



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

BIRTH of St JOHN the BAPTIST
Sunday 24 June 2007

A warm welcome to everyone to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Eucharist, Fr John celebrates and preaches and John Adams leads the intercessions. A crèche is available.

Hymns: 34, 234, 470 and 494

Setting: Rawsthorne

Refreshments will be served in church after the 9.30 service and there will be a Bring-&-Buy Sale – please stay on.

The Youth Club meets in Church at 2.00 pm. Afterwards from 3 – 5 pm they will be playing a cricket match against a team from St Mary's in Cassiobury Park.. Spectators will be very welcome.

There is Evensong in the Lady Chapel at 6.30pm.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: The Church in Nigeria – Jacob Fasipe, Bishop of Oyo.
Our Cathedral and Abbey Church as we celebrate the festival of St Alban.

The Deanery of Wheathampstead.

The World: Peace in Gaza, and for those who work for a solution to the problems of the Middle East.

Peace in Iraq and Afghanistan.

For those who govern us – for Gordon Brown in his new responsibilities.

The Community and Parish: The work of the staff at the Peace Hospice.

The safety of our fireman, as a third fireman is killed on duty in the county in two years.

The Ill and the Housebound: Especially Ray Angles, Alec Bennett, Ellen Benoy, John Burn, Marjorie Carlisle, Jennifer Coley, Bill Craddock-Jones, Jean Crouch, June Dickinson, Kate Dickinson, Morfa Downs, Maureen Elvery, David Gough, Jocelyn Harewood, Jenny Houghton, Mary Kearns, Loretta Lynch, Maggie Maguire, Stella Meager, Myrtle Powell, Mary Pringle, David Simon, Maureen Swann, June Tatnall, Bill Widdowson and Anne Wightman.

The Departed: Joan Hibbert, friend of June Dickinson, in Italy.

COLLECT

Almighty God, by whose providence your servant John the Baptist was wonderfully born, and sent to prepare the way of your Son our Saviour by the preaching of repentance:

lead us to repent according to his preaching and, after his example, constantly to speak the truth, boldly to rebuke vice, and patiently to suffer for the truth's sake; 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 40.1-11

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

¹ Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.

² Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.

³ A voice cries out: 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

⁴ Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.

⁵ Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.'

⁶ A voice says, 'Cry out!' And I said, 'What shall I cry?' All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field.

⁷ The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass.

⁸ The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever.

⁹ Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, 'Here is your God!'

¹⁰ See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.

¹¹ He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

SECOND READING Acts 13.14b-26

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

¹⁴ On the sabbath day Paul and his companions went into the synagogue and sat down.

¹⁵ After the reading of the law and the prophets, the officials of the synagogue sent them a message, saying, 'Brothers, if you have any word of exhortation for the people, give it.'

¹⁶ So Paul stood up and with a gesture began to speak: 'You Israelites, and others who fear God, listen.

¹⁷ The God of this people Israel chose our ancestors and made the people great during their stay in the land of Egypt, and with uplifted arm he led them out of it.
¹⁸ For about forty years he put up with them in the wilderness.
¹⁹ After he had destroyed seven nations in the land of Canaan, he gave them their land as an inheritance
²⁰ for about four hundred and fifty years. After that he gave them judges until the time of the prophet Samuel.
²¹ Then they asked for a king; and God gave them Saul son of Kish, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, who reigned for forty years.
²² When he had removed him, he made David their king. In his testimony about him he said, "I have found David, son of Jesse, to be a man after my heart, who will carry out all my wishes."
²³ Of this man's posterity God has brought to Israel a Saviour, Jesus, as he promised;
²⁴ before his coming John had already proclaimed a baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel.
²⁵ And as John was finishing his work, he said, "What do you suppose that I am? I am not he. No, but one is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of the sandals on his feet."
²⁶ My brothers, you descendants of Abraham's family, and others who fear God, to us the message of this salvation has been sent.'

GOSPEL Luke 1.57–66, 80

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

⁵⁷ The time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son.
⁵⁸ Her neighbours and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her.
⁵⁹ On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him Zechariah after his father.
⁶⁰ But his mother said, 'No; he is to be called John.'
⁶¹ They said to her, 'None of your relatives has this name.'
⁶² Then they began motioning to his father to find out what name he wanted to give him.
⁶³ He asked for a writing-tablet and wrote, 'His name is John.' And all of them were amazed.
⁶⁴ Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue freed, and he began to speak, praising God.
⁶⁵ Fear came over all their neighbours, and all these things were talked about throughout the entire hill country of Judea.
⁶⁶ All who heard them pondered them and said, 'What then will this child become?' For, indeed, the hand of the Lord was with him.
⁸⁰ The child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day he appeared publicly to Israel.

THIS WEEK

Mon	25	June	Toddlers' Group	10.00 – 11.30am
Wed	27	June	Coffee in Church	10.30am-12 noon
Thur	28	June	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
			Kids' Club	3.30 - 5.00pm
			Choir Practice	7.00 – 8.30pm
Sat	30	June	Coffee morning in aid of The Peace Hospice	10.30am – 12 noon
Sun	1	July	<u>TRINITY 4</u>	
			Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	8.00am
			Sung Eucharist	9.30am
			No sermon to enable people to go to	
			Ordination of Gary Russell as Priest at St Albans Abbey	11.15am
			United Evening Service at West Watford Free Church	6.30pm

NOTICES

CONGRATULATIONS TO – Jonathan Benoy who celebrated his 18th birthday on 21 June; and Andrew and Elizabeth who had a 7lb 12oz son on Friday, 15th June – a brother for Imogen.

FINAL COPY DATE FOR THE JULY SWORD is MIDDAY today Sunday, 24 June. Hard copy or floppy disc to Sylvia please or email to DENNIS.H.BEACH@sky.com.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK: The grand total for our local collecting amounted to £1,130.70. Thank you to all who helped, and to Valerie Blacklock who organised it and counted the money.

COFFEE MORNING IN AID OF THE PEACE HOSPICE: This will be on Saturday, 30 June, from 10.30-12 noon at the west end of the church. There will be a bring-and-buy stall and a raffle. If you are unable to come to this event and would like to make a donation Norma would be pleased to receive this from you or you might like to buy some raffle tickets which will be on sale from today and during this week. Posters and handbills available for distribution.

CHURCH COMMITTEES: Any member of St Michael's is eligible for membership of one of the church committees. If you would like to join one (or more) please sign the list on the table at the back of the church. The first meeting of each committee is likely to be in the next few weeks.

CHILDREN'S SOCIETY: Please return boxes to Norma or Pat Beach as soon as possible.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Sunday, 8 July, Church Barbecue after the 11.15 service outside the west end of the church. Tickets (£2.50) are on sale from today.

Wednesday, 11 July The date for the next Bible Study – 8 pm in the Choir Vestry.