



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

TRINITY 15
HARVEST FESTIVAL
Sunday 2 October 2011

A warm welcome to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Sung Eucharist we celebrate our Harvest Festival. Fr Geoff celebrates and preaches and Pat Beach leads the intercessions.

Hymns: 270, 273, "Fill your hearts" (in Music Notes) and 275 **Setting: Aston**

Tea and coffee will be served in church after the 9.30 service – please stay on.

There is a Harvest Craft Workshop from 3.30 pm to 6 pm.

At 6 pm there is a United Ecumenical Service.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: Gregory Cameron, Bishop of St Asaph, Wales, and the people of that Diocese.

The Anglican Church in Sri Lanka.

Church Army Centres of Mission.

The World: All those working in agriculture and food production.

The work of Water Aid.

The Watford and Three Rivers Refugee Project.

The Community and Parish: The River Court and Fairhaven Care Homes, residents and staff.

West Watford Free Church and Trinity Methodist Church.

Schools, churches and others celebrating harvest at this time.

The Ill and the Housebound: Especially Bruce Alexander, Billie Bainbridge (age 4), Christopher Bilson, Mary Calvert, Peter Coley, Bill and Marion Craddock-Jones, Jean Crouch, Kate Dickinson, Darrell Dunning, David and Janet Freeman, Susetta Hartropp, Ben Heath, Jessie Hobby, Leena Hosie, Jenny Houghton, Mary Kearns, Dorothy Kiddle, Lesley Kinch, Loretta Lynch, Maggie Maguire, Stella Nicholas, Faith Nkugwa, Dorcas Ochola, Gaynor Osbourne, Helen Perry, Myrtle Powell, Bryony Purse, Eric and Anne Wightman.

The Departed:

COLLECT for Harvest Thanksgiving

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 Exodus 20.1–4

A reading from the book of Exodus.

¹ Then God spoke all these words:

² I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery;

³ you shall have no other gods before me.

⁴ You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.

SECOND READING Philippians 3.4b–14

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.

⁴ If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more:

⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee;

⁶ as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

⁷ Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ.

⁸ More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him,

⁹ not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith.

¹⁰ I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death,

¹¹ if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

¹² Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own.

¹³ Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead,

¹⁴ I press on towards the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

GOSPEL Matthew 21.33–46

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

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people:

33 'Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watch-tower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country.

34 When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce.

35 But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another.

36 Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way.

37 Finally he sent his son to them, saying, "They will respect my son."

38 But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, "This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance."

39 So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him.

40 Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?'

41 They said to him, 'He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.'

42 Jesus said to them, 'Have you never read in the scriptures: "The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is amazing in our eyes"?'

43 Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom.

44 The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.'

45 When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them.

46 They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.



THIS WEEK

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|------|---|-----|--|-----------------|
| Mon | 3 | Oct | Toddlers' Group | 10 – 11.30am |
| | | | River Court Service | 3.00pm |
| | | | Harvest Supper at Trinity Methodist Church - all welcome | 7.00pm |
| Tue | 4 | Oct | Social Committee (7 Melrose Place) | 8.00pm |
| | | | Estates Committee (Choir Vestry) | |
| Wed | 5 | Oct | Coffee in Church | 10.30am-12 noon |
| | | | Bring - & - Share Lunch | 12.30pm |
| Thur | 6 | Oct | Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language) | 10.00am |
| | | | Fairhaven | morning |
| | | | Choir Practice | 7.00 – 8.30pm |
| Sun | 9 | Oct | <u>TRINITY 16</u> | |
| | | | Holy Communion (Pres: Fr George) | 8.00am |
| | | | SUNG EUCHARIST (President Fr Geoff) | 9.30am |
| | | | Preacher from New Hope Trust | |
| | | | Service of Thanksgiving and Praise | 11.15am |
| | | | with Baptism of Millie Wragg | |
| | | | Youth Group Lunch | 12.30pm |
| | | | Evening Prayer | 6.00pm |

NOTICES

HARVEST: There will be a **RETIRING COLLECTION** today, Sunday 2nd October in support of **Water Aid's** famine and drought relief projects in Ethiopia. As you will have seen in the media, the Horn of Africa has been drastically affected this year by water shortage and crop failure. Please do try to make a donation. **CRAFT WORKSHOPS FOR ADULTS CHILDREN AND FAMILIES:** An ecumenical event planned for this afternoon, Sunday 2nd October, **3.30-6.00pm**. The workshop will be followed by Ecumenical Worship at St Michael's at 6 pm. **HARVEST SUPPER** We are invited to the harvest supper at Trinity Methodist church on Monday, 3 October 2011 at 7 pm. Tickets are £5 and available from Fr Geoff.

A QUIZ NIGHT will be held at St Michaels on Saturday 15 October (7 pm for 7.15 pm start.) Proceeds in aid of Leo Luke. Tickets are £8 including Ploughman's Supper. Tickets and further information from Valerie Blacklock (Tel: 251312).

MORNING PRAYER in the Lady Chapel will not be said until Monday 24 October.

MOTHERS' UNION BIBLE QUIZ: All completed entries should now be back in the box at the back of the church.. There will be a small prize for the first correct entry drawn.

THE SIX O'CLOCK SERIES: The Service on 16 October at 6 pm will be the RSCM Festival Service 'The Word Revealed' and will have an emphasis on the 400th anniversary of the King James Bible.

BRING-AND-SHARE LUNCH: Wednesday, 5 October, at 12.30 pm. Please sign the lists on the signings table.