



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

BIRTH OF JOHN THE BAPTIST
24 June 2018

A warm welcome to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Eucharist we extend a very warm welcome to the Rev David Tuck who will celebrate and preach. Phil Gough leads the intercessions.

Hymns: 396 (t.530), 477, 392 and 507

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.

(Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church 1.00 – 5.00pm)

NO Evening Prayer tonight.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: The Parish of Leighton Buzzard in our Diocese.
The Church of Nigeria, Nicholas Okoh its Primate, and all its people.

The Anglican Church in South Africa.

The World: Rainfall in areas experiencing drought.

The safety and wellbeing of seafarers.

Peace for people in Nigeria.

The Community and Parish: Our Children's Church leaders and children.

People in our community with mental health issues.

Sports teachers and students.

The Ill and the Housebound: Especially Christopher Bilson, Peter Coley, Marion Craddock-Jones, Kate Dickinson, Audrey Dixon, Cynthia Dixon, Claire Dunning, Jemima Hill, Peter Hinchey, Mary Kearns, Lesley Kinch, Loretta Lynch, Dorcas Ochola, Christina Simon, Mark Simon, Baby Adelaide Tonkin, Peter White; and all who care for them.

The Departed:

COLLECT

Almighty God, by whose providence your servant John the Baptist was wonderfully born, and sent to prepare the way of your Son our Saviour by the preaching of repentance:

lead us to repent according to his preaching and, after his example, constantly to speak the truth, boldly to rebuke vice, and patiently to suffer for the truth's sake;

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 Isaiah 40.1-11

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

¹ Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.

² Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.

³ A voice cries out: 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

⁴ Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.

⁵ Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.'

⁶ A voice says, 'Cry out!' And I said, 'What shall I cry?' All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field.

⁷ The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass.

⁸ The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever.

⁹ Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, 'Here is your God!'

¹⁰ See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.

¹¹ He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

SECOND READING Galatians 3.23–29

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Galatians.

- 23 Before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed.
- 24 Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith.
- 25 But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith.
- 26 As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ;
- 27 There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.
- 28 And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise.

GOSPEL Luke 1.57–66, 80

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

- 57 The time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son.
- 58 Her neighbours and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her.
- 59 On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him Zechariah after his father.
- 60 But his mother said, 'No; he is to be called John.'
- 61 They said to her, 'None of your relatives has this name.'
- 62 Then they began motioning to his father to find out what name he wanted to give him.
- 63 He asked for a writing-tablet and wrote, 'His name is John.' And all of them were amazed.
- 64 Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue freed, and he began to speak, praising God.
- 65 Fear came over all their neighbours, and all these things were talked about throughout the entire hill country of Judea.
- 66 All who heard them pondered them and said, 'What then will this child become?' For, indeed, the hand of the Lord was with him.
- 80 The child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day he appeared publicly to Israel.

THIS WEEK

Mon	25	June	Toddlers' Group	10.00 – 11.30am
Wed	27	June	Food Bank	10.00am – 12 noon
			Coffee in Church	10.30am – 12 noon
Thur	28	June	Holy Communion	10.00am
Sun	1	July	<u>TRINITY 5</u>	
			Holy Communion (Pres: Fr Geoff)	8.00am
			SUNG EUCHARIST	9.30am
			(President and Preacher: Fr Geoff)	
			Children's Church in Littlebury Hall	
			Union Christian Fellowship	5.00pm

NOTICES

WATFORD & THREE RIVERS REFUGEE PARTNERSHIP invite you to their Annual Garden Party at Cheslyn Gardens, Nascot Wood Road. WD17 4SL, today, Sunday 24th June, 2 – 4.30pm. Refreshments and cream teas.

FR GEOFF'S 30th ANNIVERSARY of his ORDINATION to the PRIESTHOOD will be celebrated on Tuesday 3rd July at 7.30pm with a Eucharist in the Lady Chapel and followed by refreshments. All members of St Michael's are invited. If you would like to attend, please sign the list at the back of church.

UNFORTUNATELY, our concert – “A CELEBRATION OF SONG” on Saturday 30th June 2018 has had to be CANCELLED.

FINAL COPY DATE FOR THE JULY SWORD is MIDDAY today, Sunday, 24 June. Hard copy to Rob White or email to swordparishmagazine@googlemail.com.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: The new General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) is now in force. If you wish to receive any communications from St Michael's by post, telephone or email in future we need your permission. If you haven't already filled in a form, please pick one up from the table at the back of the church, complete it and return as soon as possible. If we don't get a form from you, you won't get any future information sent to you about what is happening at St Michael's.