



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

ADVENT 4
18 December 2022

Welcome to our service today. We are now able to receive the wine 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 are: CP 90 Songs of thankfulness and praise, CP 27 Hark the glad sound, CP 40 Ye servants of the Lord, CP 362 Tell out, my soul.

CAROL SERVICE followed by mince pies and mulled wine at 6.00pm

For your prayers this week:

The Church: The Parish of Panshanger in our Diocese.

The Anglican Church of Korea.

All Churches having carol services.

The World: All those affected by strikes in public service.

Constructive industrial relations.

People struggling to stay warm.

The Community and Parish: Watford Shopmobility.

Our Choir and organists.

Laurance Haynes School.

The Ill and the Housebound: Especially Jean Alexander, Violet Allen-Smith,

Julie Alvarez, Andy Benoy, Janet Chandler, Jemima Hill, Keith

Levinson, Lisa Mills, Josephine Stadden, Catherine Stone, Fay

Storey, Adelaide Tonkin, and all who care for them.

The Departed: Pat Beach.

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.



Our Eucharist for **ADVENT 4** is available to attend in person or via livestream on our YouTube channel “St Michael’s Church Watford”
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC8GTX0MfiICGmcDUkXTGFSw>

Today, Sunday the 18th, at 6.00pm is our Carol Service with Mulled Wine and Mince Pies. We would be grateful for donations of mince pies, and any publicity you can give!

The 10.00am Eucharist on Thursdays is also available to attend in person, and livestreamed.

The Church will be open for tea and coffee on Wednesday mornings from 10.00am – 12.00 noon.

Christmas Services:

Christmas Eve 4.00pm Children’s Crib Service.

Christmas Eve 11.30pm Midnight Mass

Christmas Day 9.30am Parish Eucharist

The funeral of Pat Beach will be on Wednesday 21st at 3.30pm in Church. Everyone from St Michael’s warmly invited. The service will also be livestreamed on the St Michael’s YouTube channel.

Duncan our Treasurer is preparing the annual accounts, and would be grateful if anyone who has outstanding bills to be paid, money to receive, or money to bring in, could do so as soon as possible.

We would like to distribute Christmas Cards in our Parish, with details of our Christmas Services. There is a list of roads at the back of Church, with cards and inserts. If you could do some delivering, please sign off on the list so that roads are not delivered to twice, and take some cards and inserts. If you can only deliver a few, that is fine – who knows who may get a card and feel their Parish Church wants to make contact. Many thanks.

Norma thanks everyone who has supported her Bring-&-Buy stall during this year. Her sales have raised £290 for Church funds.