



# THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

*St Michael and All Angels*

Watford

TRINITY 13

Sunday 2 September 2007

A warm welcome to everyone to our services today.

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

**Hymns: 555, 488, 253 (tune 1) and 497**

**Setting: Wilson**

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

There is a meeting after the 9.30 service to plan 11.15 services.

United Evening Service at St Michael's tonight at 6.30 pm.

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## **For your prayers this week:**

**The Church:** Graeme Knowles, Bishop of Sodor and Man, England.  
North Buntingford Group Ministry: Rev Sarah Hillman (Priest-in-Charge), Arthur Brignall (Reader).

**The World:** Peace in Iraq, Darfur and Afghanistan.  
All who lost their lives and others affected by the forest fires in Greece.

**The Community and Parish:** Residential and Nursing Homes in the Parish.  
All taking part in the Historic Churches Bike 'N Hike on Saturday.  
Lucan McFarland to be Baptised on Saturday.  
All teachers and children in the Diocese beginning a new school term this week.

**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, 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.

We give thanks for the recovery of Maureen Elvery.

**The Departed:**

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**Collect**

Almighty God, who called your Church to bear witness that you were in Christ reconciling the world to yourself:  
help us to proclaim the good news of your love, that all who hear it may be drawn to you;  
through him who was lifted up on the cross, and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**FIRST READING Jeremiah 2.4–13**

A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah.

<sup>4</sup> Hear the word of the LORD, O house of Jacob, and all the families of the house of Israel.  
<sup>5</sup> Thus says the LORD: What wrong did your ancestors find in me that they went far from me, and went after worthless things, and became worthless themselves?  
<sup>6</sup> They did not say, 'Where is the LORD who brought us up from the land of Egypt, who led us in the wilderness, in a land of deserts and pits, in a land of drought and deep darkness, in a land that no one passes through, where no one lives?'  
<sup>7</sup> I brought you into a plentiful land to eat its fruits and its good things. But when you entered you defiled my land, and made my heritage an abomination.  
<sup>8</sup> The priests did not say, 'Where is the LORD?' Those who handle the law did not know me; the rulers transgressed against me; the prophets prophesied by Baal, and went after things that do not profit.  
<sup>9</sup> Therefore once more I accuse you, says the LORD, and I accuse your children's children.  
<sup>10</sup> Cross to the coasts of Cyprus and look, send to Kedar and examine with care; see if there has ever been such a thing.  
<sup>11</sup> Has a nation changed its gods, even though they are no gods? But my people have changed their glory for something that does not profit.  
<sup>12</sup> Be appalled, O heavens, at this, be shocked, be utterly desolate, says the LORD,  
<sup>13</sup> for my people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me, the fountain of living water, and dug out cisterns for themselves, cracked cisterns that can hold no water.

**SECOND READING Hebrews 13.1–8, 15–16**

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

<sup>1</sup> Let mutual love continue.  
<sup>2</sup> Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.

<sup>3</sup> Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured.  
<sup>4</sup> Let marriage be held in honour by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled; for God will judge fornicators and adulterers.  
<sup>5</sup> Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have; for he has said, 'I will never leave you or forsake you.'  
<sup>6</sup> So we can say with confidence, 'The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can anyone do to me?'  
<sup>7</sup> Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith.  
<sup>8</sup> Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and for ever.  
<sup>15</sup> Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name.  
<sup>16</sup> Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

## **GOSPEL Luke 14.1, 7-14**

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

<sup>1</sup> On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the sabbath, they were watching him closely.  
<sup>7</sup> When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honour, he told them a parable.  
<sup>8</sup> 'When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honour, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host;  
<sup>9</sup> and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, "Give this person your place," and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place.  
<sup>10</sup> But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, "Friend, move up higher"; then you will be honoured in the presence of all who sit at the table with you.  
<sup>11</sup> For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.'  
<sup>12</sup> He said also to the one who had invited him, 'When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbours, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid.  
<sup>13</sup> But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind.  
<sup>14</sup> And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.'

## THIS WEEK

Mon	3	Sep	<i>Schools start this week</i>	
			Toddlers' Group	10.00 – 11.30am
Tue	4	Sep	Social Committee (in church)	7.30pm
Wed	5	Sep	Coffee in Church	10.30am-12 noon
			Bring-&-Share Lunch	12.30pm
Thu	6	Sep	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
			Fairhaven during morning (Kids Club restarts next week)	
			Choir Practice	7-8.30pm
Sat	8	Sep	HISTORIC CHURCHES BIKE 'N HIKE (see notices)	
			Baptism of Lucan McFarland by the Rev A Hartropp	3.00pm
Sun	9	Sep	<b><u>TRINITY 14</u></b>	
			NO Holy Communion at 8.00am	
			<b>Sung Eucharist</b>	9.30am
			11.15 Service of Thanksgiving and Praise	11.15am
			Service at River Court	3.00pm
			Evensong	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 these put in the new cupboards built in the Mildred Ave porch 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.

PARISH WALK on 8<sup>th</sup> September. There will be a list to sign if you wish to join the walk which will take in local churches. This is linked with the Herts & Beds sponsored cycle ride (see above Notice) and sponsor forms are available for walkers. Everyone is encouraged to sign a sponsor form TODAY.

BRING-&-SHARE LUNCH: Please sign the list for Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> September.

CHRISTMAS CARDS: On sale in support of our church £4 for a pack of 10. See Martin Matthews (01923 229408). Only 60 packs available so don't delay.

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 at the coffee bar .