



# THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

*St Michael and All Angels*

Watford

TRINITY 13  
17 August 2008

A warm welcome to our services today.

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

**Hymns: 383, 456, 163 and 490**

**Setting: Oldroyd/Shaw**

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

The Baptism of Annabel Wightman is at 12.30pm

There is Evensong in the Lady Chapel at 6.30pm.

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

**The Church:** The United Church of South India. Badda Sugandhar, Bishop of Medak

The Deanery of Shefford, Rural Dean: John Morley.

The Guild of St Raphael with its work in the ministry of healing.

**The World:** Peace between Russia and Georgia and a diplomatic solution to the problems there – those who have fled from their homes in that region.

Our own country and a wise outcome of economic difficulties.

**The Community and Parish:** Annabel Wightman to be baptised today.

Local General Practitioners and the staff who support them.

**The Ill and the Housebound:** Especially Ray Angles, Ellen Benoy, Mel Browne, John Burn, Marjorie Carlisle, Jennifer Coley, Bill Craddock-Jones, Jean Crouch, Ifagaani Desiderio, Jim Dibben, June Dickinson, Kate Dickinson, Simon Fowle, 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.

We give thanks for the recovery of Monica Batt.

**The Departed:**

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**Collect**

Almighty God, who called your Church to bear witness that you were in Christ reconciling the world to yourself:

help us to proclaim the good news of your love, that all who hear it may be drawn to you;

through him who was lifted up on the cross, and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**FIRST READING Genesis 45.1–15**

A reading from the book of Genesis.

- <sup>1</sup> Joseph could no longer control himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, ‘Send everyone away from me.’ So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers.
- <sup>2</sup> And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it.
- <sup>3</sup> Joseph said to his brothers, ‘I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?’ But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.
- <sup>4</sup> Then Joseph said to his brothers, ‘Come closer to me.’ And they came closer. He said, ‘I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt.
- <sup>5</sup> And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life.
- <sup>6</sup> For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither ploughing nor harvest.
- <sup>7</sup> God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors.
- <sup>8</sup> So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt.
- <sup>9</sup> Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, “Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay.
- <sup>10</sup> You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children’s children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have.
- <sup>11</sup> I will provide for you there – since there are five more years of famine to come – so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.”
- <sup>12</sup> And now your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that it is my own mouth that speaks to you.

- <sup>13</sup> You must tell my father how greatly I am honoured in Egypt, and all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here.’
- <sup>14</sup> Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin’s neck and wept, while Benjamin wept upon his neck.
- <sup>15</sup> And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

## **SECOND READING Romans 11.1–2a, 29–32**

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

- <sup>1</sup> I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin.
- <sup>2</sup> God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.
- <sup>29</sup> For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.
- <sup>30</sup> Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience,
- <sup>31</sup> so they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy.
- <sup>32</sup> For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

## **GOSPEL Matthew 15.21–28**

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

- <sup>21</sup> Jesus went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon.
- <sup>22</sup> A Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, ‘Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.’
- <sup>23</sup> But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, ‘Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.’
- <sup>24</sup> He answered, ‘I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.’
- <sup>25</sup> But she came and knelt before him, saying, ‘Lord, help me.’
- <sup>26</sup> He answered, ‘It is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.’
- <sup>27</sup> She said, ‘Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.’
- <sup>28</sup> Then Jesus answered her, ‘Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.’ And her daughter was healed instantly.

## THIS WEEK

Mon	18	Aug	Toddlers' Group	10.00 – 11.30am
Tue	19	Aug	Intercessory Prayer Group (Choir Vestry)	2.30pm
Wed	20	Aug	Coffee in Church	10.30am-12 noon
Thu	21	Aug	Holy Communion (Kids' Club does not meet during school holidays).	10.00am
Sun	24	Aug	<b><u>ST BARTHOLOMEW</u></b>	
			Holy Communion	8.00am
			<b>Sung Eucharist</b> (crèche available)	9.30am
			Baptism of Kyle William Challis	3.30pm
			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.

IF YOU MISSED or can't quite remember all of my first sermon, preached at Evensong in August 1978, there is an opportunity to hear it (again) at Evening Prayer next Sunday 24th August! Martin Heath.

FINAL COPY DATE FOR THE AUGUST SWORD is MIDDAY next Sunday, 24 August. Hard copy or floppy disc to Dennis Beach or email to [DENNIS.H.BEACH@sky.com](mailto:DENNIS.H.BEACH@sky.com).

QUIZ IN CHURCH in aid of church funds, Friday 5<sup>th</sup> September – 7 for 7.30pm.. Tickets £8 inc refreshments (bring your own drink) from Bob or Iola Bilson (Tel 227276).

HOLIDAY CLUB: Please look at the children's work on the notice-boards in the south aisle, if you haven't already.

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

13 SEPTEMBER: A busy day at St Michael's. It is the sponsored cycle ride/walk 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.