



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

ADVENT SUNDAY

27 November 2011

A warm welcome to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Sung Eucharist, Fr Geoff celebrates, Violet Allen-Smith preaches and Vicki Matthews leads the intercessions.

Hymns: 32, 334, 39 and 31

Setting: Oldroyd

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

There is Evening Prayer in the Lady Chapel at 6.00 pm.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: Thomas Brown, Bishop of Wellington, New Zealand
The Missionary Work of the Church
Church Army evangelists

The World: Victims of natural disaster through climate change
Victims of HIV/AIDS
Peace and justice in Egypt and Syria

The Community and Parish: Fairhaven Care Home
Our PCC members
Chater Infants School

The Ill and the Housebound: Especially Bruce Alexander, Billie Bainbridge (age 4), Christopher Bilson, Mary Calvert, Peter Coley, Bill and Marion Craddock-Jones, Jean Crouch, Kate Dickinson, Darrell Dunning, David and Janet Freeman, Susetta Hartropp, Ben Heath, Jessie Hobby, Leena Hosie, Jenny Houghton, Mary Kearns, Dorothy Kiddle, Lesley Kinch, Loretta Lynch, Maggie Maguire, Stella Nicholas, Faith Nkugwa, Dorcas Ochola, Gaynor Osbourne, Helen Perry, Myrtle Powell, Bryony Purse, David Simon, Eric and Anne Wightman

The Departed:

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 64.1–9

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

- ¹ O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence –
² as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil – to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
³ When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
⁴ From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him.
⁵ You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed.
⁶ We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
⁷ There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.
⁸ Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand.
⁹ Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD, and do not remember iniquity for ever. Now consider, we are all your people.

SECOND READING I Corinthians 1.3–9

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

- My brothers and sisters:
³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
⁴ I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus,

5 for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of
every kind –
6 just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you –
7 so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of
our Lord Jesus Christ.
8 He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the
day of our Lord Jesus Christ.
9 God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus
Christ our Lord.

GOSPEL Mark 13.24–37

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

Jesus said to his disciples:

24 'In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will
not give its light,
25 and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be
shaken.
26 Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in clouds" with great power and
glory.
27 Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from
the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.
28 From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and
puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near.
29 So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the
very gates.
30 Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have
taken place.
31 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.
32 But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the
Son, but only the Father.
33 Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come.
34 It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in
charge, each with his work and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch.
35 Therefore, keep awake – for you do not know when the master of the house
will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn,
36 or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly.
37 And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.'

THIS WEEK

Mon	28	Nov	Toddlers' Group	10 – 11.30am
Wed	30	Nov	Coffee in Church	10.30am-12 noon
			PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL	7.55pm
Thur	1	Dec	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
			Fairhaven	morning
			Choir Practice	7.00 – 8.30pm
Sat	3	Dec	Parish Walk	10.00am
Sun	4	Dec	<u>ADVENT 2</u>	
			Holy Communion (Pres: Fr George)	8.00am
			SUNG EUCHARIST (President and preacher: Fr Geoff)	9.30am
			with Holy Baptism	
			Followed by Bring-and-Buy Sale in aid of Christingle	
			Evening Prayer	6.00pm

NOTICES

PARISH WALK: Saturday, 3 December. Please sign the list on the signings table.

HELP is needed on 17 December at the Harlequin to raise money for the New Hope Trust by wrapping Christmas presents between 9 am and 9 pm. Ring 01923 227132 for further details.

CHRISTINGLE: This year the service will be at 11.15 am on Sunday, 11 December and there will be a Bring-&-Buy stall on the previous Sunday (4th) to raise money for the ingredients of the Christingles.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS: There will be no flower arrangements in church during Advent but we look forward to the display at Christmas. If you would like to donate something towards the Christmas flowers, perhaps in memory of a loved one, please give your donation to Fay Storey or Jean Alexander. If you are able to gift aid your donation please use one of the gift aid envelopes and mark it Flower Fund. Thank you.

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, 4 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 are on the signings table at the back of the church

COFFEE, MINCE PIES & CHRISTMAS BRING-&-BUY: On Wednesday, 7 December, from 10.30 to 12 noon, the Mothers' Union will be serving these in church. Please come along and bring your friends and neighbours.

ECUMENICAL CAROL SINGING: On Friday 16th December, we will be carol singing around the Holywell area with our friends from Trinity Methodist Church and West Watford Free Church – meet 6.30p-m at West Watford Free Church