



# THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

*St Michael and All Angels*

Watford

**TRINITY 5**

Sunday 24 July 2011

A warm welcome to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Eucharist Fr Geoff celebrates, Martin Heath preaches and Pat Beach leads the intercessions. There is Sunday School and a crèche is available.

**Hymns: 376, 590, 445 and 530**

**Setting: Aston**

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

At 6 pm there is evening prayer in the Lady Chapel.

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

**The Church:** Nceba Nopece, Bishop of Port Elizabeth, Southern Africa  
Come Dine with USPG - fundraising and fellowship event  
The Bible Society.

**The World:** Drought victims in East Africa and the Horn of Africa  
Children forced to be soldiers in Somalia  
Integrity among journalists, politicians and senior police officers.

**The Community and Parish:** Homeless people in Watford  
Voluntary organisations facing funding cuts  
Trinity Methodist Church and West Watford Free Church.

**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, Douglas Redman, Bryony Purse, June Tatnall, Eric and Anne Wightman.

**The Departed:**

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**Collect**

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church is governed and sanctified:

hear our prayer which we offer for all your faithful people, that in their vocation and ministry they may serve you in holiness and truth to the glory of your name; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**FIRST READING Genesis 29.15–28**

A reading from the book of Genesis.

- <sup>15</sup> Laban said to Jacob, ‘Because you are my kinsman, should you therefore serve me for nothing? Tell me, what shall your wages be?’
- <sup>16</sup> Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel.
- <sup>17</sup> Leah’s eyes were lovely, and Rachel was graceful and beautiful.
- <sup>18</sup> Jacob loved Rachel; so he said, ‘I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel.’
- <sup>19</sup> Laban said, ‘It is better that I give her to you than that I should give her to any other man; stay with me.’
- <sup>20</sup> So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days because of the love he had for her.
- <sup>21</sup> Then Jacob said to Laban, ‘Give me my wife that I may go in to her, for my time is completed.’
- <sup>22</sup> So Laban gathered together all the people of the place, and made a feast.
- <sup>23</sup> But in the evening he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob; and he went in to her.
- <sup>24</sup> (Laban gave his maid Zilpah to his daughter Leah to be her maid.)
- <sup>25</sup> When morning came, it was Leah! And Jacob said to Laban, ‘What is this you have done to me? Did I not serve with you for Rachel? Why then have you deceived me?’
- <sup>26</sup> Laban said, ‘This is not done in our country – giving the younger before the firstborn.
- <sup>27</sup> Complete the week of this one, and we will give you the other also in return for serving me another seven years.’
- <sup>28</sup> Jacob did so, and completed her week; then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel as a wife.

**SECOND READING Romans 8.26–39**

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

- <sup>26</sup> The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words.
- <sup>27</sup> And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.
- <sup>28</sup> We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.

29 For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his  
Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family.  
30 And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also  
justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.  
31 What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us?  
32 He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him  
also give us everything else?  
33 Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.  
34 Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the  
right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us.  
35 Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or  
persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?  
36 As it is written, 'For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as  
sheep to be slaughtered.'  
37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.  
38 For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things  
present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height,  
39 nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of  
God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

## **GOSPEL Matthew 13.31–33, 44–52**

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

31 Jesus put before the crowd another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard  
seed that someone took and sowed in his field;  
32 it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and  
becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.'  
33 He told them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took  
and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.  
34 The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid;  
then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.  
35 Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls;  
36 on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.  
37 Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish  
of every kind;  
38 when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw  
out the bad.  
39 So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from  
the righteous  
40 and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of  
teeth.  
41 Have you understood all this?' They answered, 'Yes.'  
42 And he said to them, 'Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of  
heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and  
what is old.'

## THIS WEEK

Mon	25	July	NO Toddlers' Group this week	
Wed	27	July	Coffee in Church	10.30am-12 noon
Thur	28	July	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
			Grand Tea Party in aid of USPG (see below)	
			Choir Practice	7.00 – 8.30pm
Sun	31	July	<b><u>TRINITY 6</u></b>	
			Holy Communion (Pres: Fr George)	8.00am
			<b>SUNG EUCHARIST: crèche and Sunday School</b>	<b>9.30am</b>
			(Pres and Preacher: Fr Geoff)	
			followed by a Bring-&-Buy Sale	
			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.

DANIEL ELLIS WILLIAMSON, a second grandson for Martin and Vicki Matthews, was born on 19 July. Many congratulations to the family.

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.

PARISH LUNCH (3 August) and PARISH WALK (6 August): Please sign the lists if you wish to join in on either of these occasions. As it is the holiday month it is very important that you indicate whether you wish to participate as numbers may be small. The lunch will most probably be an outing to the Harvester at Two Bridges. Please sign the list if you wish to join in as we ought to book a table.

CHOIR PRACTICE: This Thursday's choir practice will be the last one until Thursday, 2nd September.

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.

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