



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

TRINITY 9
18 August 2019

A warm welcome to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Sung Eucharist we welcome the Rt Rev'd Richard Atkinson, Bishop of Bedford, as Celebrant and Preacher. Paul Chandler leads the intercessions.

Hymns: 172, 449, 589 and 81

Setting: Thorne

(NO children's church this week)

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

For your prayers this week:

The Church: The Parish of Pirton (Hitchin).

The Anglican Church of Southern Africa; Thabo Makgoba - Archbishop of Capetown and Primate of Southern Africa.

Give thanks for the partnership between Christian Aid and the Greenbelt festival.

The World: The people of Hong Kong.

World Humanitarian Day (tomorrow).

Victims and their families affected by knife crimes.

The Community and Parish: The Watford "Dementia Friendly Town initiative".

The Big Beach Summer Event in the Parade.

Students receiving examination results.

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 God, who sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of your Church: open our hearts to the riches of your grace, that we may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit in love and joy and peace; 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 5.1–7

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

- ¹ Let me sing for my beloved my love-song concerning his vineyard: My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill.
- ² He dug it and cleared it of stones, and planted it with choice vines; he built a watch-tower in the midst of it, and hewed out a wine vat in it; he expected it to yield grapes, but it yielded wild grapes.
- ³ And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and people of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard.
- ⁴ What more was there to do for my vineyard that I have not done in it? When I expected it to yield grapes, why did it yield wild grapes?
- ⁵ And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard. I will remove its hedge, and it shall be devoured; I will break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down.
- ⁶ I will make it a waste; it shall not be pruned or hoed, and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns; I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it.
- ⁷ For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel, and the people of Judah are his pleasant planting; he expected justice, but saw bloodshed; righteousness, but heard a cry!

SECOND READING Hebrews 11.29 – 12.2

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

- ²⁹ By faith the people of Israel passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned.
- ³⁰ By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days.
- ³¹ By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace.
- ³² And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets –
- ³³ who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions,
- ³⁴ quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight.

35 Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to
accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection.
36 Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment.
37 They were stoned to death, they were sawn in two, they were killed by the sword;
they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented –
38 of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains,
and in caves and holes in the ground.
39 Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what
was promised,
40 since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us,
be made perfect.
1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay
aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with
perseverance the race that is set before us,
2 looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy
that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken
his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

GOSPEL Luke 12.49–56

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

Jesus said to his disciples:

49 'I came to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled!
50 I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what stress I am under until it is
completed!
51 Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but
rather division!
52 From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two
against three;
53 they will be divided: father against son and son against father, mother against
daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law
and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.'
54 He also said to the crowds, 'When you see a cloud rising in the west, you
immediately say, "It is going to rain"; and so it happens.
55 And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, "There will be scorching
heat"; and it happens.
56 You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but
why do you not know how to interpret the present time?'

THIS WEEK

Mon	19	Aug	Toddlers' Group	10 – 11.30am
Tue	20	Aug	Funeral in church of Lesley Kinch (se Notices below)	12 noon
Wed	21	Aug	Food Bank and Coffee in Church	10.00am – 12 noon
Sun	25	Aug	<u>TRINITY 10</u> <i>NO Holy Communion at 8.00am</i> SUNG EUCHARIST (President and Preacher: Fr George)9.30am Followed by a Bring-&-Buy Sale (Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church	1.00 – 5.00pm
Mon	26	Aug	<i>Bank Holiday – NO Toddlers' Group</i>	

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

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.

THE "GARDEN" PARTY held last Sunday in Littlebury Hall was enjoyed by all who attended and donations towards church funds raised £101.66.

FINAL COPY DATE FOR THE SEPTEMBER SWORD is midday next Sunday, 25 August. Hard copy to Rob White or email to swordparishmagazine@googlegmail.com.

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.