



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

TRINITY 14
6 September 2015

We wish you a warm welcome to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Eucharist Fr Geoff celebrates and preaches. Sylvia Moring leads the intercessions.

Hymns: 267, 348, 534 (t.424) and 469

Setting: Rawsthorne

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

(The Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church this afternoon.)

Evening Prayer at 6.00pm.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: The Parish of St Hugh, Lewsey, in our Diocese.
The Diocese of Sialkot (Pakistan), Samuel Pervaiz, its Bishop and all its people.

The work of Us against gender-based violence.

The World: A wise, just and compassionate solution to the situation of refugees coming to Europe.

The work of the Royal School of Church Music.

The work of the Children's Society.

The work of the Beds. and Herts. Historic Churches Trust.

The Community and Parish: Staff and Residents at Home Manor and St Anthony's.
Staff and pupils returning to the new term at local schools.

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 Margaret Harris.

COLLECT

Almighty God, whose only Son has opened for us a new and living way into your presence: give us pure hearts and steadfast wills to worship you in spirit and in truth; 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 Proverbs 22.1–2, 8–9, 22–23

A reading from the book of Proverbs.

- ¹ A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, and favour is better than silver or gold.
- ² The rich and the poor have this in common: the LORD is the maker of them all.
- ⁸ Whoever sows injustice will reap calamity, and the rod of anger will fail.
- ⁹ Those who are generous are blessed, for they share their bread with the poor.
- ²² Do not rob the poor because they are poor, or crush the afflicted at the gate;
- ²³ for the LORD pleads their cause and despoils of life those who despoil them.

SECOND READING James 2.1–10, 14–17

A reading from the letter of James.

- ¹ My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favouritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ?
- ² For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in,
- ³ and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, 'Have a seat here, please,' while to the one who is poor you say, 'Stand there,' or, 'Sit at my feet,'
- ⁴ have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts?
- ⁵ Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him?
- ⁶ But you have dishonoured the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court?
- ⁷ Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?
- ⁸ You do well if you really fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.'
- ⁹ But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors.

¹⁰ For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it.
¹⁴ What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you?
¹⁵ If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food,
¹⁶ and one of you says to them, 'Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill,' and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that?
¹⁷ So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

GOSPEL Mark 7.24–37

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

²⁴ Jesus set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice,
²⁵ but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet.
²⁶ Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter.
²⁷ He said to her, 'Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs.'
²⁸ But she answered him, 'Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs.'
²⁹ Then he said to her, 'For saying that, you may go – the demon has left your daughter.'
³⁰ So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.
³¹ Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis.
³² They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him.
³³ He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue.
³⁴ Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, 'Ephphatha,' that is, 'Be opened.'
³⁵ And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly.
³⁶ Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it.
³⁷ They were astounded beyond measure, saying, 'He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.'

THIS WEEK

Mon	7	Sep	Toddlers' Group	10.00am – 11.30am
			Discovering the Bible (Choir Vestry)	2.30pm
			Social Committee (Choir Vestry)	8.00pm
Wed	9	Sep	Food Bank	10.00am – 12 noon
			Coffee in Church	10.30am – 12 noon
			Service at Home Manor	3.00pm
Thu	10	Sep	Holy Communion	10.00am
			St Anthony's	morning
			Choir Practice	7.00 – 8.30pm
Sat	12	Sep	St MICHAEL'S OPEN FOR HERITAGE OPEN DAY	
			Historic Churches Bike 'N Hike Ride	10.00am – 5.00pm
			Coffee Morning in Aid of the Children's Society	10.30am – 12 noon
			(RSCM Examinations in Choir Vestry)	11.00am – 12 noon)
Sun	13	Sep	<u>TRINITY 15</u>	
			Holy Communion (Pres: Fr George)	8.00am
			SUNG EUCHARIST (President and Preacher: Fr George)	9.30am
			Evening Prayer	6.00pm

NOTICES

CONGREGATION FAVOURITE HYMNS in today's service are 348 and 469.

HALL LETTINGS SECRETARY NEEDED URGENTLY: We need someone to look after the lettings of Littlebury Hall, taking enquiries, collecting payment, locking and unlocking. Please consider very carefully if you could serve our church community in this way. More information from Kristine Jenkins or Fr Geoff.

HERITAGE OPEN DAY, the BEDS AND HERTS 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 Beds and Herts 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 (eg mend service and hymn books, tidy up and greet visitors) and raise sponsorship money for this worthy cause.

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.

TOYS AND CHILDREN'S BOOKS: Thank you to everyone who donated these to The Watford and Three Rivers Refugee Partnership. We have received a very nice letter of thanks the full text of which will be printed in next month's Sword.

APPLICATIONS are invited for the part-time (20-25 hpw) post of Receptionist/Secretary at the Diocesan Office in St Albans. Further particulars are available at <http://www.stalbans.anglican.org/diocese/other-vacancies/> with a closing date of Monday 21 September, 12 noon.