



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

ADVENT SUNDAY

1 December 2013

A warm welcome to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Eucharist Fr Geoff celebrates and Martin Heath preaches and Paul Chandler leads the intercessions.

Hymns: 28, 27, 39 and 31

Setting: Oldroyd

Tea and coffee will be served in church after the 9.30 service and there will be a Bring-&-Buy Sale to raise money for the Christingle Service next Sunday – please stay on.

Joint Evening Service at Trinity Methodist at 6.30pm.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: Retired Clergy in the Diocese of St Albans.

The Diocese of West Virginia (USA), Willam Michie Klusmeyer its Bishop and all its people.

Us supported projects combating the effects of AIDS in Zimbabwe.

The World: The work of the Probation Service.

The process of recovery in the Philippines.

Children suffering with cancer.

The Community and Parish: The people of South Oxhey and their choir.

The Children's Society.

Staff and Residents at River Court and Fairhaven.

The Ill and the Housebound: Especially Bruce Alexander, Janet Bridge, Jean and Robert Caton, Tony Coles, Peter Coley, Bill and Marion Craddock-Jones, Jean Crouch, Pamela Cutler, Audrey Dixon, Sandra Fullerton, Jenny Houghton, Audrey Jaquest, Mary Kearns, Lesley Kinch, Loretta Lynch, Jacqui Lyons, Audrey Morgan, Dorcas Ochola, Brian O'Riordan, Helen Perry, Myrtle Powell, Mark Pritchard, Christina and David Simon, Mark Simon, Anne Wightman and Andrew Williams.

The Departed:

Collect

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility; that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING Isaiah 2.1-5

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

- ¹ The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.
- ² In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it.
- ³ Many peoples shall come and say, 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.' For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.
- ⁴ He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.
- ⁵ O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!

SECOND READING Romans 13.11–14

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

- ¹¹ Brothers and sisters, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers;
- ¹² the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armour of light;
- ¹³ let us live honourably as in the day, not in revelling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarrelling and jealousy.
- ¹⁴ Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

GOSPEL Matthew 24.36–44

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

Jesus spoke to his disciples:

- ³⁶ ‘About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.
- ³⁷ For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.
- ³⁸ For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark,
- ³⁹ and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man.
- ⁴⁰ Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left.
- ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left.
- ⁴² Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.
- ⁴³ But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into.
- ⁴⁴ Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.’

THIS WEEK

Mon	2	Dec	Toddlers' Group	10.00 – 11.30am
			Messy Church planning meeting	8.00pm
Tue	3	Dec	Service at River Court	3.00pm
			Stewardship Campaign Planning Committee (Vicarage)	8.00pm
Wed	4	Dec	Coffee in Church.	10.30am-12 noon
Thu	5	Dec	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
			Healthwise	2.30pm
			Choir practice	7.00 – 8.30pm
Sat	7	Dec	Making Christingles in Choir Vestry	
			South Oxhey Choir (see Notices)	7.00pm
			(set up and rehearsing all day)	
Sun	8	Dec	<u>ADVENT 2</u>	
			Holy Communion (Pres: Fr George)	8.00am
			SUNG EUCHARIST:	9.30am
			President and Preacher: Fr Geoff	
			CHRISTINGLE SERVICE	11.15am
			Compassionate Friends	6.00pm

NOTICES

FOOD BANK: Don't forget that we are still collecting. There is a list of the items of food that can be included in the food parcels in particular there is a need for tinned meat and meat pies, and UHT milk. If you would like to donate any of these items please bring them to church and put them in the box at the west end.

CHRISTINGLES: If you are able to help make the Christingles on 7 December, please see Norma for details.

CHRISTMAS CARD BOOKLET: Vicki Matthews is once again going to put together a booklet of our Christmas messages/greetings which is circulated to church members far and near. If you wish, there are envelopes for donations to be sent to Christian Aid using the cash that you have saved on cards and postage (Gift Aided if possible). These should be put in the box at the back of the church and will be emptied regularly. The text of your entry should be given to Vicki by 4 December.

SOUTH OXHEY CHOIR CONCERT: This is in St Michael's on Saturday, 7 December at 7 pm. Last year it was a very enjoyable evening. Details about tickets are available from Pat Beach or on handbills at the back of the church.

HEALTHWISE AT ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH: This is 10 sessions on Thursday afternoons from 2.30-3.30 pm, in the Choir Vestry, sitting on chairs for gentle exercise, chatting about healthy living, sharing recipes, etc. The sessions are weekly so the next one is 5th December and they continue until 19 December when there is a break for Christmas and they resume on 9 January 2014. You will be very welcome to go along on Thursday and join the group which is run by Sarah Hill (0754 214 2810).