



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

ADVENT 3

16 December 2012

A warm welcome to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Sung Eucharist, Fr George celebrates and preaches. Sylvia Moring leads the intercessions.

Hymns: 38, 34, Music Notes and 27

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.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: The Parish of Whipsnade in our Diocese.
The “Expanding Horizons” programme run by USPG/Us.
The Diocese of Kisangani (Congo), Lambert Botolome, its Bishop and all its people.

The World: All people vulnerable to the cold weather.
Mothers’ Union parenting projects in Jamaica.
All who will be homeless at Christmas.

The Community and Parish: School staff and pupils coming to our Church for Christmas celebrations.
Those who will be visitors at our Christmas services.
Our organist, choir and congregation at tonight’s carol service.

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

O Lord Jesus Christ, who at your first coming sent your messenger to prepare your way before you:
grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready your way by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just,
that at your second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in your sight; for you are alive and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING Zephaniah 3.14–20

A reading from the book of the prophet Zephaniah.

¹⁴ Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem!

¹⁵ The LORD has taken away the judgements against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more.

¹⁶ On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak.

¹⁷ The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing

¹⁸ as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it.

¹⁹ I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth.

²⁰ At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the LORD.

SECOND READING Philippians 4.4–7

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.

⁵ Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near.

⁶ Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

GOSPEL Luke 3.7–18

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

⁷ John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, ‘You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?’

⁸ Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham.

⁹ Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.’

¹⁰ And the crowds asked him, ‘What then should we do?’

¹¹ In reply he said to them, ‘Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.’

¹² Even tax-collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, ‘Teacher, what should we do?’

¹³ He said to them, ‘Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.’

¹⁴ Soldiers also asked him, ‘And we, what should we do?’ He said to them, ‘Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.’

¹⁵ As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah,

¹⁶ John answered all of them by saying, ‘I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

¹⁷ His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.’

¹⁸ So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

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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.

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.

THIS WEEK

Mon	17	Dec	Toddlers' Group NO Emmaus Course	10.00 - 11.30am
Tue	18	Dec	Service at the Chase Care Centre Watford Boys Grammar School Nine Lessons and Carols <i>(Church in use all day for rehearsals)</i> NO Emmaus Course	2.30pm 7.30pm
Wed	19	Dec	Coffee in Choir Vestry	10.30am-12 noon
Thur	20	Dec	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language) Choir Practice	10.00am 7.00 - -8.30pm
Fri	21	Dec	<i>Schools break up</i>	
Sat	22	Dec	(Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church)	10.00am-2.00pm)
Sun	23	Dec	ADVENT 4 Holy Communion (Pres: Fr George) SUNG EUCHARIST: President Fr Geoff and Preacher: Violet Allen Smith Evening Service in Lady Chapel	8.00am 9.30am 6.00pm

NOTICES

EMMAUS –The next meetings will be on 14th and 15th January in the Vicarage. It's not too late to join in come along (with sandwiches/buffet food) for the next meeting.

CAROL SERVICE Our Carol Service is at 6 pm tonight Sunday, 16 December. This will be followed by festive 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.

FINAL COPY DATE FOR THE CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR SWORD is MIDDAY TODAY Sunday, 16 December. Hard copy to Dennis Beach or email to dhbeach@sky.com.

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

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.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

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.