



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

ADVENT 4
22 December 2013

A warm welcome to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Eucharist Fr George celebrates and preaches and Graham Mordue leads the intercessions.

Hymns: 238, 49, 58 and 35

Setting: Oldroyd

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

CAROL SERVICE at 6.00 pm, followed by refreshments.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: The parish of Willington in our Diocese.
The Diocese of Yokohama (Japan), Laurence Yutaka Minabi, its Bishop, and all its people.

Christians in the Holy Land.

The World: People who will be away from home and loved ones at Christmas.
Homeless people and the work of Shelter and Crisis at Christmas.
People in broken and estranged families at Christmas.

The Community and Parish: New and old friends at our Christmas services.
Families reunited at Christmas.

Peace and goodwill, our gift to each other and the world.

The Ill and the Housebound: Especially Bruce Alexander, Janet Bridge, Jean and Robert Caton, 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: Tony Coles.

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 Isaiah 7.10–16

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

- ¹⁰ The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying,
¹¹ ‘Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.’
¹² But Ahaz said, ‘I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.’
¹³ Then Isaiah said: ‘Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also?’
¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel.
¹⁵ He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good.
¹⁶ For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.’

SECOND READING Romans 1.1–7

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

- ¹ Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God,
² which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures,
³ the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh

4 and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the
spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our
Lord.
5 Through Christ we have received grace and apostleship to bring
about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his
name,
6 including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,
7 To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to
you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

GOSPEL Matthew 1.18–25

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

18 The birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his
mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived
together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit.
19 Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose
her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly.
20 But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord
appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be
afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is
from the Holy Spirit.
21 She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save
his people from their sins.'
22 All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through
the prophet:
23 'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name
him Emmanuel,' which means, 'God is with us.'
24 When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord
commanded him; he took her as his wife,
25 but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and
he named him Jesus.



THIS WEEK

Mon	23	Dec	NO Toddlers' Group	
Tue	24	Dec	CHRISTMAS EVE	
			Crib Service	4.00pm
			MIDNIGHT MASS (President and Preacher: Fr Geoff)	11.30pm
Wed	25	Dec	CHRISTMAS DAY	
			Holy Communion (Pres: Fr Geoff)	8.00am
			PARISH EUCHARIST (President and Preacher: Fr Geoff)	9.30am
Thu	26	Dec	NO Holy Communion Service	
Sun	29	Dec	CHRISTMAS 1	
			Holy Communion (Pres: Fr Geoff)	8.00am
			CAROLS ROUND THE CRIB	9.30am

NOTICES

CAROL SERVICE: **tonight at 6 pm.** After the service hot mince pies and coffee and mulled wine will be served. Donations of mince pies will be welcome. If anyone would like to help with the refreshments please get in touch with Sylvia Moring.

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 BOOKLETS: These are available for all at the back of church, as is a tub for donations for those who have an entry in the booklet. It would be good if all the donations could be made this week (gift-aided if possible).

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

GIVING ENVELOPES FOR 2014 are on a table in the north aisle. Please collect yours. If you wish to join the envelope giving scheme please see Valerie Alvarez.

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!.

ST MICHAEL'S 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.

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).