



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

TRINITY 4

Sunday 9 July 2017

A warm welcome to our services today.

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

Hymns: 474, 408 (i), 596 and 358

Setting: Thorne

Children's Church in Littlebury Hall

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

(Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church 1.00pm – 5.00pm)

Evening Prayer at 6.00 pm.

For your prayers this week:

The Church:

The Parish of St Mary & St Paul, Hemel Hempstead.

The Diocese of Okinawa (Japan), David Eisho Uehara its Bishop and all its people.

The work of the Anglican Church in Zambia with disadvantaged women.

The World:

A lessening of tension between North Korea and other countries.

All who are struggling to manage on their income.

Christian Aid's work with vulnerable women in Iraq.

The Community and Parish: Our PCC members.

Residents and Staff at St Anthony's care home.

All those living with the consequences of childhood abuse.

The Ill and the Housebound: Especially Christopher Bilson, Janet Bridge, Robert Caton, Peter Coley, Marion Craddock-Jones, Judith Degen, Audrey Dixon, Claire Dunning, Jemima Hill, Peter Hinchey, Blossom Hutchinson, Kristine Jenkins, Lionel Jones, Mary Kearns, Lesley Kinch, Loretta Lynch, Dorcas Ochola, Brian O'Riordan, Helen Perry, Michele Rodford, Christina Simon, Mark Simon, Mark Watkin; and all who care for them.

The Departed:

Collect

O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong,
nothing is holy:

increase and multiply upon us your mercy; that with you as our ruler and guide we
may so pass through things temporal that we lose not our hold on things eternal;
grant this, heavenly Father, for our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, 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.'

