



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

ADVENT 3
15 December 2013

A warm welcome to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Eucharist Fr Geoff celebrates and Violet Allen-Smith preaches and Sarah Dunning leads the intercessions.

Hymns: 34, 24, 38 and 37

Setting: Oldroyd

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

Messy Church at 2.30pm

Six O'Clock Series at 6.00pm.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: The Parish of Wheathampstead in our Diocese.
The Diocese of Bubasa in Nigeria, Ali Buba Lamido its Bishop, and all its people.

The work of Us across the world Church.

The World: The people of South Africa.

Everyone who is vulnerable to cold temperatures or bad weather.

All work towards world peace, especially in the Holy Land.

The Community and Parish: Chater Infants, Laurance Haines and Watford Boys Grammar Schools.

The Chase Care Centre.

The growth of our Messy Church.

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: Marjorie Merrett, Andrew Paul Williams.

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 Isaiah 35.1–10

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

- ¹ The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,
² and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God.
³ Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees.
⁴ Say to those who are of a fearful heart, 'Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.'
⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
⁶ then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert;
⁷ the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.
⁸ A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray.
⁹ No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there.
¹⁰ And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

SECOND READING James 5.7–10

A reading from the letter of James.

- ⁷ Be patient, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains.
- ⁸ You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near.
- ⁹ Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors!
- ¹⁰ As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

GOSPEL Matthew 11.2–11

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

- ² When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples
- ³ and said to Jesus, ‘Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?’
- ⁴ Jesus answered them, ‘Go and tell John what you hear and see:
- ⁵ the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them.
- ⁶ And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.’
- ⁷ As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: ‘What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind?
- ⁸ What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces.
- ⁹ What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet.
- ¹⁰ This is the one about whom it is written, “See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.”
- ¹¹ Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.’

THIS WEEK

Mon	16	Dec	Toddlers' Group Chater Infants School Christmas Celebrations (during morning)	10.00 – 11.30am
Tue	17	Dec	Service at the Chase Care Centre Watford Boys Grammar School Nine Lessons and Carols <i>(Church in use all day for rehearsals)</i>	2.30pm 7.30pm
Wed	18	Dec	Coffee Morning <i>Laurance Haines School rehearsing</i>	10.30am-12 noon <i>from 1.30pm</i>
Thu	19	Dec	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language) Funeral in Church for Andrew Paul Williams NO Healthwise until 9 January Choir practice	10.00am 11.15am 7.00 – 8.30pm
Fri	20	Dec	<i>Schools break up</i> Laurance Haines Christmas Celebrations	 9.15 – 11.00am
Sun	22	Dec	<u>ADVENT 4</u> Holy Communion (Pres: Fr George) SUNG EUCHARIST (President and Preacher: Fr George) <i>Rehearsal for Carol Service</i> CAROL SERVICE followed by refreshments	8.00am 9.30am <i>afternoon</i> 6.00pm

NOTICES

FINAL COPY DATE FOR THE CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR SWORD is MIDDAY TODAY Sunday, 24 November. Hard copy or floppy disc to Rob White or email to robwhite.watford@tiscali.co.uk.

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.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS BOOKLET: Vicki Matthews has produced the booklet again this year and copies are available at the back of church. Donations towards the work of Christian Aid will be gratefully received (gift-aided if possible).

ST MICHAELS' GOT TALENT: "Join us for a memorable evening of entertainment with buffet supper." This will take place on Saturday 18th 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.

CAROL SERVICE: 6 pm on Sunday, 22 December. After the service hot mince pies and coffee and mulled wine will be served. Donations of mince pies will be welcome please bring them on the morning or evening of the 22nd. If anyone would like to help with the refreshments please get in touch with Sylvia Moring.

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

HEALTHWISE AT ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH: The Healthwise sessions will take a break over Christmas and re-start on Thursday, 9 January 2014, from 2.30-3.30. Any inquiries to Sarah Hill (0754 214 2810).