am         |
|      |    |     | (Fr George's Licensing as Hospital Chaplain (part time) | 9.30am)                 |
| Wed  | 1  | Dec | Coffee in Church  | 10.30am-12 noon         |
|      |    |     | Bring-and-Share lunch                                   | 12.30pm                 |
| Thur | 2  | Dec | Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)      | 10.00am                 |
|      |    |     | Fairhaven   | morning                 |
|      |    |     | Choir Practice  | 7.00 – 8.30pm           |
| Sat  | 4  | Dec | Parish Walk   | Leave Church at 10.00am |
| Sun  | 5  | 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                  |
|      |    |     | (Pres and Preacher: Fr Geoff)                           |                         |
|      |    |     | Followed by Bring-and-Buy in aid of Christingle         |                         |
|      |    |     | Evening Prayer  | 6.00pm                  |

## **NOTICES**

**THE CHRISTMAS FAIR** raised £1464.81. Thank you to everyone who worked before, during or after the event; who donated items for sale; who helped run a stall; who came to the fair. It was a very friendly occasion and the total raised was excellent.

**CHRISTMAS GREETINGS BOOKLET:** Last year's booklet of St Michael's Christmas greetings was a great success and much appreciated. Vicki Matthews has kindly agreed to produce another booklet for this year and she needs to have your message by Sunday, 5 December. A donation towards the work of Christian Aid when you give Vicki your message will be gratefully received. Copies of the form to use to set out your message is on the signings table at the back of the church.

**BRING-&-SHARE LUNCH:** Please sign the list for Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> December.

**THE PARISH WALK** is on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> December. 10 am start. Please sign list.

**CHRISTINGLE SERVICE:** Please note that the Christingle Service this year will be at 11.15 am on Sunday, 12 December. All proceeds are in aid of The Children's Society. There is a Bring-&-Buy sale next Sunday, 5 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, 11 December, please see Norma Twitchin or Fay Storey.

**PARISH CHRISTMAS CARD:** These will be available for delivery very soon. Please sign the list to indicate where you can deliver them.

**CHRISTMAS FLOWERS:** There will be no flowers in church during Advent but Fay and Jean will be very pleased to receive any donations you wish to make towards the Christmas flowers. If you are able to gift aid your donation please use a gift aid envelope and mark it 'Flower Fund'. Thank you.