



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

THIRD SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT

Remembrance Sunday

Sunday 12 November 2023

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.

Welcome to our service today, which is Remembrance Sunday.

Hymns are: 537 O God our help in ages past, 494 King of glory king of peace, 413 Eternal Father, strong to save, 427 For the healing of the nations.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: The Parish of St Saviour, St Albans.
The Anglican Church of Mozambique and Angola.
The Rt Revd Hugh Nelson, Bishop to the Armed Forces.

The World: All those serving in armed forces across the world.
All ex service associations.
Civilians living in war zones.

The Community and Parish: Ex service people living in our area.
The Royal British legion in our area.
All those in our area who have been bereaved, traumatised or injured in war.

The Ill and the Housebound: Especially Jean Alexander, Violet Allen-Smith, Julie Alvarez, Janet Chandler, Paddy Gaffney, Jemima Hill, Owen Hutchinson, Kristine Jenkins, Lisa Mills, Josephine Stadden, Catherine Stone, Fay Storey, Adelaide Tonkin, and all who care for them.

The Departed:

COLLECT

Almighty Father, whose will is to restore all things in your beloved Son, the king of all:
govern the hearts and minds of those in authority, and bring the families of the nations, divided and torn apart by the ravages of sin, to be subject to his just and gentle rule; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING Wisdom of Solomon 6.12–16

A reading from the book of Wisdom.

- ¹² Wisdom is radiant and unfading, and she is easily discerned by those who love her, and is found by those who seek her.
¹³ She hastens to make herself known to those who desire her.
¹⁴ One who rises early to seek her will have no difficulty, for she will be found sitting at the gate.
¹⁵ To fix one's thought on her is perfect understanding, and one who is vigilant on her account will soon be free from care,
¹⁶ because she goes about seeking those worthy of her, and she graciously appears to them in their paths, and meets them in every thought.

SECOND READING I Thessalonians 4.13–18

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Thessalonians.

- ¹³ We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope.
¹⁴ For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died.
¹⁵ For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died.
¹⁶ For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first.
¹⁷ Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord for ever.
¹⁸ Therefore encourage one another with these words.

GOSPEL Matthew 25.1–13

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

Jesus spoke this parable to the disciples:

- 1 'The kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom.
- 2 Five of them were foolish, and five were wise.
- 3 When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them;
- 4 but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps.
- 5 As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept.
- 6 But at midnight there was a shout, "Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him."
- 7 Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps.
- 8 The foolish said to the wise, "Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out."
- 9 But the wise replied, "No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves."
- 10 And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut.
- 11 Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, "Lord, lord, open to us."
- 12 But he replied, "Truly I tell you, I do not know you."
- 13 Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.'



Our service today is available to attend in person
or via livestream on our YouTube channel
“St Michael’s Church Watford”

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC8GTx0MfiICGmcDUkXTGFSw>

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.

There will be an Act of Remembrance at the Parish War Memorial Cross at 11.00am this morning.

June Arnold’s funeral will be in St Michaels on Tuesday 14th November at 11.45am, followed by committal at North Watford Cemetery, and refreshments at West Herts Golf Club, Rousebarn Lane.

We are fast approaching the time when we turn our attention to the Christmas Fair, which is on Saturday 2nd December 11.30 - 14.30.

This is our biggest fundraising event of the year and most fun. As in previous years we will be serving lunches and having many varied stalls. We would like to start collecting items for the stalls from now. Please see below some ideas.

Soft toys your children have outgrown and would be willing to donate for a Soft Toy Tombola.

Bottles of any shape or size that will fit into a bottle bag eg wine, vinegar, washing up liquid, sauce or bubble bath to name a few. The more diverse the better for a Bottle Bag Lucky Dip. Used bottle bags gratefully received.

Items suitable for a raffle or tombola - a good way to repurpose gifts and good condition used items.

If you have a contact in a local company who you think may be willing to give a voucher or piece of merchandise as a raffle prize please speak to Valerie Blacklock who can provide a letter.

If you cannot source any of the above but would like to support a stall you may consider being a sponsor by giving a donation that we can use to buy the items.

Any ideas for a stall also welcome.

On the day we will welcome donations of cakes and preserves.

Maggie Shrive is organising the lunches and will have more information nearer the time.

As always, we welcome anyone who wishes to help on the day and beforehand to make the church ready.

Above all we want the day to be fun.

Best wishes from your organising group: Maggie, Elizabeth, Julie, Charissa and Valerie

Website: <http://www.stmichaels-watford.org.uk>

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