



# THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

*St Michael and All Angels*

Watford

**TRINITY 12**  
**23 August 2015**

We wish you a warm welcome to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Eucharist Fr Geoff celebrates and preaches. Graham Mordue leads the intercessions.

**Hymns: 386, 260, 377 and 497**

**Setting: Rawsthorne**

Refreshments will be served in church after the 9.30 service – please stay on.

(The Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church 1.00pm-5.00pm)

Evening Prayer 6.00pm.

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## **For your prayers this week:**

**The Church:** The Parish of Willan (Hitchin) in our Diocese.  
The Diocese of San Diego (USA): James Mathes is Bishop and all its people.

The work of Us against human trafficking.

**The World:** The prevention of child abuse.  
People suffering from life-limiting conditions.

An end to all forms of discrimination against minority groups.

**The Community and Parish:** The people who deal with our finances.

Our flower arrangers.

Our fellow Christians at Trinity Methodist Church and West Watford Free Church.

**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, Dorcas Ochola, Brian O'Riordan, Helen Perry, Mark Pritchard, Christina Simon, Mark Simon, Karen Stride and Anne Wightman.

**The Departed:**

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**Collect**

Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray and to give more than either we desire or deserve:  
 pour down upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid and giving us those good things which we are not worthy to ask but through the merits and mediation of 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 I Kings 8. 22–30, 41–43**

A reading from the first book of Kings.

- 22 Then Solomon stood before the altar of the LORD in the presence of all the assembly of Israel, and spread out his hands to heaven.
- 23 He said, 'O LORD, God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven above or on earth beneath, keeping covenant and steadfast love for your servants who walk before you with all their heart,
- 24 the covenant that you kept for your servant my father David as you declared to him; you promised with your mouth and have this day fulfilled with your hand.
- 25 Therefore, O LORD, God of Israel, keep for your servant my father David that which you promised him, saying, "There shall never fail you a successor before me to sit on the throne of Israel, if only your children look to their way, to walk before me as you have walked before me."
- 26 Therefore, O God of Israel, let your word be confirmed, which you promised to your servant my father David.
- 27 But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Even heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you, much less this house that I have built!
- 28 Have regard to your servant's prayer and his plea, O LORD my God, heeding the cry and the prayer that your servant prays to you today;
- 29 that your eyes may be open night and day towards this house, the place of which you said, "My name shall be there," that you may heed the prayer that your servant prays toward this place.
- 30 Hear the plea of your servant and of your people Israel when they pray towards this place; O hear in heaven your dwelling-place; heed and forgive.
- 41 Likewise when a foreigner, who is not of your people Israel, comes from a distant land because of your name –
- 42 for they shall hear of your great name, your mighty hand, and your outstretched arm – when a foreigner comes and prays toward this house,
- 43 then hear in heaven your dwelling place, and do according to all that the foreigner calls to you, so that all the peoples of the earth may know your name and fear you, as do your people Israel, and so that they may know that your name has been invoked on this house that I have built.'

**SECOND READING Ephesians 6.10–20**

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians.

10 Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power.  
11 Put on the whole armour of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.  
12 For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.  
13 Therefore take up the whole armour of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm.  
14 Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness.  
15 As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace.  
16 With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one.  
17 Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.  
18 Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints.  
19 Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel,  
20 for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

## **GOSPEL John 6.56–69**

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

Jesus said to the crowd:

56 ‘Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them.  
57 Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me.  
58 This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live for ever.’  
59 He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.  
60 When many of his disciples heard it, they said, ‘This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?’  
61 But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, ‘Does this offend you?  
62 Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before?  
63 It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life.  
64 But among you there are some who do not believe.’ For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him.  
65 And he said, ‘For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father.’  
66 Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him.  
67 So Jesus asked the twelve, ‘Do you also wish to go away?’  
68 Simon Peter answered him, ‘Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life.  
69 We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.’

## THIS WEEK

Mon	24	Aug	Toddlers' Group	10.00am – 11.30am
Tue	25	Aug	Intercessory Prayer Group (Choir Vestry)	2.30pm
Wed	26	Aug	Food Bank	10.00am – 12 noon
			Coffee in Church	10.30am – 12 noon
Thu	27	Aug	Holy Communion	10.00am
Sun	30	Aug	<b><u>TRINITY 13</u></b>	
			Holy Communion (Pres: Fr George)	8.00am
			<b>SUNG EUCHARIST</b> including Baptism	<b>9.30am</b>
			President and Preacher: Fr Geoff	
			followed by a Bring-&-Buy Sale	
			Baptism	3.00pm
			Evening Prayer	6.00pm

## NOTICES

**SERVICES:** The flier is still available to let us know some of your favourite hymns so that we can include them in Sunday morning worship. There is a box for your completed flier at the back of church. Please return by next Sunday 30 August.

A number of replies have already been received and some of this month's hymns (260, 386 and 497 today) have been chosen from them.

**FINAL COPY DATE** for September Sword is today Sunday 23 August. Hard copy or floppy disc to Rob White or email to [robwhite.watford@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:robwhite.watford@tiscali.co.uk). Items welcome from church members of any age.

**TOYS AND CHILDREN'S BOOKS:** Do you or any of your family and friends have any unwanted toys or children's books? The Watford and Three Rivers Refugee Partnership needs good second hand toys and children's books for their upcoming party. We are unable to use jigsaw puzzles, but anything else for party prizes and gifts will be very welcome. Please give any items to Sue Ellison. Many thanks.

### ADVANCE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

HERITAGE OPEN DAY, the HERTS AND BEDS SPONSORED CYCLE RIDE, and a COFFEE MORNING in aid of THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY will be on Saturday, 12 September. St Michael's has recently received a grant from the Herts & Beds Historic Churches to help with the cost of our building work so we hope members of our church will be able to cycle or walk or work in the church and raise sponsorship money for this worthy cause.

MICHAELMAS will be celebrated on Sunday, 27th and Tuesday, 29th September.

HARVEST THANKSGIVING will be on Sunday, 4 October.

This year's CHRISTMAS FAIR will be on Saturday, 28 November 2015.