



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

TRINITY 7

Sunday 30 July 2017

A warm welcome to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Eucharist Rev David Tuck celebrates and preaches. Martin Heath leads the intercessions.

Hymns: 6 (i), 494, 368 and 558

Setting: Thorne

Children's Church in Littlebury Hall

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

NO Evening Prayer tonight.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: The Parish of Ware in our Diocese.

The Diocese of Pennsylvania (USA) Daniel Gutierrez its Bishop and all its people.

Church Army's work in building local communities.

The World: The work of NSPCC.

The prevention of People Trafficking and its victims.

All road accidents victims.

The Community and Parish: Couples preparing for Marriage.

Residents and Staff at River Court.

Staff and Pupils during school holidays.

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

Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things:
graft in our hearts the love of your name, increase in us true religion, nourish us with all
goodness, and of your great mercy keep us in the same;
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 Genesis 29.15–28

A reading from the book of Genesis.

- ¹⁵ Laban said to Jacob, 'Because you are my kinsman, should you therefore serve me for nothing? Tell me, what shall your wages be?'
- ¹⁶ Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel.
- ¹⁷ Leah's eyes were lovely, and Rachel was graceful and beautiful.
- ¹⁸ Jacob loved Rachel; so he said, 'I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel.'
- ¹⁹ Laban said, 'It is better that I give her to you than that I should give her to any other man; stay with me.'
- ²⁰ So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days because of the love he had for her.
- ²¹ Then Jacob said to Laban, 'Give me my wife that I may go in to her, for my time is completed.'
- ²² So Laban gathered together all the people of the place, and made a feast.
- ²³ But in the evening he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob; and he went in to her.
- ²⁴ (Laban gave his maid Zilpah to his daughter Leah to be her maid.)
- ²⁵ When morning came, it was Leah! And Jacob said to Laban, 'What is this you have done to me? Did I not serve with you for Rachel? Why then have you deceived me?'
- ²⁶ Laban said, 'This is not done in our country – giving the younger before the firstborn.
- ²⁷ Complete the week of this one, and we will give you the other also in return for serving me another seven years.'
- ²⁸ Jacob did so, and completed her week; then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel as a wife.

SECOND READING Romans 8.26–39

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

- ²⁶ The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words.
- ²⁷ And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.
- ²⁸ We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.

29 For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his
Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family.
30 And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also
justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.
31 What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us?
32 He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him
also give us everything else?
33 Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.
34 Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the
right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us.
35 Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or
persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?
36 As it is written, 'For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as
sheep to be slaughtered.'
37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.
38 For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things
present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height,
39 nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of
God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

GOSPEL Matthew 13.31–33, 44–52

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

31 Jesus put before the crowd another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard
seed that someone took and sowed in his field;
32 it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and
becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.'
33 He told them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took
and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.
34 The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid;
then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.
35 Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls;
36 on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.
37 Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish
of every kind;
38 when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw
out the bad.
39 So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from
the righteous
40 and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of
teeth.
41 Have you understood all this?' They answered, 'Yes.'
42 And he said to them, 'Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of
heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and
what is old.'

THIS WEEK

Mon	31	July	Toddlers' Group	10 – 11.30am
Tue	1	Aug	Service at River Court	2.30pm
Wed	2	Aug	Food Bank	10.00am – 12 noon
			Coffee	10.30am – 12 noon
Thu	3	Aug	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
			NO Choir Practice	
Sat	5	Aug	Wedding	1.00pm
Sun	6	Aug	<u>TRANSFIGURATION</u>	
			Holy Communion (Pres: Fr Geoff)	8.00am
			FIRST SUNDAY of MONTH SUNG EUCHARIST	9.30am
			(President: Fr Geoff; All-Age Presentation)	
			TEA ON THE TRIANGLE (see Notices)	3.00pm
			Evening Prayer	6.00pm

NOTICES

TEA ON THE TRIANGLE: Sunday 6th 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.

SWORD: The August edition of *Sword* is available for collection at the back of church.

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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

10 August: Children's Church planning day and lunch. All Welcome
11.30am – 2.00pm

10 September:

Many of you know that Andy is leaving us. On 10th September he will play for his last service. This will be followed by lunch. Offers of help please to Elizabeth and Valerie B.