



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

ADVENT 2

9 December 2012

A warm welcome to our services today.

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

Hymns: 334, 36, 58 and 29

Setting: Oldroyd

Tea and coffee will be served in church after the 9.30 service

At 11.15am this is followed by our annual Christingle Service - please stay on.

(Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church

1.00-5.00pm)

Service for The Compassionate Friends is at 6.00pm

For your prayers this week:

The Church: The work of the Children's Society.

The Parish of Watton-at-Stone in our Diocese.

The Diocese of Kigesi in Uganda, the Rt Revd George Katwesigye.

"Timothy Leadership Training" in Zambia, supported by USPG/Us.

The World: The protection of Human Rights across the world.

Peace between Muslims and Christians in Nigeria.

Peace in Syria, and between Israel and Palestinian organisations.

The Community and Parish: All who will take part in our Christmas Services.

Residents and Staff at Home Manor and St Anthony's.

The Ill and the Housebound: Especially Bruce Alexander, Jean and Robert

Caton. Peter Coley, Bill and Marion Craddock-Jones, Jean

Crouch, Ben Heath, Jessie Hobby, Jenny Houghton, Trevor

Hutchinson, Audrey and Harvey Jaquest, Mary Kearns, Lesley

Kinch, Loretta Lynch, Jacqui Lyons, Maggie Maguire, Stella

Nicholas, Dorcas Ochola, Brian O'Riordan, Helen Perry, Myrtle

Powell, Christina and David Simon, Eric and Anne Wightman.

The Departed:

Collect

○ 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 Malachi 3.1–4

A reading from the book of the prophet Malachi. Thus says the LORD God:

- ¹ See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight – indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts.
- ² But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap;
- ³ he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness.
- ⁴ Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

SECOND READING Philippians 1.3–11

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians. My brothers and sisters,

- ³ I thank my God every time I remember you,
⁴ constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you,
⁵ because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now.
- ⁶ I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ.
- ⁷ It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel.
- ⁸ For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus.
- ⁹ And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight
- ¹⁰ to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless,
- ¹¹ having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

GOSPEL Luke 3.1–6

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

¹ In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene,
² during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness.
³ He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins,
⁴ as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, ‘The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: “Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.
⁵ Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth;
⁶ and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.”’

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CHRISTMAS FLOWERS: If you would like to donate something towards the Christmas flowers this year, please give your donation to Fay Storey or Jean Alexander. Gift-aided donations should go in a white envelope marked ‘Gift aid’. If you are giving your donation in memory of someone please give their name to Fay or Jean so that their name can be included in the list that is displayed in church over the Christmas period.

MINCE PIES FOR OUR CAROL SERVICE: Please bring some along next Sunday. 16 December, either in the morning or before the service starts.

CRIB SERVICE: This is at 4 pm on Christmas Eve and, as usual, we ask people to come along with a wrapped Christmas gift for a child or a mother.

DISTRIBUTION OF CARDS: Cards with details of the Christmas services in West Watford are available for distribution on a table near the Mildred Avenue door. Please help to deliver some of these if you can.

THIS WEEK

Mon	10	Dec	Toddlers' Group	10.00 - 11.30am
			Emmaus Course (Vicarage)	1.00pm
Tue	11	Dec	Intercessory Prayer Group (Choir Vestry)	2.30pm
			Emmaus Course (Vicarage)	7.00pm
Wed	12	Dec	Chater Infants Christmas Service	9.30am
			Coffee in Choir Vestry	10.30am-12 noon
			Home Manor	3.00pm
			PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL	7.55pm
Thur	13	Dec	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
			St Anthony's	morning
			Choir Practice	7.00 - 8.30pm
Fri	14	Dec	Laurance Haines Christmas Service	morning
Sat	15	Dec	Set up and rehearsal for evening concert	day
			SOUTH OXHEY CHOIRS CHRISTMAS CONCERT	7.00pm
Sun	16	Dec	<u>ADVENT 3</u>	
			Holy Communion (Pres: Fr George)	8.00am
			SUNG EUCHARIST: President and Preacher: Fr George	9.30am
			ST MICHAEL'S CAROL SERVICE followed by refreshments	6.00pm

NOTICES

EMMAUS –The next meetings will be on 10th and 11th December in the Vicarage. It's not too late to join in come along (with sandwiches/buffet food) for the next meeting.

FINAL COPY DATE FOR THE JANUARY SWORD is MIDDAY next Sunday, 16 December. Hard copy to Dennis Beach or email to dhbeach@sky.com.

LEPROSY MISSION – A reminder that we have a box at the back of church for used stamps, being collected on behalf of the Leprosy Mission. Perfect for all the stamps from your Christmas Cards!.

HELP NEEDED - Help is needed to sort and wash costumes for the Crib service. If you could help with this, please see Fr Geoff or Anne Eccleshall.

HELP NEEDED (2) –Can anyone help with making teas and coffee for the Toddlers Group on 10th and 17th December, 10.00am – 11.30am.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday, 15 December at 7 pm South Oxhey Community Choirs will be giving a Christmas Concert in St Michael's. Tickets available at the door.

Sunday, 16 December at 6 pm St Michael's Carol Service followed by seasonal refreshments.

Saturday 19th January 2013: The 100th Birthday of our Church! The Bishop of St Albans is coming to celebrate with us at 7.30pm on that day. Please put this date aside and spread the word to anyone who may have associations with the church..

St Michael and All Angels PCC is a Registered Charity No 1132010