



# THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

*St Michael and All Angels*

Watford

**TRINITY 18**  
**15 October 2017**

A warm welcome to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Eucharist Fr George celebrates and our Preacher is from the Leprosy Mission. Pat Beach leads the intercessions.

**Hymns: 555, 97, 293 (t. 1) and 400**

**Setting: Thorne**

Children's Church in Littlebury Hall

NO Evening Prayer tonight.

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

**The Church:** The Parish of Ravensden in our Diocese.  
The Diocese of Swaziland, Ellinah Ntfombi Wamukoya its Bishop, and all its people.  
USPG's "Journey with Us" programme.

**The World:** Christian Aid's work in bringing business leaders together to tackle poverty.  
All civilians caught up in conflict and war.  
World Food Day (16th).

**The Community and Parish:** All that retired people do in our community.  
Laurance Haines School.  
Our Toddler Group.

**The Ill and the Housebound:** Especially Christopher Bilson, Janet Bridge, Peter Coley, Marion Craddock-Jones, Judith Degen, Audrey Dixon, Sister Dominic, 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, Rick Sear, Christina Simon, Mark Simon, Peter White; and all who care for them.

**The Departed:**

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**COLLECT****Collect**

Almighty and everlasting God, increase in us your gift of faith that, forsaking what lies behind and reaching out to that which is before, we may run the way of your commandments and win the crown of everlasting joy; 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 32.1–14**

A reading from the book of Exodus.

- <sup>1</sup> When the people of Israel saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people gathered around Aaron, and said to him, 'Come, make gods for us, who shall go before us; as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.'
- <sup>2</sup> Aaron said to them, 'Take off the gold rings that are on the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me.'
- <sup>3</sup> So all the people took off the gold rings from their ears, and brought them to Aaron.
- <sup>4</sup> He took the gold from them, formed it in a mould, and cast an image of a calf; and they said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!'
- <sup>5</sup> When Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made proclamation and said, 'Tomorrow shall be a festival to the LORD.'
- <sup>6</sup> They rose early the next day, and offered burnt-offerings and brought sacrifices of well-being; and the people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to revel.
- <sup>7</sup> The LORD said to Moses, 'Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely;
- <sup>8</sup> they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf, and have worshipped it and sacrificed to it, and said, "These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!"'
- <sup>9</sup> The LORD said to Moses, 'I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are.
- <sup>10</sup> Now let me alone, so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them; and of you I will make a great nation.'
- <sup>11</sup> But Moses implored the LORD his God, and said, 'O LORD, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand?
- <sup>12</sup> Why should the Egyptians say, "It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth"? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people.
- <sup>13</sup> Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, "I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it for ever."
- <sup>14</sup> And the LORD changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

## SECOND READING Philippians 4.1–9

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.

- 1 My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.
- 2 I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord.
- 3 Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.
- 4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.
- 5 Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near.
- 6 Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.
- 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.
- 8 Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.
- 9 Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

## GOSPEL Matthew 22.1–14

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

- 1 Once more Jesus spoke to the chief priests and Pharisees in parables, saying:
- 2 ‘The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son.
- 3 He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come.
- 4 Again he sent other slaves, saying, “Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.”
- 5 But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, maltreated them, and killed them.
- 6 The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city.
- 7 Then he said to his slaves, “The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy.
- 8 Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.”
- 9 Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.
- 10 But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe,
- 11 and he said to him, “Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?” And he was speechless.
- 12 Then the king said to the attendants, “Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”
- 13 For many are called, but few are chosen.

## THIS WEEK

Mon	16	Oct	Toddlers' Group	10 – 11.30am
Wed	18	Oct	Food Bank	10.00am – 12 noon
			Coffee in Church	10.30am – 12 noon
Thur	19	Oct	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
			Followed by coffee in Choir Vestry	
Fri	20	Oct	Laurance Haines School Harvest celebration	9am – 12 noon
			One Voice Choir Quiz Evening	7.00 – 10.00pm
Sat	21	Oct	Live Country Music sung by Ron Ryall (see Notices below)	7.30pm
Sun	22	Oct	<b>TRINITY 19</b>	
			Holy Communion (Pres: Fr George)	8.00am
			<b>SUNG EUCHARIST</b>	<b>9.30am</b>
			(President and Preacher: Rev John Brown)	
			Children's Church	
			(Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church)	1.00 – 5.00pm)
			NO Evening Prayer	

## NOTICES

LIVE COUNTRY MUSIC SUNG BY RON RYALL WITH A TABLE QUIZ AND BUFFET: At St Michael's on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> October from 7.30 pm. Tickets £10 from Jamie or Holly Wareham. (Bring your own drinks.) Final date to purchase tickets is today 15<sup>th</sup> October.

THIRD ST MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS CHRISTMAS DINNER at West Herts College Restaurant will be on Tuesday 5 December at 6.30pm.

This year a choice of Bucks Fizz, Mulled Wine or non alcoholic drink on arrival has been included. So the cost for this Drink, Three Course Meal followed by Tea/Coffee and Mince Pie will be £16.

No deposit BUT full payment by Friday 27 October 2017 to Martin Matthews please. Only FIVE places left!

FINAL COPY DATE FOR THE NOVEMBER SWORD is MIDDAY next Sunday, 22 October. Hard copy to Rob White or email to [swordparishmagazine@googlemail.com](mailto:swordparishmagazine@googlemail.com)

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

22 October at 9.30 the President and Preacher will be the Rev John Brown.

29 October at 9.30 is our annual Memorial Service when we remember our departed.

25 November – Christmas Fair 11.30am – 2.30pm.