



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

TRINITY 15
31 August 2008

A warm welcome to our services today.

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

Hymns: 470, 393, 516 and 418.

Setting: Oldroyd/Shaw

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 will also be a meeting of the Social Committee.

The Baptism of Milly Cox is at 2.00pm and of Ashton Corlett at 3.00pm.

There is Evensong in the Lady Chapel at 6.30pm.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: Gregory Venables. Presiding Bishop of the Southern Cone (S. America) and Bishop of Argentina.

The Diocesan Staff as they prepare for Bishop Christopher's retirement.

The World: A peaceful diplomatic outcome to the troubles between Russia and Georgia.

Wise decisions over the many health, educational and environmental issues which affect us in Britain today.

The Community and Parish: Keith and Penny Levinson – married on Friday.

Milly Cox and Ashton Corlett to be baptised this afternoon.

Brian and Lesley Rees as they prepare to move this week.

Give thanks for the birth of Sam, son to Gemma and Ed Williamson, and grandson of Martin and Vicki Matthews.

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, June Dickinson, Kate Dickinson, Simon Fowle, Jocelyn Harewood, Jenny Houghton, Mary Kearns, 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 pray especially for Lesley Kinch as she prepares for an operation.

The Departed:

COLLECT

God, who in generous mercy sent the Holy Spirit upon your Church in the burning fire of your love:

grant that your people may be fervent in the fellowship of the gospel that, always abiding in you, they may be found steadfast in faith and active in service; 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 Exodus 3.1–15

A reading from the book of Exodus.

- ¹ Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God.
- ² There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed.
- ³ Then Moses said, 'I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up.'
- ⁴ When the LORD saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, 'Moses, Moses!' And he said, 'Here I am.'
- ⁵ Then he said, 'Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.'
- ⁶ He said further, 'I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.' And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.
- ⁷ Then the LORD said, 'I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings,
- ⁸ and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites.
- ⁹ The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them.
- ¹⁰ So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt.'
- ¹¹ But Moses said to God, 'Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?'
- ¹² He said, 'I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain.'
- ¹³ But Moses said to God, 'If I come to the Israelites and say to them, "The God of your ancestors has sent me to you," and they ask me, "What is his name?" what shall I say to them?'
- ¹⁴ God said to Moses, 'I AM WHO I AM.' He said further, 'Thus you shall say to the Israelites, "I AM has sent me to you."'

¹⁵ God also said to Moses, ‘Thus you shall say to the Israelites, “The LORD, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you”: This is my name for ever, and this my title for all generations.’

SECOND READING Romans 12.9–21

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

⁹ Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good;
¹⁰ love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honour.
¹¹ Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord.
¹² Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer.
¹³ Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.
¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them.
¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.
¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are.
¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all.
¹⁸ If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.
¹⁹ Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, ‘Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.’
²⁰ No, ‘if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads.’
²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

GOSPEL Matthew 16.21–28

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

²¹ From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised.
²² And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, ‘God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.’
²³ But he turned and said to Peter, ‘Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling-block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.’
²⁴ Then Jesus told his disciples, ‘If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.
²⁵ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.
²⁶ For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?
²⁷ For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done.
²⁸ Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.’

THIS WEEK

Mon	1 Sep	<i>Schools start this week</i>	
		Toddlers' Group	10.00 – 11.30am
Tue	2 Sep	Youth & Education Committee (church)	7.30pm
Wed	3 Sep	Coffee in Church	10.30am-12 noon
		Bring-&-Share Lunch	12.30pm
		Bible Study in Choir Vestry (Exodus 22.1)	8.00pm
Thu	4 Sep	Holy Communion	10.00am
		Fairhaven (during morning)	
		Choir Practice	7.00 – 8.30pm
Fri	5 Sep	Quiz Night (see Notices)	
Sun	7 Sep	TRINITY 16	
		Holy Communion	8.00am
		Sung Eucharist (crèche available)	9.30am
		Wedding Blessing for Hannah (Benoy) and Mike Brown	3.00pm
		United Evening Service (venue tba)	6.30pm

NOTICES

8AM SUNDAY COMMUNION DURING VACANCY: The PCC has agreed that this will take place on the FIRST Sunday of the month only. The last weekly celebration will be Fr John's last Sunday, 14 September. The next 8am services will then be the first Sundays of October, November etc when Fr George has agreed to celebrate. Thank you for your understanding in this matter.

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

BRING-&-SHARE LUNCH Wednesday 3 September. Please sign the list on the Sign-Up table at the back of the church.

THANK YOU to all who joined us last Sunday to wish Penny and Keith happiness in their forthcoming marriage and for all the cards and good wishes for my 80th birthday. – Violet

MARJORIE MERRITT would like to thank everyone for the greetings to her last Sunday for her 90th birthday. It was totally unexpected and a very enjoyable occasion.

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: (14 September) Requests for tickets should be in by the end of this month. Offers of help on the lists on the signing-on table, please.

13 SEPTEMBER 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.