

## Happening in church this week..

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

### Celebrating Our Community - this week we shine a spotlight on Bishop Jane

A heartfelt thank you to Bishop Jane for your uplifting service and deeply inspiring sermon, reminding us of the power of patience and faith as we navigate this time of vacancy together.

**Bishop Jane,** *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](http://www.stmichaels-watford.org.uk)

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



**St Michael & All Angels,**  
Watford

# THE MESSENGER



## 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sunday 8th 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:

**538**

O Jesus, I have  
promised (omit \*)

**34**

On Jordan's bank  
the Baptist's cry

**393**

Brother, sister,  
let me serve you

**516**

Love divine, all  
loves

## In your prayers this week:

### The Church

Parish of Ayot St Peter in Welwyn Hatfield. David Munchin, (Rs) Usha Hull, Colin Hull, John Burnapp. Thanksgiving for the new kitchen facilities in the vestry. Prayers for concerts and community events to use the church and welcome more people to it.  
ACP: The Episcopal Church of Sudan.

### The World

All nations who are in conflict and all who are working towards resolution. All who have been affected by climate change and of all who work to address the issues.

### The Community and Parish

Members of our PCC who are preparing our Church profile.  
All residents of our local care homes and those who care for them. All the little children who attend our local playgroups and nurseries and all who nurture and teach them.

### 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**

Almighty God, purify our hearts and minds, that when your Son Jesus Christ comes again as judge and saviour we may be ready to receive him, who is our Lord and our God.

## **FIRST READING**

### **Malachi 3.1-4**

#### **The Coming Messenger**

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

## **SECOND READING**

### **Philippians 1.3-11**

#### **Paul's Prayer for the Philippians**

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me,

both in my imprisonment and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that on the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

## **GOSPEL**

### **Luke 3.1-6**

#### **The Proclamation of John the Baptist**

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness.

He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, 'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.' '