



# THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

*St Michael and All Angels*

Watford

TRINITY 3

8 June 2008

A warm welcome to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Eucharist Fr John celebrates and preaches and Graham Mordue leads the intercessions. A crèche is available.

**Hymns: 475, 346, 380 and 516 (tune 2)**

**Setting: Rawsthorne**

Tea and coffee will be served in church after the 9.30 service and this is followed at 11.15 with our monthly service of thanksgiving and praise – please stay on.

Baptism of Dean and Aimee Bignell at 12.30 pm.

The monthly service at River Court is at 3.00 pm.

There is Evensong in the Lady Chapel at 6.30pm.

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

**The Church:** The Church in Mexico: Carlos Touché-Porter, Presiding Bishop.  
The Church's teaching on, and awareness of, environmental issues.  
The Parish of Wootton (Beds): Peter Ackroyd, the Vicar.

**The World:** Peace in Iraq, Afghanistan and the Middle East.  
Wise leadership at a time of financial anxiety.  
God's guidance for all involved in the American election process.

**The Community and Parish:** Those involved with consultations in choosing the new Bishop of St Albans.  
The residents of Home Manor.

**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, 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, Anne Wightman, Maureen Williams and Sue Winterbotham.

**The Departed:** Bill Widdowson (aged 85), Toms Lane, Bedmond.  
Martha Larkin (aged 97).

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**Collect**

Almighty God, you have broken the tyranny of sin and have sent the Spirit of your Son into our hearts whereby we call you Father:  
 give us grace to dedicate our freedom to your service, that we and all creation may be brought to the glorious liberty of the children of God;  
 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 12.1–9**

A reading from the book of Genesis.

- <sup>1</sup> The LORD said to Abram, ‘Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you.  
<sup>2</sup> I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.  
<sup>3</sup> I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.’  
<sup>4</sup> So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.  
<sup>5</sup> Abram took his wife Sarai and his brother’s son Lot, and all the possessions that they had gathered, and the persons whom they had acquired in Haran; and they set forth to go to the land of Canaan. When they had come to the land of Canaan,  
<sup>6</sup> Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land.  
<sup>7</sup> Then the LORD appeared to Abram, and said, ‘To your offspring I will give this land.’ So he built there an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him.  
<sup>8</sup> From there he moved on to the hill country on the east of Bethel, and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east; and there he built an altar to the LORD and invoked the name of the LORD.  
<sup>9</sup> And Abram journeyed on by stages towards the Negeb.

**SECOND READING Romans 4.13–25**

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

- <sup>13</sup> The promise that Abraham would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith.  
<sup>14</sup> If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void.  
<sup>15</sup> For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.  
<sup>16</sup> For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us,

17 as it is written, 'I have made you the father of many nations') – Abraham believed in  
the presence of the God who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the  
things that do not exist.  
18 Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become 'the father of many  
nations,' according to what was said, 'So numerous shall your descendants be.'  
19 He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as  
good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the  
barrenness of Sarah's womb.  
20 No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in  
his faith as he gave glory to God,  
21 being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised.  
22 Therefore his faith 'was reckoned to him as righteousness.'  
23 Now the words, 'it was reckoned to him,' were written not for his sake alone,  
24 but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in God who raised Jesus  
our Lord from the dead,  
25 who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our  
justification.

## **GOSPEL Matthew 9.9–13, 18–26**

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

9 As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth;  
and he said to him, 'Follow me.' And he got up and followed him.  
10 And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax-collectors and sinners came and  
were sitting with him and his disciples.  
11 When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, 'Why does your teacher eat  
with tax-collectors and sinners?'  
12 But when he heard this, he said, 'Those who are well have no need of a physician,  
but those who are sick.  
13 Go and learn what this means, "I desire mercy, not sacrifice." For I have come to  
call not the righteous but sinners.'  
18 While he was saying these things to them, suddenly a leader of the synagogue came  
in and knelt before him, saying, 'My daughter has just died; but come and lay your  
hand on her, and she will live.'  
19 And Jesus got up and followed him, with his disciples.  
20 Then suddenly a woman who had been suffering from haemorrhages for twelve  
years came up behind him and touched the fringe of his cloak,  
21 for she said to herself, 'If I only touch his cloak, I will be made well.'  
22 Jesus turned, and seeing her he said, 'Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you  
well.' And instantly the woman was made well.  
23 When Jesus came to the leader's house and saw the flute-players and the crowd  
making a commotion,  
24 he said, 'Go away; for the girl is not dead but sleeping.' And they laughed at him.  
25 But when the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took her by the hand,  
and the girl got up.  
26 And the report of this spread throughout that district.

## THIS WEEK

Mon	9	June	Toddlers' Group	10.00 – 11.30am
			Chase Care Home Service	3.00pm
Wed	11	June	Coffee in Church	10.30am-12 noon
			Home Manor Service	3.00pm
Thu	12	June	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
			St Anthony's	morning
			Kids' Club	3.30 – 5.00pm
			Choir Practice	7.00 – 8.30pm
Fri	13	June	Funeral of Bill Widdowson in church	3.00pm
Sat	14	June	Rehearsal for Young People's Eucharist	afternoon
			QUIZ NIGHT (in aid of church funds)	7 for 7.30pm
Sun	15	June	<b>TRINITY 4</b>	
			Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	8.00am
			<b>Sung Eucharist</b> (Teaching Eucharist with young people)	9.30am
			Sunday School in Littlebury Hall	9.30am
			Baptism of Erin Arnold	12.30pm
			Evensong in Lady Chapel	6.30pm

## NOTICES

**BISHOP CHRISTOPHER'S RETIREMENT:** The PCC voted to give £100 towards the Bishop's farewell gift on behalf of the Parish. (He will have been our Bishop for 13 years.) If you would like to add a personal donation to this amount, please give it to the Churchwardens in the envelopes marked.

**BILL WIDDOWSON'S FUNERAL** will be in church on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> June at 3 pm, followed by committal at West Herts Crematorium. All who knew Bill are, of course, welcome to pay their last respects to him here at St Michael's.

**QUIZ IN CHURCH** in aid of church funds, next Saturday evening 14 June. See this month's Sword. Please let Bob and Iola Bilson know very soon if you are planning to come. Handbills are available in church

**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.

**CHRISTIAN AID FINAL RESULT** from St Michael's is £1449.41, which includes £130 from the Teenage Quiz and the Cake Sale.

**MILTON 400<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY:** John Milton, the author of "Paradise Lost", was born 400 years ago. There are special exhibitions about him at Cambridge, where he attended Christ's College from 1625 to 1632. If there is enough interest, a visit (partially private) will be arranged on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> July. Please speak to Graham Mordue (01923 244180).

**THE ANNUAL BARBECUE** will be held after the 11.15 service on Sunday 13 July, at the west end of the church and also on the triangle. Tickets available soon.