



# THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

*St Michael and All Angels*

Watford

**ADVENT 2**  
**8 December 2013**

A warm welcome to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Eucharist Fr Geoff celebrates and preaches and Kristine Jenkins leads the intercessions.

**Hymns: 584 (t357), 220(ii), 32 and 26**

**Setting: Oldroyd**

Tea and coffee will be served in church after the 9.30 service – please stay on.

Christingle Service at 11.15 am.

Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church, 1.00pm – 5.00pm

Service for the Compassionate Friends is at 6.00 pm.

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

**The Church:** The Parish of St Peter, Watford.

The Diocese of Western North Carolina (USA), Porter Taylor its Bishop and all its people.

St James Mission Hospital in Lesotho, supported by Us.

**The World:** Victims of recent Natural Disasters and Accidents

Prisoners of Conscience.

Prevention of abuse towards animals.

**The Community and Parish:** Our Church Musicians.

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

God's grace and wisdom for our PCC members.

**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, and Anne Wightman.

**The Departed:** Andrew Paul Williams

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**Collect**

O 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 Isaiah 11.1–10**

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

- <sup>1</sup> A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
- <sup>2</sup> The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.
- <sup>3</sup> His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear;
- <sup>4</sup> but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
- <sup>5</sup> Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins.
- <sup>6</sup> The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them.
- <sup>7</sup> The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
- <sup>8</sup> The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.
- <sup>9</sup> They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.
- <sup>10</sup> On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

**SECOND READING Romans 15.4–13**

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

- <sup>4</sup> Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope.
- <sup>5</sup> May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus,
- <sup>6</sup> so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

7 Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of  
God.  
8 For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the  
truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs,  
9 and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,  
‘Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name’;  
10 and again he says, ‘Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people’;  
11 and again, ‘Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him’;  
12 and again Isaiah says, ‘The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the  
Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope.’  
13 May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may  
abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

## **GOSPEL Matthew 3.1–12**

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

1 In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming,  
2 ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.’  
3 This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, ‘The voice of one  
crying out in the wilderness: “Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths  
straight.”’  
4 Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his  
food was locusts and wild honey.  
5 Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region  
along the Jordan,  
6 and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.  
7 But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to  
them, ‘You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?  
8 Bear fruit worthy of repentance.  
9 Do not presume 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.  
10 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.  
11 I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is  
coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with  
the Holy Spirit and fire.  
12 His winnowing-fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing-floor and will  
gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable  
fire.’

## THIS WEEK

Mon	9	Dec	Toddlers' Group	10.00 – 11.30am
Tue	10	Dec	Intercessory Prayer Group (Choir Vestry)	2.30pm
Wed	11	Dec	MU Coffee Morning	10.30am-12 noon
			Service at Home Manor	3.00pm
			<b>PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL</b>	7.55pm
Thu	12	Dec	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
			Funeral in Church	11.15am
			Healthwise	2.30pm
			Choir practice	7.00 – 8.30pm
Sun	15	Dec	<b>ADVENT 3</b>	
			Holy Communion (Pres: Fr Geoff)	8.00am
			<b>SUNG EUCHARIST:</b>	9.30am
			President: Fr Geoff and Preacher: Violet Allen-Smith	
			Messy Church	2.30pm
			Six O'Clock Series	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.

MOTHERS' UNION COFFEE MORNING: On Wednesday, 11 December, at 10.30 am Mothers' Union will be serving hot mince pies with coffee. In addition there will be the opportunity to make some last minute Christmas purchases. Please come and bring your friends with you.

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 12th 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).

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS: We are now taking donations for Christmas flowers, if you would like to make a donation, please give it to Jean Alexander or Fay Storey.

ST MICHAELS' GOT TALENT: "Join us for a memorable evening of entertainment with buffet supper." This will take place on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> January, and will feature the talents of members of St Michael's in performance, food, and others, to start off our forthcoming Stewardship Campaign. Tickets will be available shortly, but please keep the date free. Any offers to perform music, recitations etc, will be gratefully received, please speak to Fr Geoff.