



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

MICHAELMAS
Sunday 30 September 2007

A warm welcome to our services today when we celebrate our Patronal Festival. At the 9.30 am Eucharist, Fr John celebrates and preaches and Valerie Alvarez leads the intercessions. A crèche is available.

Hymns: 247, 245, 392 and 466

Setting: Wilson

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

Sunday School is at 9.30am in Littlebury Hall.

There is **CHORAL EVENSONG here tonight** at 6.30 pm.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: The Church in Wales: Carl Cooper, Bishop of St David's.
The Parish of Northaw and Cuffley: Michael Beer, Vicar.
All churches dedicated to St Michael & All Angels.

The World: Peace in Iraq, Afghanistan and Myanmar (Burma).
For responsibility in the administration of financial markets.

The Community and Parish: The Rev Gordon Dickenson (once from this parish), who celebrates his Golden Jubilee of priesting today. (See Notices)
Churches Together in Central and West Watford.
William George Forrest in his newly baptised life.

The Ill and the Housebound: Especially Ray Angles, Ellen Benoy, John Burn, Marjorie Carlisle, Jennifer Coley, Bill Craddock-Jones, Jean Crouch, Ifagaani Desiderio, 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.

The Departed: We give thanks for all faithful departed members of this Church in the past who have built up the Christian community here.

COLLECT

Everlasting God, you have ordained and constituted the ministries of angels and mortals in a wonderful order: grant that as your holy angels always serve you in heaven, so, at your command, they may help and defend us on earth; 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 Genesis 28.10–17

A reading from the book of Genesis.

¹⁰ Jacob left Beer-sheba and went towards Haran.

¹¹ He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place.

¹² And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it.

¹³ And the LORD stood beside him and said, 'I am the LORD, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring;

¹⁴ and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring.

¹⁵ Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.'

¹⁶ Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, 'Surely the LORD is in this place – and I did not know it!'

¹⁷ And he was afraid, and said, 'How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.'

SECOND READING Revelation 12.7–12

A reading from the book of Revelation.

⁷ War broke out in heaven; Michael and his angels fought against the dragon. The dragon and his angels fought back,
⁸ but they were defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven.

⁹ The great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the Devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world – he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.

¹⁰ Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, proclaiming, ‘Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Messiah, for the accuser of our comrades has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God.

¹¹ But they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they did not cling to life even in the face of death.

¹² Rejoice then, you heavens and those who dwell in them! But woe to the earth and the sea, for the devil has come down to you with great wrath, because he knows that his time is short!’

GOSPEL John 1.47–51

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

⁴⁷ When Jesus saw Nathanael coming towards him, he said of him, ‘Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!’

⁴⁸ Nathanael asked him, ‘Where did you come to know me?’ Jesus answered, ‘I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you.’

⁴⁹ Nathanael replied, ‘Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!’

⁵⁰ Jesus answered, ‘Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these.’

⁵¹ And he said to him, ‘Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.’

THIS WEEK

Mon	1	Oct	Toddlers' Group	10.00 – 11.30am
Wed	3	Oct	Coffee in Church	10.30am-12 noon
			Bring-&-Share Lunch	12.30pm
			Bible Study (Choir Vestry)	8.00pm
Thu	4	Oct	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
			Fairhaven	morning
			Kids Club	3.30–5.00pm
			Choir Practice	7.00-8.30pm
Sat	6	Oct	Parish Walk	10.00am
			CONCERT of LIGHT MUSIC (in Church)	7.00pm
			followed by Harvest Supper (see Notices)	
Sun	7	Oct	<u>TRINITY 18</u>	
			Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	8.00am
			SUNG EUCHARIST	9.30am
			Sunday School in Littlebury Hall	9.30am
			Service at Beechen Grove Baptist Church to celebrate 300 years of	
			Baptist presence in Watford	6.30pm

NOTICES

EVENING SERVICE on 7 October: Please note that this will NOT be a United Service at West Watford but people are encouraged to attend the special service at Beechen Grove Baptist Church.

BRING-&-SHARE LUNCH: Please sign the list for Wednesday 3rd October.

OUR MONTHLY PARISH WALK is on Saturday 6th October and leaves strictly on time at 10 am from Church. Please sign list if you wish to come.

HARVEST SUPPER: This year our Harvest Supper will take the form of a Supper Concert on the 6th October and the money raised will go to the Peace Hospice. An evening of light, vocal and instrumental, musical entertainment will be followed by supper. It will take place in church at 7 pm. Tickets (including supper) £10; music only tickets £5. Please get your tickets TODAY from Pat Beach and Sylvia Moring.

CHRISTMAS CARDS: On sale in support of our church £4 for a pack of 10. There seem to be a few spare packets of envelopes left – has anyone bought cards and forgotten to take the envelopes?

Fr GORDON DICKENSON. Gordon lives in retirement in Crewe. But his early years were spent associated with this parish, of which he is still fond. He married a local girl, (Enid (née Gent), who sadly died in 1983. Gordon celebrates his Golden Jubilee of priesting at Copenhall, Cheshire. Fr John has sent him our good wishes and prayers.

“HOPE” is the title of New Hope Trust’s Annual Report. It contains some vivid profiles of people who have been helped by the Trust. Please borrow the Report from the table. Your kind Harvest gifts last Sunday have gone to help them. Thank you very much.