



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

TRINITY 12
10 August 2008

A warm welcome to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Eucharist Fr George celebrates, Martin Heath preaches and Sylvia Moring leads the intercessions. A crèche is available.

Hymns: 610, 528, 411 and 437 (tune 362)

Setting: Oldroyd/Shaw

Tea and coffee will be served in church after the 9.30 service – please stay on.

The monthly service at River Court is at 3.00 pm.

There is Evensong in the Lady Chapel at 6.30pm.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: The Province of SE Asia, Archbishop John Chew, Bishop of Singapore.

Christian Family Holiday Centres.

The Parishes in the Stodden Group in Bedfordshire: Vicar – Jan Brookshaw.

The World: Peace in Iraq and Afghanistan.

All on holiday at this time- for their safe travelling.

Those whose work is dangerous, dull or badly-paid.

The Community and Parish: Romeo and Calvin Eames Brandy baptised yesterday.

Those who provide our local transport.

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, 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, Anne Wightman, Maureen Williams and Sue Winterbotham.

The Departed: Vera Evans (aged 89), once of North Watford.

COLLECT

Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray and to give more than either we desire or deserve: pour down upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid and giving us those good things which we are not worthy to ask but through the merits and mediation of 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 37.1–4, 12–28

A reading from the book of Genesis.

- ¹ Jacob settled in the land where his father had lived as an alien, the land of Canaan.
- ² This is the story of the family of Jacob. Joseph, being seventeen years old, was shepherding the flock with his brothers; he was a helper to the sons of Bilhah and Zilpah, his father's wives; and Joseph brought a bad report of them to their father.
- ³ Now Israel loved Joseph more than any other of his children, because he was the son of his old age; and he had made him a long robe with sleeves.
- ⁴ But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him, and could not speak peaceably to him.
- ¹² Now his brothers went to pasture their father's flock near Shechem.
- ¹³ And Israel said to Joseph, 'Are not your brothers pasturing the flock at Shechem? Come, I will send you to them.' He answered, 'Here I am.'
- ¹⁴ So he said to him, 'Go now, see if it is well with your brothers and with the flock; and bring word back to me.' So he sent him from the valley of Hebron. He came to Shechem,
- ¹⁵ and a man found him wandering in the fields; the man asked him, 'What are you seeking?'
- ¹⁶ 'I am seeking my brothers,' he said; 'tell me, please, where they are pasturing the flock.'
- ¹⁷ The man said, 'They have gone away, for I heard them say, "Let us go to Dothan."' So Joseph went after his brothers, and found them at Dothan.
- ¹⁸ They saw him from a distance, and before he came near to them, they conspired to kill him.
- ¹⁹ They said to one another, 'Here comes this dreamer.
- ²⁰ Come now, let us kill him and throw him into one of the pits; then we shall say that a wild animal has devoured him, and we shall see what will become of his dreams.'
- ²¹ But when Reuben heard it, he delivered him out of their hands, saying, 'Let us not take his life.'
- ²² Reuben said to them, 'Shed no blood; throw him into this pit here in the wilderness, but lay no hand on him' – that he might rescue him out of their hand and restore him to his father.
- ²³ So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe, the long robe with sleeves that he wore;
- ²⁴ and they took him and threw him into a pit. The pit was empty; there was no water in it.
- ²⁵ Then they sat down to eat; and looking up they saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead, with their camels carrying gum, balm, and resin, on their way to carry it down to Egypt.
- ²⁶ Then Judah said to his brothers, 'What profit is it if we kill our brother and conceal his blood?'
- ²⁷ Come, let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, and not lay our hands on him, for he is our brother, our own flesh.' And his brothers agreed.
- ²⁸ When some Midianite traders passed by, they drew Joseph up, lifting him out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty pieces of silver. And they took Joseph to Egypt.

SECOND READING Romans 10.5–15

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

- 5 Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that ‘the person who does these things will live by them.’
- 6 But the righteousness that comes from faith says, ‘Do not say in your heart, “Who will ascend into heaven?”’ (that is, to bring Christ down)
- 7 ‘or “Who will descend into the abyss?”’ (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead).
- 8 But what does it say? ‘The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart’ (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim);
- 9 because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.
- 10 For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved.
- 11 The scripture says, ‘No one who believes in him will be put to shame.’
- 12 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him.
- 13 For, ‘Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.’
- 14 But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him?
- 15 And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, ‘How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!’

GOSPEL Matthew 14.22–33

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

- Immediately after feeding the crowd with the five loaves and two fish,
- 22 Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds.
- 23 And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone,
- 24 but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them.
- 25 And early in the morning he came walking towards them on the lake.
- 26 But when the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified, saying, ‘It is a ghost!’ And they cried out in fear.
- 27 But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, ‘Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.’
- 28 Peter answered him, ‘Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.’
- 29 He said, ‘Come.’ So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came towards Jesus.
- 30 But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, ‘Lord, save me!’
- 31 Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, ‘You of little faith, why did you doubt?’
- 32 When they got into the boat, the wind ceased.
- 33 And those in the boat worshipped him, saying, ‘Truly you are the Son of God.’

THIS WEEK

Mon	11	Aug	Toddlers' Group	10.00 – 11.30am
			Service at The Chase Care Home	3.00pm
Wed	13	Aug	Coffee in Church	10.30am-12 noon
			Service at Home Manor (Violet Allen Smith)	3.00pm
Thu	14	Aug	Holy Communion	10.00am
			(Kids' Club does not meet during school holidays).	
Sun	17	Aug	<u>TRINITY 13</u>	
			Holy Communion	8.00am
			Sung Eucharist (crèche available)	9.30am
			Baptism of Annabelle Wightman	12.30pm
			Evensong in Lady Chapel	6.30pm

NOTICES

THE IMPORTANCE OF MAINTAINING RELIGIOUS SERVICES IN CARE HOMES DURING THE VACANCY: A number of lay folk from St Michael's help by taking part, and sometimes leading, services outside St Michael's. If you would like to consider helping in this way please see Fr John.

SINCERE THANKS to all who helped make the Holiday Club such a success – and especially to Jane Talbot who organised it all.

GIRLS' (OF ANY AGE) outing to Mamma Mia! Tuesday 12th August –meet at Vue Cinema 3.00pm or see Gill Heath about arrangements!

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

SUNDAY SCHOOL: If you are interested in helping with the Sunday School will you please see one of the churchwardens.

PARISH LUNCH: The Social Committee anticipate that the parish lunch on 14 September will be one of the largest events of its kind that we have had at St Michael's. We would like help with all kinds of practical things such as re-arranging the furniture (before and after), setting up, washing up, providing a dish of food. There is a list for people to sign on the signing-up table; please look at it and see if you can help.

13 SEPTEMBER: A busy day at St Michael's. It is the sponsored cycle/walk ride in aid of the Herts and Beds Historic Churches Trust – see Phil Gough – and the day we aim to keep the church open all day to greet visitors on their sponsored trip. It is also the morning when the Social Committee would appreciate help setting up the church for the next day's Parish Lunch. Please look in your diary and write 'St Michael's' in it now!

PLEASE NOTE that the time of Penny Allen Smith's 'Blessing' on 29th August, which was omitted from the Sword's Diary, is 12.30 pm. Apologies for this omission.