



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

ADVENT 2

4 December 2011

A warm welcome to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Sung Eucharist, Fr Geoff celebrates and preaches and Valerie Alvarez leads the intercessions. The service will include Holy Baptism of Fr George's grandson and nephew.

Hymns: 34, 58, 29 and 35

Setting: Oldroyd

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

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

For your prayers this week:

The Church: Michael Milliken, Bishop of Western Kansas, USA.

USPG's "Expanding Horizons" programme.

The 16 Church Army Centres of Mission in the UK and Ireland.

The World: Social workers, and all who work with disadvantaged members of society.

Protection of human rights across the world.

The protection of children from trafficking, exploitation and abuse.

The Community and Parish: Residents and staff at River Court and St Anthony's care homes.

Our MP and Borough and County Councillors.

Our Toddlers' Group.

The Ill and the Housebound: Especially Bruce Alexander, Billie Bainbridge (age 4), Christopher Bilson, Peter Coley, Bill and Marion Craddock-Jones, Jean Crouch, Darrell Dunning, David and Janet Freeman, Susetta Hartopp, 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: Julia Price, Leslie Fowler and Courtney Goodman.

Collect

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power and come among us, and with great might succour us; that whereas, through our sins and wickedness we are grievously hindered in running the race that is set before us, your bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be honour and glory, now and for ever.

FIRST READING Isaiah 40.1-11

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

- 1 Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.
- 2 Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.
- 3 A voice cries out: 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
- 4 Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.
- 5 Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.'
- 6 A voice says, 'Cry out!' And I said, 'What shall I cry?' All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field.
- 7 The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass.
- 8 The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever.
- 9 Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, 'Here is your God!'
- 10 See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.
- 11 He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

SECOND READING 2 Peter 3.8–15a

A reading from the second letter of Peter.

- 8 Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day.
- 9 The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance.
- 10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.
- 11 Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness,
- 12 waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire?
- 13 But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.
- 14 Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish;
- 15 and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

GOSPEL Mark 1.1–8

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

- 1 The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.
- 2 As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, ‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way;
- 3 the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: “Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,”’
- 4 John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.
- 5 And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.
- 6 Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey.
- 7 He proclaimed, ‘The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals.
- 8 I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.’

THIS WEEK

Mon	5	Dec	Toddlers' Group	10 – 11.30am
			River Court Service	3.00pm
Tue	6	Dec	Intercessory Prayer Group (Choir Vestry)	2.30pm
			Centenary Committee (14 Mildred Ave)	7.30pm
Wed	7	Dec	Mothers' Union Short Service in Lady Chapel	10.00am
			followed by coffee, mince pies and bring-&-buy in Church for everyone	
			Bring-&-Share Lunch	12.30pm
Thur	8	Dec	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
			St Anthony's	morning
			Choir Practice	7.00 – 8.30pm
Sun	11	Dec	ADVENT 3	
			Holy Communion (Pres: Fr Geoff)	8.00am
			SUNG EUCHARIST	
			(President: Fr Geoff; preacher: Martin Heath)	9.30am
			Christingle Service	11.15am
			Youth Group Lunch	12.30pm
			Piano Recital (David Degan's pupils)	3.00pm
			Service for Compassionate Friends	6.00pm

NOTICES

CHRISTINGLE: This year the service will be at 11.15 am next Sunday, 11 December. There are 'candles' and envelopes available in church for donations.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS: 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 Christmas greetings was a great success and much appreciated. Vicki Matthews is producing another booklet this year and she needs to have your message by today, Sunday, 4 December. Donations towards the work of Christian Aid when you give Vicki your message will be gratefully received. Forms to set out your message are on the signings table at the back of the church.

CHRISTMAS LEAFLETS: These should be available from next Sunday and, together with our friends at Trinity Methodist and West Watford Free, we hope to have as many as possible delivered in the area. There is a list of roads we would like to cover on the Christmas card table. Please sign it today if you are able to deliver some.

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 6.30pm at West Watford Free Church.