



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

TRINITY 11

Sunday 19 August 2007

A warm welcome to everyone to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Eucharist, Fr John celebrates, David Stevenson preaches and Paul Chandler leads the intercessions. A crèche is available.

Hymns: 586 (omit * vss), 177, 268 and 356

Setting: Oldroyd

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

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 the Philippines; Alexander Wandag, Bishop of Santiago.

The Deanery of Bishop's Stortford.

Those in training for the ministry of the Church.

The World: Those who work in financial institutions throughout the world – for diligence, care, responsibility in big money transactions.

Peace in Iraq and Afghanistan and for British service personnel.

Those affected by the earthquake in Peru and the fire in Newquay.

The Community and Parish: Clare and Thomas Heath married yesterday at Slawston and for their home in Nottingham.

Those who provide public transport locally.

The Ill and the Housebound: Especially Ray Angles, 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: Alec Bennett (aged 85), Rousebarn Lane (Lesley Rees' father).

Collect

O God, you declare your almighty power most chiefly in showing mercy and pity:
mercifully grant to us such a measure of your grace, that we, running the way of your commandments, may receive your gracious promises, and be made partakers of your heavenly treasure;
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 5.1–7

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

- ¹ Let me sing for my beloved my love-song concerning his vineyard: My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill.
- ² He dug it and cleared it of stones, and planted it with choice vines; he built a watch-tower in the midst of it, and hewed out a wine vat in it; he expected it to yield grapes, but it yielded wild grapes.
- ³ And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and people of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard.
- ⁴ What more was there to do for my vineyard that I have not done in it? When I expected it to yield grapes, why did it yield wild grapes?
- ⁵ And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard. I will remove its hedge, and it shall be devoured; I will break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down.
- ⁶ I will make it a waste; it shall not be pruned or hoed, and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns; I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it.
- ⁷ For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel, and the people of Judah are his pleasant planting; he expected justice, but saw bloodshed; righteousness, but heard a cry!

SECOND READING Hebrews 11.29 – 12.2

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

- ²⁹ By faith the people passed of Israel through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned.
- ³⁰ By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days.
- ³¹ By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace.
- ³² And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets –

33 who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises,
shut the mouths of lions,
34 quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of
weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight.
35 Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to
accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection.
36 Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment.
37 They were stoned to death, they were sawn in two, they were killed by the
sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted,
tormented –
38 of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains,
and in caves and holes in the ground.
39 Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what
was promised,
40 since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us,
be made perfect.
1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also
lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with
perseverance the race that is set before us,
2 looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the
joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has
taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

GOSPEL Luke 12.49–56

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

Jesus said to his disciples:

49 'I came to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled!
50 I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what stress I am under until it is
completed!
51 Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but
rather division!
52 From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two
against three;
53 they will be divided: father against son and son against father, mother against
daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law
and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.'
54 He also said to the crowds, 'When you see a cloud rising in the west, you
immediately say, "It is going to rain"; and so it happens.
55 And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, "There will be scorching
heat"; and it happens.
56 You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky,
but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?'

THIS WEEK

Mon	20	Aug	Toddlers' Group	10.00 – 11.30am
Wed	22	Aug	Coffee in Church	10.30am-12 noon
			Bible Study Group	8.00pm
Thu	23	Aug	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
			NO Kids' Club or Choir Practice until September	
Sun	26	Aug	<u>TRINITY 12</u>	
			NO Holy Communion at 8.00am	
			Sung Eucharist	9.30am
			followed by a Bring-&-Buy sale	
			Evensong in Lady Chapel	6.30pm

NOTICES

TODAY WE WELCOME David Stevenson as our preacher. David is in training for the ministry at St Stephen's House, Oxford.

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.

LIVING with the BIBLE: on Wednesday at 8 pm the Bible Study Group continues to read Mark's Gospel (from 13.24).

FINAL COPY DATE FOR THE SEPTEMBER SWORD is MIDDAY next Sunday, 26 August. Please submit copy before this time if possible. Hard copy, floppy disc or email to DENNIS.H.BEACH@sky.com.

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.

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 of any sponsor money raised 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 now from the Social Committee and the coffee hatch.

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.