



# THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

*St Michael and All Angels*

Watford

**Eleventh Sunday after Trinity**

Sunday 27 August 2017

A warm welcome to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Eucharist Fr Geoff celebrates and Violet Allen-Smith preaches. Pat Beach leads the intercessions.

**Hymns: 277, 617, 432 and 505**

**Setting: Thorne**

Children's Church in Littlebury Hall

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

Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church 1.00 – 5.00pm

Evening Prayer at 6.00 pm.

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

**The Church:** The Parish of Caddington in our Diocese.  
The Diocese of Ruvuma (Tanzania), Maternus Kapinga its Bishop,  
and all its people.  
Churches in Britain and Ireland who support USPG.

**The World:** The people of Spain, especially in Barcelona and more widely in Catalonia.  
People living in war-torn Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria.  
The people of flood devastated areas of India, Pakistan, Nepal and Bangladesh.

**The Community and Parish:** Residential and Nursing Homes in our Parish.  
All who care for elderly people at home.  
Young people making decisions following exam results.

**The Ill and the Housebound:** Especially Christopher Bilson, Janet Bridge, 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, Michele Rodford, Christina Simon, Mark Simon, Mark Watkin; and all who care for them.

**The Departed:**

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**COLLECT**

O God, you declare your almighty power most chiefly in showing mercy and pity; mercifully grant to us such a measure of your grace, that we, running the way of your commandments, may receive your gracious promises, and be made partakers of your heavenly treasure; 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 Exodus 1.8 – 2.10**

A reading from the book of Exodus.

- 8 A new king arose over Egypt, who did not know Joseph.  
9 He said to his people, 'Look, the Israelite people are more numerous and more powerful than we.  
10 Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, or they will increase and, in the event of war, join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land.'  
11 Therefore they set taskmasters over them to oppress them with forced labour. They built supply cities, Pithom and Rameses, for Pharaoh.  
12 But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread, so that the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites.  
13 The Egyptians became ruthless in imposing tasks on the Israelites,  
14 and made their lives bitter with hard service in mortar and brick and in every kind of field labour. They were ruthless in all the tasks that they imposed on them.  
15 The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah,  
16 'When you act as midwives to the Hebrew women, and see them on the birthstool, if it is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, she shall live.'  
17 But the midwives feared God; they did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but they let the boys live.  
18 So the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and said to them, 'Why have you done this, and allowed the boys to live?'  
19 The midwives said to Pharaoh, 'Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women; for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them.'  
20 So God dealt well with the midwives; and the people multiplied and became very strong.  
21 And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families.  
22 Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, 'Every boy that is born to the Hebrews you shall throw into the Nile, but you shall let every girl live.'  
1 Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman.  
2 The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him three months.  
3 When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river.  
4 His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him.  
5 The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it.

- 6 When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him, 'This must be one of the Hebrews' children,' she said.
- 7 Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, 'Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?'
- 8 Pharaoh's daughter said to her, 'Yes.' So the girl went and called the child's mother.
- 9 Pharaoh's daughter said to her, 'Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages.' So the woman took the child and nursed it.
- 10 When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, 'because,' she said, 'I drew him out of the water.'

## **SECOND READING Romans 12.1–8**

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

- 1 I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.
- 2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God – what is good and acceptable and perfect.
- 3 For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgement, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.
- 4 For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function,
- 5 so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another.
- 6 We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith;
- 7 ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching;
- 8 the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

## **GOSPEL Matthew 16.13–20**

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

- 13 Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that the Son of Man is?'
- 14 And they said, 'Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.'
- 15 He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?'
- 16 Simon Peter answered, 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.'
- 17 And Jesus answered him, 'Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven.
- 18 And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it.
- 19 I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.'
- 20 Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.'

## THIS WEEK

Mon	28	Aug	<i>BANK HOLIDAY</i> NO Toddlers' Group	
Wed	30	Aug	Food Bank	10.00am – 12 noon
			Coffee	10.30am – 12 noon
Thur	31	Aug	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
Sun	3	Sep	<b><u>TRINITY 12</u></b> Holy Communion (Pres: Fr Geoff)	8.00am
			<b>FIRST SUNDAY of MONTH SUNG EUCHARIST</b>	<b>9.30am</b>
			(President: Fr Geoff; All-Age Presentation)	
			Evening Prayer	6.00pm

## NOTICES

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

9 September:- Heritage Open Day. Church open all day  
Sponsored Bike'n Hike in aid of Herts & Beds Historic Churches;  
Coffee Morning in aid of The Children's Society 10.30 - 12 noon.

10 September: Most of you know that Andy is leaving us. On 10<sup>th</sup> September he will play for his last service at St Michael's. This will be followed by lunch. If you are able to provide anything for the lunch please sign the list on the bier at the back of church.

Wednesday 13 September, the Diocesan Stewardship Advisor will be visiting us to help us think about our giving. There will be a meeting at 8.00pm in the Littlebury Hall, including Cheese and Wine. Everyone is very welcome.

Saturday 16 September: Children's Church Canal Boat Trip 9 am - 5 pm.

Saturday 16 and 23 September Working Party 9 am - 5 pm

1 October:- Harvest Lunch.