



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

ST MATTHEW
21 September 2008

A warm welcome to our services today.

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

Hymns: 612, 474, What debt of sin (t 204) and 455.

Setting: Rawsthorne

Tea and coffee will be served in church after the 9.30 service and this is followed at 11.15 with our monthly service of thanksgiving and praise – please stay on.

The Baptism of Cole Leslie McFarland is at 3.00pm.

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: Henry Orombi, Archbishop of Uganda and Bishop of Kampala.
Anglican Methodist Covenant Relationships in the Diocese.
Church Schools in the Deanery of Barnet.

The World: Peace in Iraq and Afghanistan - those in our armed forces working for peace.
All those affected by the troubles in the finance industry.

The Community and Parish: Rev David Middlebrook who will be Licensed by the Bishop of Hertford and Installed by the Archdeacon of St Albans on Thursday at St Luke's Church.

For a speedy resolution to the problems at the Royal Mail depot in Watford.

Cole Leslie McFarland to be baptised this afternoon.

Kevin and Lindsey Keane, married here yesterday.

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:

Collect

O Almighty God,
whose blessed Son called Matthew the tax collector
to be an apostle and evangelist:
give us grace to forsake the selfish pursuit of gain and the possessive
love of riches
that we may follow in the way of your Son Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING Proverbs 3.13–18

A reading from the book of Proverbs.

- ¹³ Happy are those who find wisdom, and those who get understanding,
¹⁴ for her income is better than silver, and her revenue better than gold.
¹⁵ She is more precious than jewels, and nothing you desire can
compare with her.
¹⁶ Long life is in her right hand; in her left hand are riches and honour.
¹⁷ Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace.
¹⁸ She is a tree of life to those who lay hold of her; those who hold her
fast are called happy.

SECOND READING 2 Corinthians 4.1–6

A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

- ¹ Since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do
not lose heart.
² We have renounced the shameful things that one hides; we refuse to
practise cunning or to falsify God's word; but by the open statement
of the truth we commend ourselves to the conscience of everyone in
the sight of God.
³ And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are
perishing.

- 4 In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.
- 5 For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake.
- 6 For it is the God who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

GOSPEL Matthew 9.9-13

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

- 9 As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, 'Follow me.' And he got up and followed him.
- 10 And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax-collectors and sinners came and were sitting with him and his disciples.
- 11 When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, 'Why does your teacher eat with tax-collectors and sinners?'
- 12 But when he heard this, he said, 'Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick.
- 13 Go and learn what this means, "I desire mercy, not sacrifice." For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners.'

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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	22	Sep	Toddlers' Group	10.00 – 11.30am
Wed	24	Sep	Coffee in Church	10.30am-12 noon
Thu	25	Sep	Holy Communion	10.00am
			Kids' Club	3.30 -5.00pm
			Choir Practice	7.00 – 8.30pm
Sun	28	Sep	<u>MICHAELMAS</u>	
			NO 8 am Holy Communion Service - next one on 5 October	
			Sung Eucharist (Pres & Preacher: The Ven John Green)	9.30am
			followed by Bring & Buy Sale	
			CHORAL EVENSONG	6.30pm

NOTICES

WHAT A SUNDAY! Pat and Fr John were quite overwhelmed by the number of people who came to the Sung Eucharist and stayed to Lunch on their last Sunday. They are still “getting over the experience” and want to say how very grateful they are for all the huge kindness and love shown to them. Fr John will write fuller words of thanks in the October *Sword*.

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.

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.

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

FINAL COPY DATE FOR THE October *SWORD* is MIDDAY today, Sunday, 21 September. Hard copy or floppy disc to Dennis Beach or email to DENNIS.H.BEACH@sky.com.

HARVEST WEEKEND: 4 & 5 October. The Harvest Workshop will be from 2-4 pm on the 4th and Harvest Thanksgiving will be on the 5th. We shall as usual give any gifts of dry goods to the New Hope Trust (see list of possible items in *Sword*).

CALLING ALL PARENTS OF STUDENTS AND TEACHERS AT WATFORD GRAMMAR SCHOOLS: There is a monthly gathering for prayer for these two schools held as follows: Every first Monday of the month at 8.00 to 9.00 pm at 19 Richmond Way, Croxley Green, WD3 3SF. The next will be on the 6th October 08. For further details please contact Vivien or Sandy Taylor on 01923 443139 or 07899 908480. To be added to the email reminder list please email vivient@btinternet.com