



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

TRINITY SUNDAY

31 May 2015

We wish you a warm welcome to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Eucharist Fr Geoff celebrates and Jamie Wareham preaches. Phil Gough leads the intercessions.

Hymns: 202, 267, 203 and 418

Setting: Rawsthorne

Coffee and tea will be served in church after the 9.30 service and there will be a Bring-&-Buy sale – please stay on.

Animal Blessing Service (everyone welcome with or without pet) at 3.00 pm

Evening Prayer at 6.00 pm.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: The Parish of Walkern (Buntingford Deanery) in our Diocese.

The work of the Anglican Centre in Rome.

The work of Us with the Church of Ceylon (Anglican Church in Sri Lanka).

The World: The people of Nepal and the work of charities and aid agencies in Nepal.

Awareness of animal welfare.

Minority groups in Syria and Iraq under threat from IS.

The Community and Parish: The staff and residents of River Court and Fairhaven.

Our PCC members.

All those receiving invitations to the Big Lunch.

The Ill and the Housebound: Especially Bruce Alexander, Sonia Anderson, Tina Bennett, Janet Bridge, Jean and Robert Caton, Peter Coley, Marion Craddock-Jones, Pamela Cutler, Audrey Dixon, Claire Dunning, Sandra Fullerton, Sharon Goodwin, Jenny Houghton, Audrey Jaquest, Mary Kearns, Lesley Kinch, Loretta Lynch, Audrey Morgan, Dorcas Ochola, Brian O’Riordan, Helen Perry, Mark Pritchard, Christina Simon, Mark Simon, Karen Stride, and Anne Wightman.

The Departed:

Collect

Almighty and everlasting God, you have given us your servants grace, by the confession of a true faith, to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity and in the power of the divine majesty to worship the Unity:
keep us steadfast in this faith, that we may evermore be defended from all adversities;
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 Isaiah 6.1–8

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

- ¹ In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple.
- ² Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew.
- ³ And one called to another and said: 'Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory.'
- ⁴ The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke.
- ⁵ And I said: 'Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!'
- ⁶ Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs.
- ⁷ The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: 'Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out.'
- ⁸ Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?' And I said, 'Here am I; send me!'

SECOND READING Romans 8.12–17

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

- ¹² Brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh
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- ¹³ for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.
- ¹⁴ For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.
- ¹⁵ For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, 'Abba! Father!'
- ¹⁶ it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God,
- ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ – if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

GOSPEL John 3.1-17

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

¹ There was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews.

² He came to Jesus by night and said to him, 'Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.'

³ Jesus answered him, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.'

⁴ Nicodemus said to him, 'How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?'

⁵ Jesus answered, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit.

⁶ What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit.

⁷ Do not be astonished that I said to you, "You must be born from above."

⁸ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.'

⁹ Nicodemus said to him, 'How can these things be?'

¹⁰ Jesus answered him, 'Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?'

¹¹ Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony.

¹² If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things?'

¹³ No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man.

¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up,

¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶ For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷ Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.'

THIS WEEK

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| Mon | 1 | June | Toddlers' Group | 10.00 – 11.30am |
| | | | “Discovering the Bible” (Choir Vestry) | 2.30pm |
| | | | Social Committee (Choir Vestry) | 8.00pm |
| Tue | 2 | June | Service at River Court | 3.00pm |
| | | | “Discovering the Bible” (Choir Vestry) | 7.30pm |
| Wed | 3 | June | Food Bank | 10.00am – 12 noon |
| | | | Coffee in Church | 10.30am – 12 noon |
| | | | PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL | 7.55pm |
| Thu | 4 | June | Holy Communion | 10.00am |
| | | | Fairhaven | morning |
| | | | Choir Practice | <i>to be announced</i> |
| Sat | 6 | June | <i>Set up for Big Lunch</i> | 4.00pm |
| Sun | 7 | June | TRINITY 1 | |
| | | | Holy Communion (Pres: Fr George) | 8.00am |
| | | | SUNG EUCHARIST Sunday School | 9.30am |
| | | | President and Preacher: Fr Geoff | |
| | | | BIG LUNCH (see Notices) | 12 noon |
| | | | United Evening Service at Trinity Methodist | 6.30pm |

NOTICES

ARCHBISHOP JUSTIN WELBY will be at St Albans Cathedral on Thursday 18th June from 7.15pm, to speak to clergy, lay ministers, ordinands and congregation members. Archbishop Justin will draw on his experience and life as he explores the wells which sustain his faith in his demanding role. The evening will include some “mingling”, Archbishop Justin’s talk, and compline. Anyone who would like to go, please let Fr Geoff know as soon as possible, preferably today!

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK: Completed envelopes should be put in the box at the back of church. If you are able, please gift aid your donation. Thank you. We need to pay in the donations we have received as soon as possible.

BIG LUNCH: On Sunday, 7 June 2015, St Michael's is to be one of many venues over the country that will be joining in the Big Lunch. This will be the third time we have done this and we shall be inviting our neighbours who live in the roads near the church to join in a bring-and-share lunch. The lunch will start at 12 noon and people may arrive with their food from 11.30 am. There are leaflets of invitation at the back of the church and a list of roads near the church where we would like them to be delivered - please deliver some of them if you can and sign the list indicating which road you will do.

VERY ADVANCE DATE FOR YOUR DIARY: This year's Christmas Fair will be on SATURDAY, 28 NOVEMBER 2015 - please put it in your diary and tell anyone you know who usually comes.