



# THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

*St Michael and All Angels*

Watford

TRINITY 21  
12 October 2008

A warm welcome to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Eucharist Canon Michael Carter celebrates, Sue Pankhurst preaches and Neil Hart leads the intercessions. A crèche is available.

**Hymns: 543 (i), 408 (ii), 96 (ii) and 438.**

**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 monthly service at River Court is at 3.00 pm.

There is Evensong in the Lady Chapel at 6.30pm.

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

**The Church:** Justice Akrofi, Archbishop of West Africa and Bishop of Accra.  
Those working for peace and justice.

Clare Baynes to be licensed to St Stephen, St Albans.

**The World:** Peace in Iraq, Afghanistan and other troubled places.  
Wise leadership at a time of financial anxiety.

## **The Community and Parish:**

The meeting of the Parochial Church Council on Wednesday.

For those seeking employment in this area at this difficult time.

For the Littlebury Children's Centre and the work that it does for local families.

**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, Dorcas Ochola, Gaynor Osbourne, Myrtle Powell, Bryony Purse, Ann Reed, Gladys Robertson, Elaine Robinson, Maureen Swann, June Tatnall, Anne Wightman, and Maureen Williams.

## **The Departed:**

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**COLLECT**

Grant, we beseech you, merciful Lord, to your faithful people pardon and peace, that they may be cleansed from all their sins and serve you with a quiet mind; 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 32.1–14**

A reading from the book of Exodus.

- 1 When the people of Israel saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people gathered around Aaron, and said to him, ‘Come, make gods for us, who shall go before us; as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.’
- 2 Aaron said to them, ‘Take off the gold rings that are on the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me.’
- 3 So all the people took off the gold rings from their ears, and brought them to Aaron.
- 4 He took the gold from them, formed it in a mould, and cast an image of a calf; and they said, ‘These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!’
- 5 When Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made proclamation and said, ‘Tomorrow shall be a festival to the LORD.’
- 6 They rose early the next day, and offered burnt-offerings and brought sacrifices of well-being; and the people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to revel.
- 7 The LORD said to Moses, ‘Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely;
- 8 they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf, and have worshipped it and sacrificed to it, and said, “These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!”’
- 9 The LORD said to Moses, ‘I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are.
- 10 Now let me alone, so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them; and of you I will make a great nation.’
- 11 But Moses implored the LORD his God, and said, ‘O LORD, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand?
- 12 Why should the Egyptians say, “It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth”? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people.
- 13 Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, “I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it for ever.”’
- 14 And the LORD changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

## SECOND READING Philippians 4.1–9

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.

- 1 My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.
- 2 I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord.
- 3 Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.
- 4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.
- 5 Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near.
- 6 Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.
- 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.
- 8 Finally, beloved, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.
- 9 Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

## GOSPEL Matthew 22.1–14

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

- 1 Once more Jesus spoke to the chief priests and Pharisees in parables, saying:
- 2 ‘The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son.
- 3 He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come.
- 4 Again he sent other slaves, saying, “Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.”
- 5 But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business,
- 6 while the rest seized his slaves, maltreated them, and killed them.
- 7 The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city.
- 8 Then he said to his slaves, “The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy.
- 9 Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.”
- 10 Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.
- 11 But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe,
- 12 and he said to him, “Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?” And he was speechless.
- 13 Then the king said to the attendants, “Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”
- 14 For many are called, but few are chosen.’

## THIS WEEK

Mon	13	Oct	Toddlers' Group	10.00 – 11.30am
			Service at Chase Care Home	3.00pm
Wed	15	Oct	Coffee in Church	10.30am-12 noon
			PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL	7.45 for 7.55pm
Thu	16	Oct	Holy Communion (Mothers' Union meet afterwards)	10.00am
			Kids' Club	3.30 -5.00pm
			Youth & Education Committee	5.30pm
			Choir Practice	7.00 – 8.30pm
Sun	19	Oct	<b><u>TRINITY 22</u></b>	
			<i>Start of Week of Prayer for World Peace</i>	
			<b>Sung Eucharist</b>	9.30am
			Deanery Choral Evensong at St Luke's	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 next 8am service will be 2<sup>nd</sup> November when the Chantry List will be read.

**CHRISTMAS CARDS:** Church Christmas Cards produced from the same source as last year will be on sale after the 9.30 service. The price remains the same at 10 cards for £4.

**BISHOP'S HARVEST APPEAL:** Thank you very much for £155.39 which was donated for the Bishop's Harvest Appeal which is to help the people of Mali; there are leaflets about the appeal in church. If you did not have the opportunity to donate anything last week at Harvest Thanksgiving the 'collecting watering cans' are at the west end of the church for your donations.

**CHRISTMAS FAIR:** 8 November 2008. Please look at the red leaflet and see how you can help this year. There is a list on the signing-on table with suggestions for help. Please look at this and sign up if you possibly can. Any items for sale can be given to Sylvia Moring or Norma Twitchin. We are very short of books and bric-a-brac to sell.

**DEANERY CHORAL EVENSONG:** This will take place at St Luke's Church at 6.30 pm on Sunday, 19 October 2008. Our choir will be taking part and it would be good to have some St Michael's people in the congregation. If anyone would like a lift to the St Luke's, please see Sylvia Moring.

**WATFORD DEANERY SYNOD:** There will be an OPEN MEETING on 21st October at 7.45pm for 8.00pm at St. Luke's, Langley Way, and the Speaker will be the Revd. Canon Stephen Lake, who is Sub-Dean at St. Albans Abbey and also, in fact, our representative on General Synod. He is speaking on Transforming Worship. All welcome.

**BIBLE STUDY:** The next meeting of the Bible Study Group will be on Wednesday, 12 November 2008 at 8 pm in the Choir Vestry. We shall continue our study of 1 Samuel, commencing at Chapter 7.