



# THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

*St Michael and All Angels*

Watford

TRINITY 8

13 July 2008

A warm welcome to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Eucharist Fr John celebrates, Fr George preaches and Pat Brown leads the intercessions. A crèche is available.

**Hymns: 4, 625, 444 and 299**

**Setting: Wilson**

Tea and coffee will be served in church after the 9.30 service and this is followed at 11.15 with our 11.15 service which this month is a Simple Eucharist in which we are joined by the Youth Choir from St Lawrence, Abbots Langley – please stay on.

After this there will be the annual BARBECUE at the west end of the church and on the triangle.

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:** Papua New Guinea. James Ayong, Archbishop of the Province and Bishop of Aipo Rongo.

On this Sea Sunday, we pray for the work of Missions to Seafarers.

The Parish of St Francis, Luton: Mike Newbon, Vicar.

**The World:** Peace in Zimbabwe, Iraq and Afghanistan.

Those working overseas for aid agencies.

Journalists, editors and proprietors of newspapers.

**The Community and Parish:** West Herts Crematorium and its staff as they hold the Annual Memorial Service today.

Priscilla and Daniel Osikominu, married here yesterday – for their home in Queens Avenue.

**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, Jocelyn Harewood, Marjorie 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, Anne Wightman, Maureen Williams and Sue Winterbotham.

**The Departed:** Geoffrey Wightman (aged 79), Leeds (Eric's brother).

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**Collect**

Almighty Lord and everlasting God, we beseech you to direct, sanctify and govern both our hearts and bodies in the ways of your laws and the works of your commandments; that through your most mighty protection, both here and ever, we may be preserved in body and soul;

through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**FIRST READING Genesis 25.19–34**

A reading from the book of Genesis.

- <sup>19</sup> These are the descendants of Isaac, Abraham's son: Abraham was the father of Isaac,  
<sup>20</sup> and Isaac was forty years old when he married Rebekah, daughter of Bethuel the Aramean of Paddan-aram, sister of Laban the Aramean.
- <sup>21</sup> Isaac prayed to the LORD for his wife, because she was barren; and the LORD granted his prayer, and his wife Rebekah conceived.
- <sup>22</sup> The children struggled together within her; and she said, 'If it is to be this way, why do I live?' So she went to inquire of the LORD.
- <sup>23</sup> And the LORD said to her, 'Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples born of you shall be divided; the one shall be stronger than the other, the elder shall serve the younger.'
- <sup>24</sup> When her time to give birth was at hand, there were twins in her womb.
- <sup>25</sup> The first came out red, all his body like a hairy mantle; so they named him Esau.
- <sup>26</sup> Afterwards his brother came out, with his hand gripping Esau's heel; so he was named Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them.
- <sup>27</sup> When the boys grew up, Esau was a skilful hunter, a man of the field, while Jacob was a quiet man, living in tents.
- <sup>28</sup> Isaac loved Esau, because he was fond of game; but Rebekah loved Jacob.
- <sup>29</sup> Once when Jacob was cooking a stew, Esau came in from the field, and he was famished.
- <sup>30</sup> Esau said to Jacob, 'Let me eat some of that red stuff, for I am famished!' (Therefore he was called Edom.)
- <sup>31</sup> Jacob said, 'First sell me your birthright.'
- <sup>32</sup> Esau said, 'I am about to die; of what use is a birthright to me?'
- <sup>33</sup> Jacob said, 'Swear to me first.' So he swore to him, and sold his birthright to Jacob.
- <sup>34</sup> Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew, and he ate and drank, and rose and went his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright.

**SECOND READING Romans 8.1–11**

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

- <sup>1</sup> There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.
- <sup>2</sup> For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death.

3 For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his  
own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the  
flesh,  
4 so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according  
to the flesh but according to the Spirit.  
5 For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but  
those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit.  
6 To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.  
7 For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to  
God's law – indeed it cannot,  
8 and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.  
9 But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you.  
Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.  
10 But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of  
righteousness.  
11 If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ  
from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in  
you.

## **GOSPEL Matthew 13.1–9, 18–23**

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

1 Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the lake.  
2 Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the  
whole crowd stood on the beach.  
3 And he told them many things in parables, saying: 'Listen! A sower went out to sow.  
4 And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up.  
5 Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang  
up quickly, since they had no depth of soil.  
6 But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered  
away.  
7 Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them.  
8 Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty,  
some thirty.  
9 Let anyone with ears listen!  
18 Hear then the parable of the sower.  
19 When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one  
comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path.  
20 As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and  
immediately receives it with joy;  
21 yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or  
persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away.  
22 As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares  
of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing.  
23 But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and  
understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another  
sixty, and in another thirty.'

## THIS WEEK

Mon	14	July	Toddlers' Group	10.00 – 11.30am
			Silent Prayer in Lady Chapel (see Notice below)	12 noon
			11.15 Planning Meeting (86 Mildred Ave)	8.00pm
Tue	15	July	Social Committee (in church)	7.30pm
Wed	16	July	Coffee in Church	10.30am-12 noon
Thu	17	July	Holy Communion (Mothers' Union corporate)	10.00am
			Fr John to speak after coffee – all welcome	
			Kids' Club	3.30 – 5.00pm
			Choir Practice	7.00 – 8.30pm
Fri	18	July	<i>School term ends this week or beginning of next</i>	
Sat	19	July	Wedding of Richard Carr and Wiebke Schwartz	1.00pm
			Wedding of Matthew Alexander and Gemma Clark	3.00pm
Sun	20	July	<b>TRINITY 8</b>	
			Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	8.00am
			<b>Sung Eucharist</b> (crèche available)	9.30am
			(President: Fr George, Preacher: Jamie Wareham)	
			Baptism of Megan Alice Grassie	4.00pm
			Evensong in Lady Chapel	6.30pm

## NOTICES

**BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE:** If you wish to have a name added to the Book of Remembrance please see Violet Allen-Smith.

**175<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY:** The revival of music and ritual in the Church of England began with a sermon by John Keble in 1833. This will be remembered in an hour of silent prayer from 12 noon to 1.00 pm in the Lady Chapel on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> July.

**HOLIDAY CLUB:** This will be held for a week beginning on Monday, 4 August. The sessions are held in the mornings from 9.30 am to 12 noon. If you are able to help at one or more of the sessions please get in touch with Jane Talbot as soon as possible 01923 226276 or [halfsentence@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:halfsentence@yahoo.co.uk)

**SUNDAY SCHOOL:** If you are interested in helping with the Sunday School will you please see Sylvia Moring.

**NEXT BIBLE STUDY** will be on 6<sup>th</sup> August at 8 pm (Exodus 18.1)

**FINAL COPY DATE FOR THE AUGUST SWORD** is MIDDAY next Sunday, 20 July. Hard copy or floppy disc to Dennis Beach or email to [DENNIS.H.BEACH@sky.com](mailto:DENNIS.H.BEACH@sky.com).

**NEXT PARISH WALK** will be on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> August. Vicki and Martin Matthews have kindly agreed to organise it.