



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

TRINITY 10
Sunday 12 August 2007

A warm welcome to everyone to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Eucharist, Fr John celebrates, Violet Allen-Smith preaches and Valerie Alvarez leads the intercessions. A crèche is available.

Hymns: 605 (t 416ii), 482, 597 (t EH488) and 548 **Setting: Oldroyd**

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

The monthly River Court service is at 3.00pm

There is Evensong at St Michael's in the Lady Chapel tonight at 6.30pm.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: The Church in Uganda, The Bishop of Ruwenzori, Benezeri Kisenbo.

Christian Family Holiday Centres.

The Parish of High Wych and their clergy.

The World: Peace in Iraq, Afghanistan and Darfur.

All who work in international diplomacy.

The Queen and all the Royal Family.

The Community and Parish: The residents and staff of River Court Nursing Home.

Our effective care of the buildings entrusted to us.

Thomas Heath and Clare Carver to be married next Saturday at Slawston near Market Harborough.

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, David Simon, Maureen Swann, June Tatnall, Bill Widdowson and Anne Wightman.

The Departed:

Collect

Let your merciful ears, O Lord, be open to the prayers of your humble servants; and that they may obtain their petitions make them to ask such things as shall please you;
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 1.1, 10–20

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

- ¹ The vision of Isaiah son of Amoz, which he saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah.
- ¹⁰ Hear the word of the LORD, you rulers of Sodom! Listen to the teaching of our God, you people of Gomorrah!
- ¹¹ What to me is the multitude of your sacrifices? says the LORD; I have had enough of burnt-offerings of rams and the fat of fed beasts; I do not delight in the blood of bulls, or of lambs, or of goats.
- ¹² When you come to appear before me, who asked this from your hand? Trample my courts no more;
- ¹³ bringing offerings is futile; incense is an abomination to me. New moon and sabbath and calling of convocation – I cannot endure solemn assemblies with iniquity.
- ¹⁴ Your new moons and your appointed festivals my soul hates; they have become a burden to me, I am weary of bearing them.
- ¹⁵ When you stretch out your hands, I will hide my eyes from you; even though you make many prayers, I will not listen; your hands are full of blood.
- ¹⁶ Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean; remove the evil of your doings from before my eyes; cease to do evil,
- ¹⁷ learn to do good; seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead for the widow.
- ¹⁸ Come now, let us argue it out, says the LORD: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be like snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool.
- ¹⁹ If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land;
- ²⁰ but if you refuse and rebel, you shall be devoured by the sword; for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

SECOND READING Hebrews 11.1–3, 8–16

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

- ¹ Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.
- ² Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval.

³ By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

⁸ By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going.

⁹ By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise.

¹⁰ For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God.

¹¹ By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old – and Sarah herself was barren – because he considered him faithful who had promised.

¹² Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, ‘as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.’

¹³ All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth,

¹⁴ for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland.

¹⁵ If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return.

¹⁶ But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

GOSPEL Luke 12.32–40

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke. Jesus said to his disciples,

³² ‘Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

³³ Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys.

³⁴ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

³⁵ Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit;

³⁶ be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks.

³⁷ Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them.

³⁸ If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

³⁹ But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into.

⁴⁰ You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.’

THIS WEEK

Mon	13	Aug	Toddlers' Group	10.00 – 11.30am
			Service at The Chase Care Home	3.00pm
Wed	15	Aug	Coffee in Church	10.30am-12 noon
			Estates Committee (Choir Vestry)	8.00pm
Thu	16	Aug	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
			NO Kids' Club until September	
			Worship Committee (Choir Vestry)	8.00pm
Sun	19	Aug	<u>TRINITY 11</u>	
			NO Holy Communion at 8.00am	
			Sung Eucharist	9.30am
			Evensong in Lady Chapel	6.30pm

NOTICES

8 am HOLY COMMUNION SERVICES in AUGUST and SEPTEMBER: Due to the difficulty in getting cover for all the services in the holiday period, the PCC has agreed to suspend the early celebration on Sundays in August and September.

KIDS' CLUB EQUIPMENT: We apologise for the boxes, etc in the north aisle; we hope to have cupboards built in the Mildred Ave porch for these items soon.

JULY'S BRING & BUY SALE raised £50 for church funds. Thank you to everyone who supported it.

The YOUTH GROUP CANAL TRIP which was to have been on 17 August has had to be postponed due to lack of support.

HERTS & BEDS SPONSORED CYCLE RIDE: 8 September – see Phil Gough for details. It is possible to take part in this by visiting churches either by cycling or walking or by staying in a church keeping it open to check visitors' forms. All the activities can be sponsored and half any sponsor money is used to give grants for repairs to churches in Herts or Beds; the other half goes to the home church. Last year, St Michael's received nearly £100 in this way.

SOCIAL EVENING INCLUDING an illustrated talk on the History of Canals with particular reference to Hertfordshire on Friday, 14 September 2008, at 8 pm in church. Tickets including refreshments £2.50 – proceeds for church funds. On sale from next Sunday from the Social Committee.

WOMAN WANTED to VOLUNTEER an hour each week to teach English to local woman. See poster or Fr John.

PUBLICITY COMMITTEE: After 3 dormant years the Publicity Committee has re-formed itself. If you would like to join it please sign the list on the table at the back of the church or see Vicki Matthews.