



# THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

*St Michael and All Angels*

Watford

**TRINITY 13**  
**26 August 2018**

A warm welcome to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Eucharist Fr Geoff celebrates and preaches. Phil Gough leads the intercessions.

**Hymns: 626, 343, 537 and 585**

**Setting: Thorne**

Children's Church in Littlebury Hall.

Refreshments 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 – 5.00 pm)

Evening Prayer 6.00 pm

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

**The Church:** The Parish of Bushmead (Luton) in our Diocese.  
The Anglican Church of Southern Africa, Thabo Makgoba its Archbishop and all its people.  
USPG's support of training in ministry, especially for women.

**The World:** Victims of flooding in Kerala, South India.  
Christian Aid's work with disabled people in Ghana.  
The rooting out of child abuse from the Churches.

**The Community and Parish:** Young people making decisions after their exam results.  
Our local police and police community support officers.  
Staff pupils and parents preparing for the return to school.

**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, Craig McKay, Lisa Mills, Dorcas Ochola, Christina Simon, Mark Simon, Norma Stone, Baby Adelaide Tonkin, Peter White; and all who care for them.

**The Departed:**

## Collect

Almighty God, who called your Church to bear witness that you were in Christ reconciling the world to yourself:  
 help us to proclaim the good news of your love, that all who hear it may be drawn to you;  
 through him who was lifted up on the cross, and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**FIRST READING I Kings 8. 22–30, 41–43**

A reading from the first book of Kings.

- 22 Then Solomon stood before the altar of the LORD in the presence of all the assembly of Israel, and spread out his hands to heaven.
- 23 He said, 'O LORD, God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven above or on earth beneath, keeping covenant and steadfast love for your servants who walk before you with all their heart,
- 24 the covenant that you kept for your servant my father David as you declared to him; you promised with your mouth and have this day fulfilled with your hand.
- 25 Therefore, O LORD, God of Israel, keep for your servant my father David that which you promised him, saying, "There shall never fail you a successor before me to sit on the throne of Israel, if only your children look to their way, to walk before me as you have walked before me."
- 26 Therefore, O God of Israel, let your word be confirmed, which you promised to your servant my father David.
- 27 But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Even heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you, much less this house that I have built!
- 28 Have regard to your servant's prayer and his plea, O LORD my God, heeding the cry and the prayer that your servant prays to you today;
- 29 that your eyes may be open night and day towards this house, the place of which you said, "My name shall be there," that you may heed the prayer that your servant prays toward this place.
- 30 Hear the plea of your servant and of your people Israel when they pray towards this place; O hear in heaven your dwelling-place; heed and forgive.
- 41 Likewise when a foreigner, who is not of your people Israel, comes from a distant land because of your name –
- 42 for they shall hear of your great name, your mighty hand, and your outstretched arm – when a foreigner comes and prays toward this house,
- 43 then hear in heaven your dwelling place, and do according to all that the foreigner calls to you, so that all the peoples of the earth may know your name and fear you, as do your people Israel, and so that they may know that your name has been invoked on this house that I have built.'

**SECOND READING Ephesians 6.10–20**

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians.

10 Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power.  
11 Put on the whole armour of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.  
12 For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.  
13 Therefore take up the whole armour of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm.  
14 Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness.  
15 As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace.  
16 With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one.  
17 Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.  
18 Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints.  
19 Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel,  
20 for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

## **GOSPEL John 6.56–69**

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

Jesus said to the crowd:

56 ‘Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them.  
57 Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me.  
58 This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live for ever.’  
59 He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.  
60 When many of his disciples heard it, they said, ‘This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?’  
61 But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, ‘Does this offend you?  
62 Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before?  
63 It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life.  
64 But among you there are some who do not believe.’ For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him.  
65 And he said, ‘For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father.’  
66 Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him.  
67 So Jesus asked the twelve, ‘Do you also wish to go away?’  
68 Simon Peter answered him, ‘Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life.  
69 We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.’

## THIS WEEK

Mon	27	Aug	<i>Bank Holiday</i> NO Toddlers' Group	
Tue	28	Aug	Funeral in church	12.00 noon
Wed	29	Aug	Food Bank	10.00am – 12 noon
			Coffee in Church	10.30am – 12 noon
Thur	30	Aug	Holy Communion	10.00am
Sun	2	Sep	<b><u>TRINITY 14</u></b> Holy Communion (Pres: Fr Geoff)	8.00am
			SUNG EUCHARIST (President: Fr Geoff)	9.30am
			(First Sunday booklet; All Age Presentation)	
			Followed by refreshments	
			Evening Prayer	6.00pm

## NOTICES

BEDS AND HERTS HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST: The day when the Historic Churches Trust have their sponsored Bike n' Hike Day is **Saturday, 8 September**. Hundreds of Churches open their doors on this day for people to visit, moving round their chosen area either by cycling, walking, riding or any other means that appeals. Everyone who does this is sponsored and forms for sponsoring are available from Bob Bilson. It may be that your time of walking, etc is past in which case use your form to be sponsored for helping to clean or tidy the church or mend service books or hymn books.

The Church is also open on this Heritage Day for visitors to see inside - encourage your friends and neighbours to come along, see inside our beautiful Church.

Between 10.30 am and 12.30 pm there is a Coffee Morning and Norma's Mini-Market. Cakes, jewellery, toiletries and stationery on sale and also a raffle. Proceeds in aid of the War Memorial Cross.

FINAL COPY DATE FOR THE SEPTEMBER SWORD is midday today Sunday, 26<sup>th</sup> August. Hard copy to Rob White or email to swordparishmagazine@googlemail.com.

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

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. Tickets and more details from Elizabeth Watkin or Valerie Blacklock.