



# THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

*St Michael and All Angels*

Watford

**TRINITY 11**

**12 August 2018**

A warm welcome to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Eucharist Fr Geoff celebrates and preaches. Vicki Matthews leads the intercessions.

**Hymns: 6 (t.2), 375, 278 and 311**

**Setting: Thorne**

Children's Church in Littlebury Hall.

Coffee and tea will be served in church after the 9.30 service – please stay on.  
(Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church 1.00 – 5.00 pm)

Evening Prayer at 6.00 pm

CPR Prayer Walk starts from St Michael's at 8.00 pm.

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

**The Church:** The Parish of Letchworth in our Diocese.

The Church of the Province of South East Asia, Ng Moon Hing  
its Archbishop and all its people.

People who attend contemplative prayer groups.

**The World:** The people of Indonesia, following earthquakes.

The people of Zimbabwe, for peace following elections.

The people of Bangladesh protesting for road safety.

**The Community and Parish:** Residents and Staff at the Chase Care Home.

Our Mothers Union Members.

The work of caring for each other.

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

**The Departed:** Peter Coley.

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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 2 Samuel 18.5–9, 15, 31–33**

A reading from the second book of Samuel.

<sup>5</sup> The king ordered Joab and Abishai and Ittai, saying, 'Deal gently for my sake with the young man Absalom.' And all the people heard when the king gave orders to all the commanders concerning Absalom.

<sup>6</sup> So the army went out into the field against Israel; and the battle was fought in the forest of Ephraim.

<sup>7</sup> The men of Israel were defeated there by the servants of David, and the slaughter there was great on that day, twenty thousand men.

<sup>8</sup> The battle spread over the face of all the country; and the forest claimed more victims that day than the sword.

<sup>9</sup> Absalom happened to meet the servants of David. Absalom was riding on his mule, and the mule went under the thick branches of a great oak. His head caught fast in the oak, and he was left hanging between heaven and earth, while the mule that was under him went on.

<sup>15</sup> And ten young men, Joab's armour-bearers, surrounded Absalom and struck him, and killed him.

<sup>31</sup> Then the Cushite came; and the Cushite said, 'Good tidings for my lord the king! For the LORD has vindicated you this day, delivering you from the power of all who rose up against you.'

<sup>32</sup> The king said to the Cushite, 'Is it well with the young man Absalom?' The Cushite answered, 'May the enemies of my lord the king, and all who rise up to do you harm, be like that young man.'

<sup>33</sup> The king was deeply moved, and went up to the chamber over the gate, and wept; and as he went, he said, 'O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom! Would I had died instead of you, O Absalom, my son, my son!'

## SECOND READING Ephesians 4.25 – 5.2

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians.

- 25 Putting away falsehood, let all of us speak the truth to our neighbours, for we are members of one another.
- 26 Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger,  
27 and do not make room for the devil.
- 28 Thieves must give up stealing; rather let them labour and work honestly with their own hands, so as to have something to share with the needy.
- 29 Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear.
- 30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption.
- 31 Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice,  
32 and be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you.
- 1 Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children,  
2 and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

## GOSPEL John 6.35, 41–51

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

- 35 Jesus said to the crowd, 'I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.'
- 41 Then the Jews began to complain about him because he said, 'I am the bread that came down from heaven.'
- 42 They were saying, 'Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, "I have come down from heaven"?'
- 43 Jesus answered them, 'Do not complain among yourselves.
- 44 No one can come to me unless drawn by the Father who sent me; and I will raise that person up on the last day.
- 45 It is written in the prophets, "And they shall all be taught by God." Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me.
- 46 Not that anyone has seen the Father except the one who is from God; he has seen the Father.
- 47 Very truly, I tell you, whoever believes has eternal life.
- 48 I am the bread of life.
- 49 Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died.
- 50 This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die.
- 51 I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live for ever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.'

## **THIS WEEK**

Mon	13	Aug	Toddlers' Group	10.00 – 11.30am
Wed	15	Aug	Food Bank	10.00am – 12 noon
			Coffee in Church	10.30am – 12 noon
Thur	16	Aug	Holy Communion	10.00am
			Followed by coffee in Choir vestry	
Sun	19	Aug	<b><u>TRINITY 12</u></b>	
			Holy Communion (Pres: Fr Geoff)	8.00am
			SUNG EUCHARIST (President: Fr Geoff and Preacher: Martin Heath)	9.30am
			Children's Church in Littlebury Hall	
			Holy Baptism	3.00pm
			Evening Prayer	6.00pm

## **NOTICES**

### **FUNERALS:**

**Rene Morgan:** Friday 17th August, 10.20am West Herts Crematorium (Family & Close Friends Only) followed by Thanksgiving Service at West Watford Free Church 11.15am. All Welcome; dress code bright clothing, no flowers – donations to Leprosy Mission.

**Peter Coley:** Friday 17th August, 2.40pm West Herts Crematorium, all welcome. Followed by refreshments at British Legion. All Welcome.

**BEDS AND HERTS HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST:** The day when the Historic Churches Trust have their sponsored Bike n' Hike Day is Saturday, 8 September. The Church is also open on this day for visitors to see inside - encourage your friends and neighbours to come along, see inside our beautiful Church and look at the stock on Norma's stall, and the book stall.

**BRING-AND-BUY SALE:** Last month's sale raised £49.50. Thank you to all who contributed.

### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:**

25th August at 7.30 pm. Concert by the Watford Youth Sinfonia at St Michaels. Tickets: Adults – £12; Concessions – £10; Students – £7 on the door. More information on their website: <http://watforyouthsinfonia.com>.

29th September, at 2.00 pm. The War Memorial Cross is to be dedicated by the Rt Revd Richard Atkinson, Bishop of Bedford, followed by refreshments.

13th October: Murder Mystery Play. Please ask your friends. Tables of 6. 3 - course Supper included. £20.00 per ticket. Bar available. More details from Elizabeth Watkin or Valerie Blacklock.