



# THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

*St Michael and All Angels*

Watford

**LUKE the EVANGELIST**  
**Sunday 18 October 2020**

Welcome back to St Michael's. At 9.30am there is a Parish Eucharist with congregation in Church; music but no congregational singing. Our speaker is Tim Whittaker from the Watford and Three Rivers Refugee Partnership. 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 Shelton in our Diocese.

The Episcopal Church of the USA, Michael Curry its Presiding Bishop and all its people.

The Healing Ministry of the Church.

**The World:** The National Health Service.

People shielding, self-isolating, or under strict lockdown.

People living in refugee camps.

**The Community and Parish:** The Watford and Three Rivers Refugee Partnership.

The Watford Food Bank.

Effective anti-COVID measures in our area.

**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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**COLLECT**

Almighty God, you called Luke the physician, whose praise is in the gospel, to be an evangelist and physician of the soul:  
by the grace of the Spirit and through the wholesome medicine of the gospel, give your Church the same love and power to heal;  
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 35.3–6**

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

- <sup>3</sup> Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees.  
<sup>4</sup> Say to those who are of a fearful heart, 'Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.'  
<sup>5</sup> Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped;  
<sup>6</sup> then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert.

**SECOND READING 2 Timothy 4.5–17**

A reading from the second letter of Paul to Timothy.

- <sup>5</sup> As for you, always be sober, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully.  
<sup>6</sup> As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come.  
<sup>7</sup> I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.  
<sup>8</sup> From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing.  
<sup>9</sup> Do your best to come to me soon,  
<sup>10</sup> for Demas, in love with this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica; Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia.

- 11 Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful in my ministry.
- 12 I have sent Tychicus to Ephesus.
- 13 When you come, bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas, also the books, and above all the parchments.
- 14 Alexander the coppersmith did me great harm; the Lord will pay him back for his deeds.
- 15 You also must beware of him, for he strongly opposed our message.
- 16 At my first defence no one came to my support, but all deserted me. May it not be counted against them!
- 17 But the Lord stood by me and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth.

## **GOSPEL Luke 10.1–9**

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

- 1 The Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go.
- 2 He said to them, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest.
- 3 Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves.
- 4 Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road.
- 5 Whatever house you enter, first say, "Peace to this house!"
- 6 And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person; but if not, it will return to you.
- 7 Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the labourer deserves to be paid. Do not move about from house to house.
- 8 Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you;
- 9 cure the sick who are there, and say to them, "The kingdom of God has come near to you."

## **HOMILY**

St Luke is known as a healer. In the Christian Church, healing is far more than just physical health. Faith, hope and love are great healers. They are going to be needed as we head into winter. Perhaps you, like me, dared to hope that the worst was over when some restrictions were lifted in the summer, but COVID is very much back, and very much still a threat to our physical, mental and spiritual health. Now, more than ever, people need the healing grace of faith, hope, and love.

Love and prayers  
Fr Geoff

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.

**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>

**THERE IS AN EXHIBITION OF ART WORK** by our own Martin Matthews at the Stable Gallery, Reveley Lodge, Elstree Road, Bushey until mid-November.

Open Mon - Fri 10 - 4pm, Sat 12 - 4pm. Check Reveley Lodge web-site to be sure before travelling. Small car park, or parking in road and Clay Lane.

Website: <http://www.stmichaels-watford.org.uk>  
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