



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

TRINITY 4

Sunday 17 July 2011

A warm welcome to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Eucharist Fr George celebrates and preaches and Graham Mordue leads the intercessions. There is Sunday School and a crèche is available.

Hymns: 558, 536 (i), 378 and 591

Setting: Aston

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

At 6 pm there is a Celtic Service in our 6 O'Clock Series. This is followed by refreshments.

For your prayers this week:

- The Church:** Harold Godfrey, Bishop of Peru
The Anglican Church in Korea
Christian Retreat Houses and Conference Centres.
- The World:** Drought victims in East Africa and the Horn of Africa
People with learning difficulties
Victims of phone hacking.
- The Community and Parish:** Our Borough and County Councillors
Local voluntary and charitable organisations
School leavers in our area.

The Ill and the Housebound: Especially Bruce Alexander, Billie Bainbridge (age 4), Christopher Bilson, Mary Calvert, Peter Coley, Bill and Marion Craddock-Jones, Jean Crouch, Kate Dickinson, Darrell Dunning, David and Janet Freeman, Jocelyn Harewood, Susetta Hartropp, Ben Heath, Gladys Holloway, Leena Hosie, Jenny Houghton, Mary Kearns, Dorothy Kiddle, Lesley Kinch, Loretta Lynch, Jacqui Lyons, Maggie Maguire, Stella Nicholas, Faith Nkugwa, Dorcas Ochola, Gaynor Osbourne, Helen Perry, Myrtle Powell, Bryony Purse, June Tatnall, Eric and Anne Wightman.

The Departed:

Collect

O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy:
increase and multiply upon us your mercy; that with you as our ruler and guide we may so pass through things temporal that we lose not our hold on things eternal;
grant this, heavenly Father, for our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING Genesis 28.10–19a

A reading from the book of Genesis.

- ¹⁰ Jacob left Beer-sheba and went towards Haran.
¹¹ He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place.
¹² And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it.
¹³ And the LORD stood beside him and said, 'I am the LORD, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring;
¹⁴ and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring.
¹⁵ Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.'
¹⁶ Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, 'Surely the LORD is in this place – and I did not know it!
¹⁷ And he was afraid, and said, 'How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.'
¹⁸ So Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it.
¹⁹ He called that place Bethel.

SECOND READING Romans 8.12–25

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

- ¹² Brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh –
¹³ for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.
¹⁴ For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.
¹⁵ For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, 'Abba! Father!'
¹⁶ it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God,
¹⁷ and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ – if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

18 I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the
glory about to be revealed to us.
19 For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God;
20 for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one
who subjected it, in hope
21 that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the
freedom of the glory of the children of God.
22 We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now;
23 and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan
inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.
24 For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for
what is seen?
25 But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

GOSPEL Matthew 13.24–30, 36–43

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

24 Jesus put before the crowd another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared
to someone who sowed good seed in his field;
25 but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat,
and then went away.
26 So when the plants came up and bore grain then the weeds appeared as well.
27 And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, "Master, did you not sow good
seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?"
28 He answered, "An enemy has done this." The slaves said to him, "Then do you want us
to go and gather them?"
29 But he replied, "No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with
them.
30 Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the
reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the
wheat into my barn."
36 Then Jesus left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him,
saying, 'Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.'
37 He answered, 'The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man;
38 the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds
are the children of the evil one,
39 and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the
reapers are angels.
40 Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the
age.
41 The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of
sin and all evildoers,
42 and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and
gnashing of teeth.
43 Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone
with ears listen!'

THIS WEEK

Mon	18	July	<i>School term ends during this week</i>	
			Toddlers' Group	10 – 11.30am
Tue	19	July	Renewal of Wedding Vows	1.00pm
			Service at Chase Care Home	2.30pm
Wed	20	July	Coffee in Church	10.30am-12 noon
			PAROCHIALCHURCH COUNCIL	7.45 for 7.55pm
Thur	21	July	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
			attended by Mothers' Union and followed by meeting	
			Choir Practice	7.00 – 8.30pm
Sun	24	July	<u>TRINITY 5</u>	
			Holy Communion (Pres: Fr Geoff)	8.00am
			SUNG EUCHARIST: crèche and Sunday School	9.30am
			(Pres: Fr Geoff ; Preacher: Martin Heath)	
			Evening Prayer	6.00pm

NOTICES

GRAND TEA PARTY in aid of USPG at Sue Winterbotham's, Cassio Metro on July 28th. Invitations from Gill Heath.

CELTIC SERVICE: This evening there is a Celtic Service at 6 pm. Please could someone volunteer to serve refreshments after the service. The Vicar would be very pleased to hear from you.

CHURCH COMMITTEES: St Michael's PCC has several committees which consider certain aspects of church life (eg maintenance of buildings, worship, finance, mission, work with young people, publicity, social). Membership of the committees is open to all church members. At this time of year, we invite people to sign up for membership of one or more of the committees. The lists are on the signings table at the west end – please help your church by signing up for one.

CRAFT WORKSHOPS FOR ADULTS CHILDREN AND FAMILIES: An ecumenical event planned for the afternoon of our Harvest Festival, Sunday 2nd October, 4.00-6.30. Offers of craft activities for adults and children sought. Please make a note in your diaries. Registration form available soon.

CHRISTIAN AID COLLECTION: Thank you to all who contributed to Christian Aid using the envelopes at the back of the church. We were able to send £225 to Christian Aid. We hope to have more initiatives during the year to raise money for this cause.

FINAL COPY DATE FOR THE AUGUST SWORD is MIDDAY next Sunday, 24 July. Hard copy or floppy disc to Dennis Beach or email to dhbeach@sky.com.