



# THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

*St Michael and All Angels*

Watford

**HARVEST FESTIVAL**  
**Sunday 4 October 2020**

Welcome back to St Michael's when we celebrate Harvest. At 9.30am there is a Parish Eucharist with congregation in Church; music but no congregational singing. There will be a limit of 40 people, and hygiene, social distancing, and track and trace will be in place, but most importantly, we are here!

The service will also be live-streamed on our YouTube channel "**St Michaels Church Watford**" for those who are unable to attend physically.

After the service, St Michael's will remain open for private prayer until 12.00 noon.

There is a Homily from Fr Geoff on the back page.

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

**The Church:** The Parish of Felmersham in our Diocese.  
The Anglican Church of Tanzania, Maimbo Mndolwa its Archbishop, and all its people.  
Newly commissioned Church Army evangelists.

**The World:** Teachers (5th October is World Teacher's Day).  
Primary Food Producers.  
Police, and Police Community Support Officers.

**The Community and Parish:** The safety of our local Police Officers and PCSO's.  
The Watford Food Bank.  
Our local food retailers.

**The Ill and the Housebound:** Especially Christopher Bilson, Janet Chandler, Audrey Dixon, Cynthia Dixon, Claire Dunning, Fr Robert Featherstone, Jemima Hill, Blossom Hutchinson, Mary Kearns, Keith Levinson, Craig McKay, Lisa Mills, Sylvia Obeng, Dorcas Ochola, Brian Rees, Christina Simon, Catherine Stone, Adelaide Tonkin, Peter White; and all who care for them.

**The Departed:**

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# HARVEST

# YEAR A

## COLLECT

Eternal God,

you crown the year with your goodness and you give us the fruits of the earth in their season: grant that we may use them to your glory, for the relief of those in need and for our own well-being; 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 Deuteronomy 28.1-14

<sup>1</sup> If you will only obey the LORD your God, by diligently observing all his commandments that I am commanding you today, the LORD your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth;

<sup>2</sup> all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, if you obey the LORD your God:

<sup>3</sup> Blessed shall you be in the city, and blessed shall you be in the field.

<sup>4</sup> Blessed shall be the fruit of your womb, the fruit of your ground, and the fruit of your livestock, both the increase of your cattle and the issue of your flock.

<sup>5</sup> Blessed shall be your basket and your kneading-bowl.

<sup>6</sup> Blessed shall you be when you come in, and blessed shall you be when you go out.

<sup>7</sup> The LORD will cause your enemies who rise against you to be defeated before you; they shall come out against you one way, and flee before you seven ways.

<sup>8</sup> The LORD will command the blessing upon you in your barns, and in all that you undertake; he will bless you in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

<sup>9</sup> The LORD will establish you as his holy people, as he has sworn to you, if you keep the commandments of the LORD your God and walk in his ways.

<sup>10</sup> All the peoples of the earth shall see that you are called by the name of the LORD, and they shall be afraid of you.

<sup>11</sup> The LORD will make you abound in prosperity, in the fruit of your womb, in the fruit of your livestock, and in the fruit of your ground in the land that the LORD swore to your ancestors to give you.

<sup>12</sup> The LORD will open for you his rich storehouse, the heavens, to give the rain of your land in its season and to bless all your undertakings. You will lend to many nations, but you will not borrow.

<sup>13</sup> The LORD will make you the head, and not the tail; you shall be only at the top, and not at the bottom – if you obey the commandments of the LORD your God, which I am commanding you today, by diligently observing them,

<sup>14</sup> and if you do not turn aside from any of the words that I am commanding you today, either to the right or to the left, following other gods to serve them.

## SECOND READING 2 Corinthians 9.6-15

A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

<sup>6</sup> The one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.

<sup>7</sup> Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

8 And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always  
having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.  
9 As it is written, 'He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor; his righteousness  
endures for ever.'  
10 He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply  
your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness.  
11 You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce  
thanksgiving to God through us;  
12 for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also  
overflows with many thanksgivings to God.  
13 Through the testing of this ministry you glorify God by your obedience to the  
confession of the gospel of Christ and by the generosity of your sharing with them  
and with all others,  
14 while they long for you and pray for you because of the surpassing grace of God  
that he has given you.  
15 Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

### **GOSPEL Luke 12.16–30**

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

16 Jesus told the people a parable: 'The land of a rich man produced abundantly.  
17 And he thought to himself, "What should I do, for I have no place to store my  
crops?"  
18 Then he said, "I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and  
there I will store all my grain and my goods.  
19 And I will say to my soul, 'Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years;  
relax, eat, drink, be merry.'"  
20 But God said to him, "You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of  
you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?"  
21 So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich towards  
God.'  
22 He said to his disciples, 'Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what  
you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear.  
23 For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing.  
24 Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor  
barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds!  
25 And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life?  
26 If then you are not able to do so small a thing as that, why do you worry about the  
rest?  
27 Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even  
Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these.  
28 But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is  
thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you – you of little faith!  
29 And do not keep striving for what you are to eat and what you are to drink, and  
do not keep worrying.  
30 For it is the nations of the world that strive after all these things, and your Father  
knows that you need them.' '

## HOMILY

We celebrate harvest at a time when panic-buying is starting again, one of the most futile of human activities given that there is no shortage of anything. Harvest reminds us that there are many people in the world who have no certainty of where the next meal will come from, and some of them in our own community. The very fact that some people in our community are able to panic buy when others have to use food banks, should make us think hard about how much we have, and how much we can give.

Love and prayers  
Fr Geoff

**THIS WEEK WE CELEBRATE HARVEST**, and Harvest gifts (dried and tinned goods) are welcome at the service (they will not be brought up to the front during the service though). They will be quarantined and then taken to the Food Bank.

St Michael's Church is now open for private prayer on Wednesdays, 10.00am – 12.00 noon, and Sundays 10.45am – 12.15pm. Hygiene and social distancing procedures are in operation for your protection. All very welcome.

**BIKE & HIKE 2020**: Thanks to your sponsorship, the amount committed so far stands at £210. May I thank you for supporting the B & H Historic Churches cause, as you have done over the years, despite the Covid difficulties this year.

I should be grateful for payment within the next 2 weeks, please, and thanks to those who have already paid. The list is still open for additional sponsorship in that time should anybody wish to take advantage. As to means of payment, you can pay by cash or cheque in my name, or by bank transfer (in that case please phone me for details). Monies given me so far are being held in a current account temporarily.

Thanks also to those who qualify for willingly Gift Aiding their contributions. Whatever the final amount I send to the Trust Treasurer, half will be awarded to St Michael's by way of grant as is the usual practice.

Best wishes  
Robert Bilson

**If you would like to donate** to St Michael's during the pandemic, there is a JustGiving page at: <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/stmichaelandallangels>