



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

TRINITY 8
11 August 2019

A warm welcome to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Eucharist we welcome the Rev'd Canon Richard Bartlett (USPG Director of Mission Engagement) as Celebrant and Preacher. Pat Beach leads the intercessions.

Hymns: 455, 442, 308 and 437

Setting: Thorne

(NO children's church this week)

Refreshments will be served in church after the 9.30 service – please stay on.

(Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church 1.00pm – 5.00pm)

For your prayers this week:

The Church: The Parish of Kings Walden (Hitchin).

The United Church of South India; Thomas Kanjirappally Oommen
- Moderator of CSI and Bishop of Madhya Kerala.

UK Austerity. The role of faith in public life.

The World: USPG.

Support for people of the world with mental health problems.

Pray with all those communities affected by Cyclone Fani in India
and Bangladesh and Cyclone Idai in Southeast Africa this year

The Community and Parish: Support for the protest against windowless homes in
Watford.

Anne and Tim Eccleshall as they prepare to move to Norfolk
tomorrow.

National Allotment week.

The Ill and the Housebound: Especially Christopher Bilson, Marion Craddock-
Jones, Audrey Dixon, Cynthia Dixon, Claire Dunning, Fr Robert
Featherstone, Jemima Hill, Peter Hinchey, Mary Kearns, Loretta
Lynch, Craig McKay, Lisa Mills, Sylvia Obeng, Dorcas Ochola,
Michelle Rodford, Christina Simon, Mark Simon, Catherine Stone,
Baby Adelaide Tonkin, Peter White; and all who care for them.

The Departed:

Collect

Almighty Lord and everlasting God, we beseech you to direct, sanctify and govern both our hearts and bodies in the ways of your laws and the works of your commandments;

that through your most mighty protection, both here and ever, we may be preserved in body and soul;

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 1.1, 10–20

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

¹ The vision of Isaiah son of Amoz, which he saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah.

¹⁰ Hear the word of the LORD, you rulers of Sodom! Listen to the teaching of our God, you people of Gomorrah!

¹¹ What to me is the multitude of your sacrifices? says the LORD; I have had enough of burnt-offerings of rams and the fat of fed beasts; I do not delight in the blood of bulls, or of lambs, or of goats.

¹² When you come to appear before me, who asked this from your hand? Trample my courts no more;

¹³ bringing offerings is futile; incense is an abomination to me. New moon and sabbath and calling of convocation – I cannot endure solemn assemblies with iniquity.

¹⁴ Your new moons and your appointed festivals my soul hates; they have become a burden to me, I am weary of bearing them.

¹⁵ When you stretch out your hands, I will hide my eyes from you; even though you make many prayers, I will not listen; your hands are full of blood.

¹⁶ Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean; remove the evil of your doings from before my eyes; cease to do evil,

¹⁷ learn to do good; seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead for the widow.

¹⁸ Come now, let us argue it out, says the LORD: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be like snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool.

¹⁹ If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land;

²⁰ but if you refuse and rebel, you shall be devoured by the sword; for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

SECOND READING Hebrews 11.1–3, 8–16

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

¹ Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

² Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval.

³ By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

⁸ By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going.

⁹ By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise.

¹⁰ For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God.

¹¹ By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old – and Sarah herself was barren – because he considered him faithful who had promised.

¹² Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, ‘as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.’

¹³ All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth,

¹⁴ for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland.

¹⁵ If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return.

¹⁶ But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

GOSPEL Luke 12.32–40

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke. Jesus said to his disciples,

³² ‘Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

³³ Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys.

³⁴ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

³⁵ Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit;

³⁶ be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks.

³⁷ Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them.

³⁸ If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

³⁹ But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into.

⁴⁰ You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.’

THIS WEEK

Mon	12	Aug	Toddlers' Group	10 – 11.30am
Wed	14	Aug	Food Bank and Coffee in Church	10.00am – 12 noon
Sun	18	Aug	<u>TRINITY 9</u>	
			Holy Communion	8.00am
			SUNG EUCHARIST	9.30am

**President and Preacher: Rt Rev'd Richard Atkinson
(Bishop of Bedford)**

NO Children's Church this week

NOTICES

SERVICES DURING Fr GEOFF'S SABBATICAL: there will not be Holy Communion Services at 10 am on Thursday mornings nor Evening Prayer on Sundays. The Holy Communion service at 8 am on Sunday mornings will be held on alternate weeks from 9th June.

PRESIDENTS and PREACHERS FOR 9.30 EUCHARIST IN AUGUST

4 August	Rev'd David Tuck (First Sunday of Month Service)
11 August	Rev'd Canon Richard Bartlett USPG Director of Mission Engagement
18 August	Rt Rev'd Richard Atkinson (Bishop of Bedford)
25 August	Fr George

THE GARDEN PARTY this afternoon **will be held in Littlebury Hall** from 3.30 – 5.30pm. (Not at 8 Cassiobury Park Ave.)

LESLEY KINCH'S FUNERAL will be on Tuesday August 20th, 12 noon at St Michael's, then 13.40 at Garston Crematorium. This will be followed by a finger buffet lunch back at St Michael's. If you would like to contribute towards the lunch please contact Jane Talbot on 07779122421/halfsentence@icloud.com or in person in Church (she is on holiday this week).

THE JULY BRING-&-BUY SALE raised £50. Many thanks to all who contributed.

FUTURE DATES:

Saturday 14 September 9.00am – 5.00pm. Heritage Open Day
and Beds & Herts Historic Churches Trust Bike and Hike.
Coffee Morning and Sale 10.30am – 12 noon.