



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

**CHRISTMAS
2011**

A Very Happy Christmas to everyone and a warm welcome to our services this weekend.

At the midnight Eucharist on Christmas Eve, Fr Geoff celebrates and preaches and John Adams leads the intercessions.

Hymns: 66, 76, 56 and 53

Setting: Rawsthorne

At the 9.30 am Eucharist on Christmas morning, Fr Geoff celebrates, Violet Allen-Smith preaches and Fr Geoff leads the intercessions.

Hymns: 62, 64, 44 and 57

Setting: Rawsthorne

For your prayers this week:

The Church:

John Sentamu, Archbishop of York.

Christians across the world celebrating Christmas.

Missionaries away from their homes and families at Christmas.

The World:

Peace in the world.

Our armed forces personnel.

Refugees and stateless people.

The Community and Parish: Our families.

All our visitors.

Homeless and unemployed people 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, Lesley Kinch, Loretta Lynch, Maggie Maguire, Stella Nicholas, Faith Nkugwa, Dorcas Ochola, Helen Perry, Myrtle Powell, David Simon, Eric and Anne Wightman.

The Departed: Dorothy Kiddle.

Collect for Christmas Night

Eternal God,
who made this most holy night
to shine with the brightness of your one true light:
bring us, who have known the revelation of that light on earth,
to see the radiance of your heavenly glory;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING Isaiah 9.2–7

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

- ² The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them light has shined.
- ³ You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder.
- ⁴ For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.
- ⁵ For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire.
- ⁶ For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
- ⁷ His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

SECOND READING Titus 2.11–14

A reading from the letter of Paul to Titus.

- ¹¹ The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all,
- ¹² training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly,
- ¹³ while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ.
- ¹⁴ He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

GOSPEL Luke 2.1–14

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

- 1 In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered.
- 2 This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria.
- 3 All went to their own towns to be registered.
- 4 Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David.
- 5 He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.
- 6 While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child.
- 7 And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.
- 8 In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night.
- 9 Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.
- 10 But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people:
- 11 to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord.
- 12 This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.'
- 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,
- 14 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!'

Collect for Christmas Day

Almighty God,
you have given us your only-begotten Son
to take our nature upon him
and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin:
grant that we, who have been born again
and made your children by adoption and grace,
may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

THIS WEEK

Mon	26	Dec	<i>Bank Holiday</i> <i>No Toddlers' Group</i>	
Wed	28	Dec	Coffee in Church	10.30am-12 noon
Thur	29	Dec	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
Sun	1	Jan	CHRISTMAS 2 Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	8.00am
			Carols round the Crib with a Simple Eucharist	9.30am
			NO Evening Prayer	

NOTICES

Fr Geoff, Fr George, Violet and Martin wish you all a very happy Christmas, and thank you for all the cards and warm wishes received.

MANY THANKS to those who kindly delivered greetings from our local churches to houses and flats in our Parish.

BRING-&-SHARE LUNCH: There will not be a lunch in January.

FLOWER FUND: Any contributions towards the Christmas and Epiphany flowers will be gratefully received. If you are able to gift aid your contribution, please use a white gift aid envelope. A list of those in whose memory the flowers have been given is displayed at the west end and at the entrance to the Lady Chapel.

Mrs DOROTHY KIDDLE: A funeral service for Dorothy will be held in church on Wednesday, 4 January 2012, at 11 am. Everyone is welcome.

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.