



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

TRINITY 13

30 August 2015

We wish you a warm welcome to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Eucharist Fr Geoff celebrates and preaches. Jamie Wareham leads the intercessions. The service includes a Baptism.

Hymns: 619, 254, 411 and 251

Setting: Rawsthorne

Refreshments will be served in church after the 9.30 service and there is a Bring-&-Buy Sale – please stay on.

There is a Baptism at 3.00pm.

Evening Prayer at 6.00pm.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: The Parish of All Saints with St Peter, Luton in our Diocese.
The Diocese of Sebei (Uganda): Paul Masaba its Bishop and all its people.

The work of the Delhi Brotherhood.

The World: All those affected by recent disasters and atrocities.
A just and compassionate solution to the situation of migrants.
All those working for greater peace in the Middle East.

The Community and Parish: The children being baptised today and their families.
Residents and staff at River Court and Fairhaven.
Our Toddler's Group.

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, Nicholas Weeks and Anne Wightman.

The Departed: Jean Iris Young.

Collect

Almighty God, who called your Church to bear witness that you were in Christ reconciling the world to yourself:
 help us to proclaim the good news of your love, that all who hear it may be drawn to you;
 through him who was lifted up on the cross, and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING Song of Solomon 2.8–13

A reading from the book of the Song of Solomon.

- ⁸ The voice of my beloved! Look, he comes, leaping upon the mountains, bounding over the hills.
- ⁹ My beloved is like a gazelle or a young stag. Look, there he stands behind our wall, gazing in at the windows, looking through the lattice.
- ¹⁰ My beloved speaks and says to me: 'Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away;
- ¹¹ for now the winter is past, the rain is over and gone.
- ¹² The flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtle-dove is heard in our land.
- ¹³ The fig tree puts forth its figs, and the vines are in blossom; they give forth fragrance. Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away.'

SECOND READING James 1.17–27

A reading from the letter of James.

- ¹⁷ Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.
- ¹⁸ In fulfilment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.
- ¹⁹ You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger;
- ²⁰ for your anger does not produce God's righteousness.
- ²¹ Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.
- ²² But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves.
- ²³ For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror;

- 24 for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like.
- 25 But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act – they will be blessed in their doing.
- 26 If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless.
- 27 Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

GOSPEL Mark 7.1–8, 14–15, 21–23

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

- 1 When the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus,
- 2 they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them.
- 3 (For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders;
- 4 and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.)
- 5 So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, ‘Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?’
- 6 Jesus said to them, ‘Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written, “This people honours me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me;
- 7 in vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines.”
- 8 You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.’
- 14 Then he called the crowd again and said to them, ‘Listen to me, all of you, and understand:
- 15 there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.
- 21 For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder,
- 22 adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly.
- 23 All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.’

THIS WEEK

Mon	31	Aug	<i>Bank Holiday</i> NO Toddlers' Group	
Tue	1	Sep	River Court Service	2.30pm
Wed	2	Sep	Food Bank	10.00am – 12 noon
			Coffee in Church	10.30am – 12 noon
Thu	3	Sep	Holy Communion	10.00am
			Fairhaven	morning
			Choir Practice	7.00 – 8.30pm
Sun	6	Sep	TRINITY 14 Holy Communion (Pres: Fr Geoff)	8.00am
			SUNG EUCHARIST	9.30am
			President and Preacher: Fr Geoff	
			(The Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church	afternoon)
			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 today Sunday 30 August.

A number of replies have been received and some of this month's hymns (411 and 251 today) have been chosen from them.

EVENING PILGRIMAGE TO ST ALBANS ABBEY: We have an opportunity to take part in an evening pilgrimage to St Albans Abbey, consisting of sandwich and cake buffet, pilgrimage prayer tour, compline and procession to the shrine. Beginning at 7.00pm, ending 9.30pm, cost £7.50 per head. The next date is 2nd December. If you would like to go, please sign up on the list at the back of Church.

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.

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:

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.