



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

HOLY CROSS DAY

14 September 2008

A warm welcome to our services today. The 9.30 am Eucharist is the last Celebration of Fr John before his retirement and today marks the 30th anniversary of Fr John coming to St Michael's. We wish Fr John and Pat every future happiness in their cottage in Oxfordshire.

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

Hymns: 586 (omit *s), 386, 203 and 398.

Setting: Oldroyd/Shaw

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

Our Parish Lunch will follow at about 12 noon.

There is Evensong in the Lady Chapel at 6.30pm when Fr John will be officiant.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: Anglican Church in Tanzania: Donald Mtetemela, Archbishop, and Bishop of Ruaha.

Tom Baron: Chaplain, Barnet Hospitals.

Racial Justice Sunday.

The World: Peace in Iraq and Afghanistan – for the safety of civilians.

Those responsible for the economic future of our country.

The Community and Parish: Fr John and Pat as they begin retirement.

God's blessing for the Parish during the time of awaiting a new Vicar – for the effective working together of all St Michael's members.

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, Gladys Holloway, 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, and Maureen Williams.

The Departed: Ivor Roy Cante (aged 89), Geelong, Victoria, Australia (Bill Craddock-Jones' stepfather).

Collect

Almighty God,
who in the passion of thy blessed Son
hast made an instrument of painful death
to be for us the means of life and peace:
grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ
that we may gladly suffer for his sake;
who liveth and reigneth with thee,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING Numbers 21.4–9

A reading from the book of Numbers.

- ⁴ The Israelites set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way.
- ⁵ The people spoke against God and against Moses, 'Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.'
- ⁶ Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died.
- ⁷ The people came to Moses and said, 'We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us.' So Moses prayed for the people.
- ⁸ And the LORD said to Moses, 'Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.'
- ⁹ So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

SECOND READING Philippians 2.6–11

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.

⁶ Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited,
⁷ but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form,
⁸ he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death – even death on a cross.
⁹ Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name,
¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
¹¹ and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

GOSPEL John 3.13–17

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

Jesus said to Nicodemus:

¹³ ‘No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man.
¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up,
¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.
¹⁶ For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.
¹⁷ Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.’

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The next BIBLE STUDY meeting will be on Wednesday, 1 October 2008, at 8 pm in the Choir Vestry. The group will be starting to study the First Book of Samuel.

THIS WEEK

Mon	15	Sep	Toddlers' Group	10.00 – 11.30am
			Worship Committee	7.30pm
Wed	17	Sep	Coffee in Church	10.30am-12 noon
Thu	18	Sep	Holy Communion (Mothers' Union meet afterwards)	10.00am
			Kids' Club	3.30 -5.00pm
			Choir Practice	7.00 – 8.30pm
Fri	19	Sep	Christian Aid Tea Party in Church	3.30 – 5.00pm
Sat	20	Sep	Wedding of Kevin Keane and Lindsey McDougall	3.00pm
Sun	21	Sep	<u>ST MATTHEW</u>	
			NO 8 am Holy Communion Service - next one on 5 October	
			Sung Eucharist (crèche available)	9.30am
			11.15 Service of Praise & Thanksgiving	11.15am
			River Court Service	3.00pm
			Baptism of Cole Leslie McFarland	3.00pm
			Evensong in Lady Chapel (Off: Martin Heath)	6.30pm

NOTICES

MOST IMPORTANT MEETING with Bishop Christopher Hertford and Archdeacon of St Albans: Please will all PCC members give priority to the meeting on Thursday 2nd October.

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.

THE BRING-&-BUY SALE on 31 August raised £54. Many thanks.

SUNDAY SCHOOL: If you are interested in helping with the Sunday School will you please see one of the churchwardens. At present we have no one to run the Sunday School so have been unable to start it up again at the beginning of the term.

ECUMENICAL ACCOMPANIMENT PROGRAMME IN ISRAEL- PALESTINE: Pat Price-Tomes, one of the Accompaniers, will speak about movements and initiatives for peace at St Mary's Church Centre on 15th September at 8.00pm.

CHRISTIAN AID TEA PARTY: As last year, St Michael's will be holding a tea party in aid of Christian Aid. This is an initiative that is countrywide and last year raised £100,000 for Christian Aid. Please come if you can and bring friends and neighbours with you. There will be tea and cakes to purchase and, we hope, cakes to buy to take away. Obviously, the more cakes we have the more money we will raise for Christian Aid. Will you make one? Please see Alison Makin for more information (01923 236067).

SUNDAY, 28 SEPTEMBER (Michaelmas): The president and preacher at the 9.30 am Sung Eucharist will be The Venerable John Green, Chaplain of the Fleet, Curate at St Michael's from 1983 to 1986. Please come to this service if you can. As is our custom on our patronal festival there will also be a Choral Evensong at 6.30 pm.