



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

TRINITY 14

Sunday 17 September 2017

A warm welcome to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Eucharist Fr George celebrates and preaches. Mark Simon leads the intercessions.

Hymns: 435 (i), 385, 308 (i) and 453

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.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: The Parish of Chipperfield in our Diocese.

The Diocese of Sodor and Man, Peter Eagles its Bishop and all its people.

The Anglican Church in Myanmar.

The World: The victims of Hurricane Irma.

The Rohingya people of Myanmar.

Public sector workers.

The Community and Parish: Our Mothers' Union Members.

Churches Together in Central South and West Watford.

Our PCC members.

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, Peter White; and all who care for them.

The Departed:

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 Exodus 14.19–31

A reading from the book of Exodus.

- ¹⁹ The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them.
- ²⁰ It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.
- ²¹ Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided.
- ²² The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.
- ²³ The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers.
- ²⁴ At the morning watch the LORD in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic.
- ²⁵ He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, 'Let us flee from the Israelites, for the LORD is fighting for them against Egypt.'
- ²⁶ Then the LORD said to Moses, 'Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers.'
- ²⁷ So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the LORD tossed the Egyptians into the sea.
- ²⁸ The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained.
- ²⁹ But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.
- ³⁰ Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore.
- ³¹ Israel saw the great work that the LORD did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the LORD and believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses.

SECOND READING Romans 14.1–12

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

- ¹ Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarrelling over opinions.
- ² Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables.
- ³ Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgement on those who eat; for God has welcomed them.

4 Who are you to pass judgement on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

5 Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds.

6 Those who observe the day, observe it in honour of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honour of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honour of the Lord and give thanks to God.

7 We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves.

8 If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's.

9 For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

10 Why do you pass judgement on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgement seat of God.

11 For it is written, 'As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God.'

12 So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

GOSPEL Matthew 18.21–35

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

21 Peter came and said to Jesus, 'Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?'

22 Jesus said to him, 'Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

23 For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves.

24 When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him;

25 and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made.

26 So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything."

27 And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt.

28 But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow-slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, "Pay what you owe."

29 Then his fellow-slave fell down and pleaded with him, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you."

30 But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt.

31 When his fellow-slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place.

32 Then his lord summoned him and said to him, "You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me.

33 Should you not have had mercy on your fellow-slave, as I had mercy on you?"

34 And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt.

35 So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.'

THIS WEEK

Mon	18	Sep	Toddlers' Group	10 – 11.30am
Wed	20	Sep	Food Bank	10.00am – 12 noon
			Coffee	10.30am – 12 noon
			Intercessory Prayer group (Choir Vestry)	2.30pm
			PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL	7.25pm
Thu	21	Sep	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
Sat	23	Sep	(First Aid Course, in church (Working Party has been cancelled))	9.00am – 4.00pm
Sun	24	Sep	<u>MICHAELMAS</u>	
			Holy Communion (Pres: Fr George)	8.00am
			SUNG EUCHARIST	9.30am
			(President and Preacher: Fr Geoff)	
			Children's Church in Littlebury Hall	
			Followed by a Bring-&-Buy Sale	
			(Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church)	1.00 – 5.00pm
			Evening Prayer	6.00pm

NOTICES

FOODBANK: Demand for this service is increasing at St Michael's and more helpers are needed. When illness or holidays occur among our present (very loyal) team, we do not have enough people to cover. I would like to form an additional 'bank' of people who would be willing to be called upon when such an emergency arises. This would not happen often and would not oblige you to commit to a weekly, or even monthly, duty, but you could be called upon at short notice. Our foodbank operates every Wednesday morning between the hours of 10.00 and 12.00. There would be a short and simple training. Please email jmordue@virginmedia.com or ring 01923 244180.

COFFEE MORNING IN AID OF THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY: This raised £175.80p. Thank you to Norma who arranged it and to everyone who donated items for sale and those who made purchases. Norma has been arranging Children's Society activities for very many years and would like to hand this over to someone else now. If you are interested in finding out what is involved please ask Norma.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

1 October: - Harvest Lunch.