



# THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

*St Michael and All Angels*

Watford

ADVENT 3

12 December 2010

A warm welcome to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Sung Eucharist, Fr George celebrates and preaches and Anne Eccleshall leads the intercessions. A crèche is available and there is Sunday School.

**Hymns: 34, 607, 38 and 37**

**Setting: Missa Seraphica**

Tea and coffee will be served in church after the 9.30 service.

The 11.15 service this morning is our annual **Christingle** Service - please stay on.

At 6.30pm there is special service for The Compassionate Friends and Survivors of Bereavement by Suicide.

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

**The Church:** The Reformed Episcopal Church of Spain and Carlos Lopez-Lozano, its Bishop  
Jonathan Smith, Archdeacon of St Albans  
The Council of Christian Churches in Mauritius.

**The World:** Young people hoping to go to University  
People who are homeless in the cold weather  
Our armed forces personnel serving away from home.

**The Community and Parish:** People working in voluntary service in Watford  
The Compassionate Friends  
Our Youth Group

**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:**

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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 Isaiah 35.1–10**

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

- 1 The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,
- 2 and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God.
- 3 Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees.
- 4 Say to those who are of a fearful heart, 'Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.'
- 5 Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
- 6 then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert;
- 7 the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.
- 8 A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray.
- 9 No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there.
- 10 And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

## **SECOND READING James 5.7–10**

A reading from the letter of James.

- 7 Be patient, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains.
- 8 You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near.
- 9 Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors!
- 10 As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

## **GOSPEL Matthew 11.2–11**

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

- 2 When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples
- 3 and said to Jesus, ‘Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?’
- 4 Jesus answered them, ‘Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.’
- 7 As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: ‘What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet.
- 10 This is the one about whom it is written, “See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.”
- 11 Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.’

## THIS WEEK

Mon	13	Dec	Toddlers Group	10.00 – 11.30am
Tue	14	Dec	Watford Boys Grammar School Nine Lessons and Carols (Church in use all day for rehearsals)	7.30pm
Wed	15	Dec	Coffee in Church (Ecumenical Carol Singing – meet at West Watford	10.30am-12 noon 6.30pm)
Thur	16	Dec	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language) Choir Practice	10.00am 7.00 – 8.30pm
Sun	19	Dec	<b><u>ADVENT 4</u></b> Holy Communion (Pres: Fr Geoff) <b>SUNG EUCHARIST:</b> with crèche and Sunday School (Pres: Fr Geoff and Preacher: Violet Allen-Smith) Rehearsal for the Choir CAROL SERVICE (followed by coffee and mince pies)	8.00am 9.30am afternoon 6.00pm

## NOTICES

**CHRISTINGLE SERVICE:** Please note that the Christingle Service this year is at **11.15 am today** Sunday, 12 December. All proceeds are in aid of The Children's Society. Please help yourself to the candles or envelopes for your donations.

**FINAL COPY DATE FOR THE CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR SWORD** is MIDDAY next **Sunday, 19 December**. Hard copy or floppy disc to Dennis Beach or email to dhbeach@sky.com. NB If the magazine is to be out by Christmas, Dennis cannot extend this final copy date at all.

**PARISH CHRISTMAS CARD:** These are available for delivery.. Please sign the list to indicate where you can deliver them and collect your cards.

**CAROL SINGING:** We will be carol singing on the Holywell Estate on the evening of 15<sup>th</sup> December, with our friends from Trinity Methodist Church, and West Watford Free Church. We meet at West Watford Free Church at 6.30 pm. If anyone would like a lift to West Watford please see Fr Geoff or one of the wardens.

**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.

**PERSONAL CHRISTMAS CARDS:** The tables where you can leave your Christmas cards for church members to collect are in the north aisle.