



# THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

*St Michael and All Angels*

Watford

**ADVENT 4**

18 December 2011

A warm welcome to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Sung Eucharist, Fr George celebrates and preaches and Jamie Wareham leads the intercessions.

**Hymns: 231 (tune NEH188), 25 (i), 238 and 362**

**Setting: Oldroyd**

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

**Our CAROL Service is at 6.00 pm. This will be followed by mince pies and mulled wine.**

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

**The Church:** John Smylie, Bishop of Wyoming, USA.

The Church in Botswana, and the work of USPG.

Persecuted and oppressed Christians across the world.

**The World:** Unemployed people, and young people trying to start work.

Our high street shops and businesses.

School staff and pupils over the Christmas holiday.

**The Community and Parish:** Staff and residents at Chase Care Centre, and all our local care home staff and residents.

People who will be alone or in hospital at Christmas.

People who have memories of bereavement at Christmas.

**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, Ben Heath, Jessie Hobby, Leena Hosie, Jenny Houghton, Harvey Jaquest, Mary Kearns, Dorothy Kiddle, Lesley Kinch, Loretta Lynch, Maggie Maguire, Stella Nicholas, Faith Nkugwa, Dorcas Ochola, Helen Perry, Myrtle Powell, David Simon, Eric and Anne Wightman

**The Departed:** Peter Edwin Seager.

Gaynor Osbourne

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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 2 Samuel 7.1–11, 16**

A reading from the second book of Samuel.

- <sup>1</sup> Now when David, the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him,  
<sup>2</sup> the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.'  
<sup>3</sup> Nathan said to the king, 'Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you.'  
<sup>4</sup> But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan:  
<sup>5</sup> Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in?  
<sup>6</sup> I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle.  
<sup>7</sup> Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, 'Why have you not built me a house of cedar?'  
<sup>8</sup> Now therefore you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel;  
<sup>9</sup> and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth.  
<sup>10</sup> And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly,  
<sup>11</sup> from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you, David, that the Lord will make you a house.  
<sup>16</sup> Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure for ever before me; your throne shall be established for ever.

## **SECOND READING Romans 16.25–27**

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

- <sup>25</sup> To God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages
- <sup>26</sup> but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith –
- <sup>27</sup> to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory for ever! Amen.

## **GOSPEL Luke 1.26–38**

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

- <sup>26</sup> In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth,
- <sup>27</sup> to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary.
- <sup>28</sup> And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.'
- <sup>29</sup> But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be.
- <sup>30</sup> The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God.
- <sup>31</sup> And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus.
- <sup>32</sup> He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David.
- <sup>33</sup> He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.'
- <sup>34</sup> Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?'
- <sup>35</sup> The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God.
- <sup>36</sup> And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren.
- <sup>37</sup> For nothing will be impossible with God.'
- <sup>38</sup> Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

## THIS WEEK

Mon	19	Dec	Toddlers' Group	10 – 11.30am
Tue	20	Dec	Service at the Chase Care Home	2.30pm
Wed	21	Dec	Coffee in Church	10.30am-12 noon
Thur	22	Dec	Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
Sat	24	Dec	CRIB SERVICE	4.00pm
			<b>MIDNIGHT MASS</b>	<b>11.30pm</b>
			(Pres & Preacher: Fr Geoff)	
Sun	25	Dec	<b><u>CHRISTMAS DAY</u></b>	
			Holy Communion (Pres: Fr Geoff)	8.00am
			<b>SUNG EUCHARIST</b>	
			(Pres: Fr Geoff and preacher: Violet Allen-Smith)	<b>9.30am</b>

## NOTICES

FINAL COPY DATE FOR CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR SWORD: Midday today Sunday 18th December 2011 at the latest. Hard copy, floppy disc or e-mail to: dhbeach@sky.com.

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.

CAROL SERVICE Our Carol Service is at 6 pm tonight Sunday, 18 December. This will be followed by refreshments and if you are able to donate any mince pies for this occasion please bring them along either this morning or evening. Thank you.

CHRISTMAS LEAFLETS: These are now available 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.

PERSONAL CHRISTMAS CARD delivery – the tables are available for your cards. Please check and take any cards addressed to you.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS BOOKLET: The booklets are available at the back of the church. Please take a copy and enjoy reading the messages from your friends at St Michael's. If you intend to make a donation for Christian Aid, please let Vicki or Martin have it as soon as possible so that the money can be sent to the charity.

ANGEL TREE: Please take a label if you wish to bring a gift for a child or a carer at the Crib Service which is at 4 pm on Christmas Eve

BURNS NIGHT CELEBRATION: This will be on 25 January at the west end of the church. Tickets (price £8) will be available in the new year.