



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

TRINITY 1

25 May 2008

A warm welcome to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Eucharist Fr John celebrates, Martin Heath preaches and Valerie Alvarez leads the intercessions. A crèche is available.

Hymns: 207, 254, 186 and 347

Setting: Rawsthorne

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

There is Evensong in the Lady Chapel at 6.30pm.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: The Church in Korea: Francis Park, Bishop of Seoul.
Rowan Williams, Archbishop of Canterbury.
The Deanery of Dunstable.

The World: Peace in Iraq, Afghanistan and Zimbabwe.
All who alleviate blindness, and partial-sightedness.
Those coping with reconstruction after natural disasters.

The Community and Parish: The success of “Celebrations” today at the Colosseum – with all faiths and cultures taking part.
Those preparing for their marriage at St Michael’s.

The Ill and the Housebound: Especially Ray Angles, Monica Batt, Ellen Benoy, Mel Browne, John Burn, Marjorie Carlisle, Jennifer Coley, Bill Craddock-Jones, Jean Crouch, Ifagaani Desiderio, Jim Dibben, June Dickinson, Kate Dickinson, Bob Gerrard, Jocelyn Harewood, Margery Holt, Jenny Houghton, Mary Kearns, Lesley Kinch, Loretta Lynch, Maggie Maguire, Stella Meager, Gaynor Osbourne, Myrtle Powell, Bryony Purse, Ann Reed, Gladys Robertson, Elaine Robinson, Maureen Swann, June Tatnall, Bill Widdowson, Anne Wightman, Maureen Williams and Sue Winterbotham.

The Departed: Joyce England (aged 84), Southsea Avenue.

Collect

○ God, the strength of all those who put their trust in you, mercifully accept our prayers and, because through the weakness of our mortal nature we can do no good thing without you, grant us the help of your grace, that in the keeping of your commandments we may please you both in will and deed; 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 Leviticus 19.1–2, 9–18

A reading from the book of Leviticus.

- ¹ The LORD spoke to Moses, saying:
² Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them: You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy.
⁹ When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap to the very edges of your field, or gather the gleanings of your harvest.
¹⁰ You shall not strip your vineyard bare, or gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the poor and the alien: I am the LORD your God.
¹¹ You shall not steal; you shall not deal falsely; and you shall not lie to one another.
¹² And you shall not swear falsely by my name, profaning the name of your God: I am the LORD.
¹³ You shall not defraud your neighbour; you shall not steal; and you shall not keep for yourself the wages of a labourer until morning.
¹⁴ You shall not revile the deaf or put a stumbling-block before the blind; you shall fear your God: I am the LORD.
¹⁵ You shall not render an unjust judgement; you shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great: with justice you shall judge your neighbour.
¹⁶ You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not profit by the blood of your neighbour: I am the LORD.
¹⁷ You shall not hate in your heart anyone of your kin; you shall reprove your neighbour, or you will incur guilt yourself.
¹⁸ You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbour as yourself: I am the LORD.

SECOND READING I Corinthians 3.10–11, 16–23

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

- ¹⁰ According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building on it. Each builder must choose with care how to build on it.
¹¹ For no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ.

¹⁶ Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?
¹⁷ If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy that person. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple.
¹⁸ Do not deceive yourselves. If you think that you are wise in this age, you should become fools so that you may become wise.
¹⁹ For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, 'He catches the wise in their craftiness,'
²⁰ and again, 'The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile.'
²¹ So let no one boast about human leaders. For all things are yours,
²² whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future – all belong to you,
²³ and you belong to Christ, and Christ belongs to God.

GOSPEL Matthew 5.38–48

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

On the mountain, Jesus continued to teach his disciples.
³⁸ 'You have heard that it was said, "An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth."
³⁹ But I say to you, Do not resist an evildoer. But if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also;
⁴⁰ and if anyone wants to sue you and take your coat, give your cloak as well;
⁴¹ and if anyone forces you to go one mile, go also the second mile.
⁴² Give to everyone who begs from you, and do not refuse anyone who wants to borrow from you.
⁴³ You have heard that it was said, "You shall love your neighbour and hate your enemy."
⁴⁴ But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,
⁴⁵ so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous.
⁴⁶ For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax-collectors do the same?
⁴⁷ And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same?
⁴⁸ Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.'

NEXT BIBLE STUDY is at 8 pm on 4 June. Exodus 9.

THIS WEEK

Mon	26	May	<i>Bank Holiday, Half Term Week</i>	NO Toddlers' Group	
Tue	27	May	Intercessory Prayer Group (6 Cassiobury Park Ave)		2.30pm
Wed	28	May	Coffee in Church		10.30am-12 noon
			PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL		
					7.45 for 7.55pm
Thu	29	May	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)		10.00am
			NO Kids' Club		
			Choir Practice		7.00 – 8.30pm
Sun	1	June	<u>TRINITY 2</u>		
			Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)		8.00am
			Sung Eucharist (crèche available)		9.30am
			Marriage Blessing		3.00pm
			United Evening Service (venue tba)		6.30pm

NOTICES

“CELEBRATION! 2008” – A CELEBRATION OF Watford’s diverse cultures, faiths and talents. TODAY 11am – 6pm at the Colosseum. Free entry. See Gill Heath or www.watfordcelebration.org for further details.

PREACHER AT 9.30 NEXT SUNDAY 1 JUNE is the Bishop’s Lay Chaplain, Captain Andy Crooks. He will speak about the work of the Church Army which we support.

QUIZ IN CHURCH in aid of church funds, on Saturday evening 14 June. See next month’s Sword and Bob and Iola Bilson for more information.

FINAL COPY DATE FOR THE JUNE SWORD is MIDDAY today Sunday, 25 May. Hard copy or floppy disc to SYLVIA MORING or email to DENNIS.H.BEACH@sky.com.

SWORD SUBSCRIPTIONS for 2008 are now overdue. Please see Valerie Alvarez.

BRING-&-SHARE LUNCH Wednesday 4 June. PARISH WALK – Saturday 7 June: Please sign the lists on the Sign-Up table at the back of the church.

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

ST ALBANS FESTIVAL PILGRIMAGE – 21 June 2008. Bishop Christopher will be the principal celebrant at the Eucharist and the preacher will be the Rev Angela Tilby. The Bishop of Reading, Stephen Cottrell, will preach at Evensong. This promises to be a very exciting day. Please sign the list at the back of the church if you hope to attend. Car parking spaces are available - if you would like one please indicate on the list or see Pat Beach. Let’s make this a St Michael’s day out.

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.