



# THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

*St Michael and All Angels*

Watford

ADVENT 4

19 December 2010

A warm welcome to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Sung Eucharist, Fr Geoff celebrates, Violet Allen-Smith preaches and Paul Jenkins leads the intercessions. A crèche is available and there is Sunday School.

**Hymns: 49, 58, 32 and 35**

**Setting: Missa Seraphica**

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

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

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

**The Church:** The Falkland Islands, and Richard Hines, its Rector  
The USPG-supported Bollobhpur Hospital in northern Bangladesh  
Persecuted Christians across the world.

**The World:** Peace in our world  
The protection and enrichment of children's lives in our world  
People who have received news of unemployment.

**The Community and Parish:** All our visitors at Christmas  
Our families coming together at Christmas  
Peace and goodwill between all members of our Community.

**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**

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 Isaiah 7.10–16**

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

- <sup>10</sup> The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying,  
<sup>11</sup> ‘Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.’  
<sup>12</sup> But Ahaz said, ‘I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.’  
<sup>13</sup> Then Isaiah said: ‘Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also?’  
<sup>14</sup> Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel.  
<sup>15</sup> He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good.  
<sup>16</sup> For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.’

**SECOND READING Romans 1.1–7**

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

- <sup>1</sup> Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God,  
<sup>2</sup> which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures,

<sup>3</sup> the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh  
<sup>4</sup> and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord.  
<sup>5</sup> Through Christ we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name,  
<sup>6</sup> including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,  
<sup>7</sup> To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

### **GOSPEL Matthew 1.18–25**

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

<sup>18</sup> The birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit.  
<sup>19</sup> Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly.  
<sup>20</sup> But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.  
<sup>21</sup> She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.'  
<sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:  
<sup>23</sup> 'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,' which means, 'God is with us.'  
<sup>24</sup> When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife,  
<sup>25</sup> but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

## THIS WEEK

Mon	20	Dec	Toddlers Group	10.00 – 11.30am
Tue	21	Dec	Service at the Chase Care Home	2.30pm
Wed	22	Dec	NO Coffee in Church	
Thur	23	Dec	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
			Choir Practice	7.00 – 8.30pm
Fri	24	Dec	<b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b>	
			CRIB SERVICE	4.00pm
			<b>MIDNIGHT MASS</b>	<b>11.30pm</b>
			(Pres & Preacher: Fr Geoff)	
Sat	25	Dec	<b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b>	
			Holy Communion Pres: Fr Geoff	8.00am
			SUNG EUCHARIST(Pres: Fr Geoff; Preacher: Martin Heath)	9.30am
Sun	26	Dec	<b><u>First Sunday after Christmas</u></b>	
			Holy Communion (Pres: Fr Geoff)	8.00am
			<b>SIMPLE EUCHARIST</b> with Carols	9.30am
			(Pres and Preacher Fr Geoff)	

## **NOTICES**

**FINAL COPY DATE FOR THE CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR SWORD** is **MIDDAY TODAY** 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.

**CRIB SERVICE:** If you wish to 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 (19 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.

**ON MONDAY 20TH DECEMBER** at 6.30pm, Vicarage Road stadium will host a family carol concert. Entry is free and a bucket collection will be taken, with all proceeds going to Watford New Hope Trust. You are invited to come along and join the town for an opportunity to come together and celebrate Christmas.

**CHRISTMAS FLOWERS:** 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.

**CHRISTMAS GEETINGS BOOKLET:** anyone who has had a message put in the booklet and who has not yet made their contribution please do so today.

**PERSONAL CHRISTMAS CARDS:** The tables where you can leave your Christmas cards for church members to collect are in the north aisle. **GIVING ENVELOPES FOR 2011** are on a table in the south aisle. Please collect yours. If you wish to join the envelope giving scheme please see Valerie Alvarez.