



# THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

*St Michael and All Angels*

Watford

**ADVENT 4**

23 December 2012

A warm welcome to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Sung Eucharist, Fr Geoff celebrates and Violet Allen-Smith preaches. Pam Hart leads the intercessions.

**Hymns: 238, 49, 35 and 362**

**Setting: Oldroyd**

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

Evening Service in Lady Chapel at 6.00pm

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

**The Church:** The unity and peace of the Church.  
Persecuted Christians.  
The newly baptised.

**The World:** Peace and good will to all people wherever there is conflict.  
The peoples of the Holy Land.  
Victims, bereaved and traumatised people in Newtown Connecticut.

**The Community and Parish:** All visitors to our Church over Christmas.  
Homeless people in our community.  
Our church families getting together at Christmas.

**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, Dorcas Ochola, Brian O’Riordan, Helen Perry, Myrtle Powell, Christina and David Simon, Eric and Anne Wightman.

**The Departed:** Stella Nicholas (Sarah Dunning’s mother).

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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 Micah 5.2–5a**

A reading from the book of the prophet Micah.

The LORD says to his people:

2 But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.

3 Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labour has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel.

4 And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth;

5 and he shall be the one of peace.

**SECOND READING Hebrews 10.5–10**

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

5 When Christ came into the world, he said, ‘Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; in burnt-offerings and sin-offerings you have taken no pleasure.

7 Then I said, “See, God, I have come to do your will, O God” (in the scroll of the book, it is written of me).’

8 When Christ said, ‘You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings’ (these are offered according to the law),

- <sup>9</sup> then he added, 'See, I have come to do your will.' He abolishes the first in order to establish the second.
- <sup>10</sup> And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

## **GOSPEL Luke 1.39–45**

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

- <sup>39</sup> Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country,
- <sup>40</sup> where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.
- <sup>41</sup> When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit
- <sup>42</sup> and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.
- <sup>43</sup> And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me?
- <sup>44</sup> For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy.
- <sup>45</sup> And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'



## THIS WEEK

|      |    |     |   |                |
|------|----|-----|---|----------------|
| Mon  | 24 | Dec | <b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b>                        |                |
|      |    |     | CRIB SERVICE                                | 4.00pm         |
|      |    |     | <b>MIDNIGHT MASS</b>                        | <b>11.30pm</b> |
|      |    |     | (Pres & Preacher: Fr Geoff)                 |                |
| Tue  | 25 | Dec | <b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b>                        |                |
|      |    |     | Holy Communion                              | 8.00am         |
|      |    |     | SUNG EUCHARIST(Pres and Preacher: Fr Geoff) | 9.30am         |
| Thur | 27 | Dec | JOHN, APOSTLE & EVANGELIST Holy Communion   |                |
|      |    |     | (Order One in Traditional Language)         | 10.00am        |
| Fri  | 28 | Dec | Wedding                                     |                |
| Sun  | 30 | Dec | <b><u>CHRISTMAS 1</u></b>                   |                |
|      |    |     | Holy Communion (Pres: Fr Geoff)             | 8.00am         |
|      |    |     | <b>SUNG EUCHARIST:</b>                      | 9.30am         |
|      |    |     | President and Preacher: Fr Geoff            |                |
|      |    |     | NO Evening Service                          |                |

## NOTICES

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

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. The gifts will be collected for the women's refuge after the service.

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.

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

GIVING ENVELOPES FOR 2013 are on a table in the north aisle. Please collect yours. If you wish to join the envelope giving scheme please see Valerie Alvarez.

### DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2013: **The 100<sup>th</sup> 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.