



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

TRINITY 3

6 July 2014

A warm welcome to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Sung Eucharist the Rev'd Angela Milton celebrates and preaches. Vicki Matthews leads the intercessions.

Hymns: 386, 469, 278 and 456

Setting: Aston

Coffee and tea will be served in church after the 9.30 service – please stay on.

There is a United Evening Service at Trinity Methodist Church at 6.30pm.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: The Church of Pakistan (United) The Most Revd Samuel Robert Azariah Bishop of Raiwind & Moderator of the Church of Pakistan.

Us-supported hospitals in Malawi.

The World: The work of transplant surgery, and all those needing transplants. The work of caring for pregnant women and new mothers.

That diplomacy will solve the escalating Israeli-Palestinian conflict over revenge killings.

The Community and Parish: Our friends at Trinity Methodist Church and West Watford Free Church.

The Littlebury Children's Centre.

Staff and residents at Home Manor and St Anthony's.

The Ill and the Housebound: Especially Bruce Alexander, Janet Bridge, Jean and Robert Caton, Peter Coley, Marion Craddock-Jones, 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, Mark Pritchard, Christina Simon, Mark Simon, Pauline White and Anne Wightman.

The Departed:

Collect

Almighty God, you have broken the tyranny of sin and have sent the Spirit of your Son into our hearts whereby we call you Father:
give us grace to dedicate our freedom to your service, that we and all creation may be brought to the glorious liberty of the children of God;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING Genesis 24.34–38, 42–49, 58–67

A reading from the book of Genesis.

The servant whom Abraham had sent said to Laban:

34 'I am Abraham's servant.

35 The LORD has greatly blessed my master, and he has become wealthy; he has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and female slaves, camels and donkeys.

36 And Sarah my master's wife bore a son to my master when she was old; and he has given him all that he has.

37 My master made me swear, saying, "You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I live;

38 but you shall go to my father's house, to my kindred, and get a wife for my son."

42 I came today to the spring, and said, "O LORD, the God of my master Abraham, if now you will only make successful the way I am going!

43 I am standing here by the spring of water; let the young woman who comes out to draw, to whom I shall say, 'Please give me a little water from your jar to drink,'

44 and who will say to me, 'Drink, and I will draw for your camels also' – let her be the woman whom the LORD has appointed for my master's son."

45 Before I had finished speaking in my heart, there was Rebekah coming out with her water jar on her shoulder; and she went down to the spring, and drew. I said to her, "Please let me drink."

46 She quickly let down her jar from her shoulder, and said, "Drink, and I will also water your camels." So I drank, and she also watered the camels.

47 Then I asked her, "Whose daughter are you?" She said, "The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor's son, whom Milcah bore to him." So I put the ring on her nose, and the bracelets on her arms.

48 Then I bowed my head and worshipped the LORD, and blessed the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me by the right way to obtain the daughter of my master's kinsman for his son.

49 Now then, if you will deal loyally and truly with my master, tell me; and if not, tell me, so that I may turn either to the right hand or to the left.'

58 And they called Rebekah, and said to her, 'Will you go with this man?' She said, 'I will.'

59 So they sent away their sister Rebekah and her nurse along with Abraham's servant and his men.

60 And they blessed Rebekah and said to her, 'May you, our sister, become thousands of myriads; may your offspring gain possession of the gates of their foes.'

61 Then Rebekah and her maids rose up, mounted the camels, and followed the man; thus the servant took Rebekah, and went his way.

62 Now Isaac had come from Beer-lahai-roi, and was settled in the Negeb.

63 Isaac went out in the evening to walk in the field; and looking up, he saw camels coming.
64 And Rebekah looked up, and when she saw Isaac, she slipped quickly from the camel,
65 and said to the servant, 'Who is the man over there, walking in the field to meet us?'
The servant said, 'It is my master.' So she took her veil and covered herself.
66 And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done.
67 Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent. He took Rebekah, and she became his wife; and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.

SECOND READING Romans 7.15–25a

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

15 I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate.
16 Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good.
17 But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me.
18 For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it.
19 For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do.
20 Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me.
21 So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand.
22 For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self,
23 but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members.
24 Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death?
25 Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

GOSPEL Matthew 11.16–19, 25–30

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

At that time Jesus said,
16 'To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the market-places and calling to one another,
17 "We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn."
18 For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, "He has a demon";
19 the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, "Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax-collectors and sinners!" Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.
25 I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants;
26 yes, Father, for such was your gracious will.
27 All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.
28 Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.
29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.
30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.'

THIS WEEK

Mon	7	July	Toddlers' Group	10 – 11.30am
			Messy Church Planning Group	8.00pm
Wed	9	July	Coffee in Church and Food Bank	10.30-12 noon
			Service at Home Manor	3.00pm
Thur	10	July	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
			followed by Mothers' Union Wave of Prayer (everyone welcome)	
			St Anthony's	morning
			Choir Practice	7.00 – 8.30pm
Sun	13	July	<u>TRINITY 4</u>	
			Holy Communion (Pres: Rev'd Mary Kingsley)	8.00am
			SUNG EUCHARIST	9.30am
			(President and Preacher: Rev'd Mary Kingsley)	
			NO 11.15 Service	
			(Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church)	1.00 – 5.00pm)
			Evening Prayer	6.00pm)

NOTICES

WE ARE PREPARING story bags for use in Sunday School, and we would be grateful if anyone would like to sew up a drawstring bag or two. Further details on size, materials, construction etc from Jane Talbot

MAINTENANCE WORK: From time to time there is a need for small maintenance jobs to be done in the church. Is anyone willing to have their name put on a list of people who would be willing to be approached to see if they could tackle any such work? It may be that you know someone whom you pay to do work at your home. If so would you be willing to give their contact details. Kristine Jenkins would like to hear from anyone who could help.

ST ALBANS DIOCESAN OFFICE is looking to appoint an Estates & Trusts Officer within the Estates Department at Holywell Lodge. Further details are available from the website at <http://stalbans.anglican.org/diocese/other-vacancies/> with a closing date of Friday 11 July.

FOOD BANK: Don't forget that we are still collecting food as well as acting as a distribution centre. There is a list at the back of church of the items of food that can be included in the parcels. If you would like to donate any of these items please bring them to church and put them in the box at the west end.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Saturday, 2 August St Michael's Parish Quiet Day at Burnham Abbey. See June *Sword* and sign list at the back of the church.

Monday, 25 August St Albans Diocese celebrating 100 years of service at a day of fun and praise at The College Equestrian Centre, Keysoe.