



# THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

*St Michael and All Angels*

Watford

TRINITY 5

Sunday 16 July 2017

A warm welcome to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Eucharist Fr Geoff celebrates and Martin Heath preaches. Mark Simon leads the intercessions.

**Hymns: 515, 170, 275 and 437 (t.362)**

**Setting: Thorne**

Children's Church in Littlebury Hall

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

Evening Prayer at 6.00 pm.

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

**The Church:** The Parish of Bramfield in our Diocese.

The Diocese of Ontario, Canada, George Bruce its Bishop and all its People.

USPG's annual conference.

**The World:** Christian Aid's work for Equality in South Africa.

Teachers and other School Staff.

The Protection of Ethnic and Religious Minorities in our World.

**The Community and Parish:** All those who rely on Public Transport in our Community.

People receiving Care in their Home in our Community.

All who are Carers for Relatives and Friends in our Community.

**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:**

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**Collect**

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church is governed and sanctified:  
hear our prayer which we offer for all your faithful people, that in their vocation and ministry they may serve you in holiness and truth to the glory of your name;  
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**FIRST READING Genesis 25.19–34**

A reading from the book of Genesis.

- 19 These are the descendants of Isaac, Abraham's son: Abraham was the father of Isaac,  
20 and Isaac was forty years old when he married Rebekah, daughter of Bethuel the Aramean of Paddan-aram, sister of Laban the Aramean.  
21 Isaac prayed to the LORD for his wife, because she was barren; and the LORD granted his prayer, and his wife Rebekah conceived.  
22 The children struggled together within her; and she said, 'If it is to be this way, why do I live?' So she went to inquire of the LORD.  
23 And the LORD said to her, 'Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples born of you shall be divided; the one shall be stronger than the other, the elder shall serve the younger.'  
24 When her time to give birth was at hand, there were twins in her womb.  
25 The first came out red, all his body like a hairy mantle; so they named him Esau.  
26 Afterwards his brother came out, with his hand gripping Esau's heel; so he was named Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them.  
27 When the boys grew up, Esau was a skilful hunter, a man of the field, while Jacob was a quiet man, living in tents.  
28 Isaac loved Esau, because he was fond of game; but Rebekah loved Jacob.  
29 Once when Jacob was cooking a stew, Esau came in from the field, and he was famished.  
30 Esau said to Jacob, 'Let me eat some of that red stuff, for I am famished!' (Therefore he was called Edom.)  
31 Jacob said, 'First sell me your birthright.'  
32 Esau said, 'I am about to die; of what use is a birthright to me?'  
33 Jacob said, 'Swear to me first.' So he swore to him, and sold his birthright to Jacob.  
34 Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew, and he ate and drank, and rose and went his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright.

**SECOND READING Romans 8.1–11**

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

- 1 There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.  
2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death.  
3 For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh,

4 so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.  
5 For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit.  
6 To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.  
7 For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law – indeed it cannot,  
8 and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.  
9 But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.  
10 But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness.  
11 If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

## **GOSPEL Matthew 13.1–9, 18–23**

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

1 Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the lake.  
2 Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach.  
3 And he told them many things in parables, saying: 'Listen! A sower went out to sow.  
4 And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up.  
5 Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil.  
6 But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away.  
7 Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them.  
8 Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.  
9 Let anyone with ears listen!  
18 Hear then the parable of the sower.  
19 When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path.  
20 As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy;  
21 yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away.  
22 As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing.  
23 But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.'

## THIS WEEK

|     |    |      |  |                   |
|-----|----|------|--|-------------------|
| Mon | 17 | July | Toddlers' Group                                    | 10 – 11.30am      |
| Wed | 19 | July | Food Bank  | 10.00am – 12 noon |
|     |    |      | Coffee   | 10.30am – 12 noon |
| Thu | 20 | July | Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language) | 10.00am           |
|     |    |      | Followed by coffee in choir vestry                 |                   |
|     |    |      | Choir Practice                                     | 7.00 – 8.30pm     |
| Sun | 23 | July | <b>TRINITY 6</b>                                   |                   |
|     |    |      | Holy Communion (Pres: Fr George)                   | 8.00am            |
|     |    |      | <b>SUNG EUCHARIST</b>                              | <b>9.30am</b>     |
|     |    |      | (President and Preacher: Fr George)                |                   |
|     |    |      | Children's Church in Littlebury Hall               |                   |
|     |    |      | (Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church)                  | 1.00 – 5.00pm     |
|     |    |      | NO Evening Prayer                                  |                   |

## NOTICES

CHOIR PRACTICES: There will be no Choir Practices throughout the whole of August to enable our Choir to enjoy a well deserved rest.

### STOP PRESS: TEA ON THE TRIANGLE

Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> August at 3 pm. Bring something to eat and share and a chair. A chance for a catch up and chat with our church family. Friends welcome.

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

|           |  |                  |
|-----------|--|------------------|
| 30 July   | SUNG EUCHARIST (President and Preacher:<br>Rev David Tuck) | 9.30 am          |
| 10 August | Children's Church planning day and lunch. All Welcome      | 11.30am – 2.00pm |