

Happening in church this week..

Monday	10am-12noon - Little Mick's toddler church 5.30pm - Evening Prayer
Wednesday	10am-12noon - Coffee morning and Foodbank 5.30pm - Eucharist
Friday	5.30pm - Evening prayer
Sunday	9.30am - Sung Eucharist

Celebrating Our Community - this week we shine a spotlight on Norma Twitchin

Spotlight on Norma Twitchin who is holding her last sale today after 40 years of unwavering dedication to her bring and buy sales each month.

Norma *Thank you!*

If you would like to shine a spotlight on someone, please email halfsentence@gmail.com with their name and a brief explanation.

First Aid Kits

Outside the clergy vestry.
In the ladies toilet.

Baby Changing

In the ladies toilet

Every donation that is made to **SAINT MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS PCC WATFORD** is gratefully received.

Code 20-91-79

Account 70409448.

Gift Aid? Please contact a warden.

Thank you very much!

Contact: Father Stephen Mephram 07852 622904

Stephenmephram07@gmail.com

www.stmichaels-watford.org.uk

St Michael and All Angels PCC is a Registered Charity No 1132010



St Michael & All Angels,
Watford

THE MESSENGER



3RD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Sunday 15th December
2024

A warm welcome to our service today. At communion, there will be a chalice on your left for those who wish to receive by drinking, and on your right for those who wish to receive by dipping their wafer in the wine. You are also welcome to just receive the bread.

Hymns
for this Sunday
are:

362

Tell out, my soul

24

Come, thou long
expected Jesus

534

O for a thousand
tongues

29

Hills of the North,
rejoice

In your prayers this week:

The Church

Parish of Hatfield Hyde, St Mary Magdalene - Emma Hopegood Jones,
Nicky Jackson (R) Caroline Duke (LLW) Nick Castle
ACP: The Anglican Church of Tanzania

The World

All nations entangled in conflict and those tirelessly seeking peace. All who bear the burdens of climate change and those devoted to finding solutions for a sustainable future.
The people of Syria and their leaders as they look for a way forward in peace.

The Community and Parish

Those who are homeless or in insecure accommodation. Those who use our Foodbank and all who serve them.
Laurence Haines school who are visiting St Michaels this week.
Members of our PCC who meet this week.

The Ill and the Housebound

Especially Jean Alexander, Violet Allen-Smith, Julie Alvarez, Janet Chandler, Jemima Hill, Owen Hutchinson, Sylvia Obeng, Valerie O'Riordan, Matthew Paterson, Twin babies Pigott, Josephine Stadden, Catherine Stone, Fay Storey, Adelaide Tonkin, Allan Warren and all who care for them.

The Departed

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

Zephaniah 3.14-20

A Song of Joy

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem!

The Lord has taken away the judgements against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak.

The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival.

I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. I will deal with all your oppressors at that time.

And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth.

At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the Lord.

SECOND READING

Philippians 4.4-7

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

GOSPEL

Luke 3.7-18

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptised by him, ‘You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin 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. 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.’ And the crowds asked him, ‘What then should we do?’ In reply he said to them, ‘Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.’ Even tax-collectors came to be baptised, and they asked him, ‘Teacher, what should we do?’ He said to them, ‘Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.’ Soldiers also asked him, ‘And we, what should we do?’ He said to them, ‘Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.’

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, ‘I baptise you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.’

So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.