



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

TRINITY 12

Sunday 11 September 2011

A warm welcome to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Sung Eucharist Fr Geoff celebrates and preaches and Paul Jenkins leads the intercessions.

Hymns: 626, 469, 427 and 442 (t 278)

Setting: Rawsthorne

Please stay on for tea and coffee which will be served in church after the 9.30 service and this is followed at 11.15am with our monthly Service of Thanksgiving and Praise. This is a Simple Eucharist and there is a speaker from the Anglican Society for the Welfare of Animals. Animals are welcome for a blessing!

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

For your prayers this week:

The Church: The Church's work in fostering world peace.

James Deng, Bishop of Sittwe, Myanmar.

USPG's Expanding Horizons programme.

The World: All people bereaved, disabled and traumatised by the 9/11 attacks.

All those who work to protect us from terrorist attacks.

The promotion of harmony and cooperation between nations, cultures and peoples.

The Community and Parish: Our Young People.

Inter faith work in Watford.

The Children's Society and other charities supported by our 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, Susetta Hartropp, Ben Heath, Jessie Hobby, Gladys

Holloway, Leena Hosie, Jenny Houghton, Mary Kearns, Dorothy

Kiddle, Lesley Kinch, Loretta Lynch, Maggie Maguire, Stella Nicholas,

Faith Nkugwa, Dorcas Ochola, Gaynor Osbourne, Helen Perry, Myrtle

Powell, Bryony Purse, Douglas Redman, June Tatnall, Eric and Anne

Wightman.

The Departed: Jean Iris Bownern; David Dickinson.

Collect

Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray and to give more than either we desire or deserve: pour down upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid and giving us those good things which we are not worthy to ask but through the merits and mediation of 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 14.19–31

A reading from the book of Exodus.

- ¹⁹ The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them.
- ²⁰ It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.
- ²¹ Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided.
- ²² The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.
- ²³ The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers.
- ²⁴ At the morning watch the LORD in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic.
- ²⁵ He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, 'Let us flee from the Israelites, for the LORD is fighting for them against Egypt.'
- ²⁶ Then the LORD said to Moses, 'Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers.'
- ²⁷ So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the LORD tossed the Egyptians into the sea.
- ²⁸ The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained.
- ²⁹ But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.
- ³⁰ Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore.
- ³¹ Israel saw the great work that the LORD did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the LORD and believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses.

SECOND READING Romans 14.1–12

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

- ¹ Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarrelling over opinions.
- ² Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables.
- ³ Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgement on those who eat; for God has welcomed them.

- 4 Who are you to pass judgement on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.
- 5 Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds.
- 6 Those who observe the day, observe it in honour of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honour of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honour of the Lord and give thanks to God.
- 7 We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves.
- 8 If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's.
- 9 For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.
- 10 Why do you pass judgement on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgement seat of God.
- 11 For it is written, 'As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God.'
- 12 So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

GOSPEL Matthew 18.21–35

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

- 21 Peter came and said to Jesus, 'Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?'
- 22 Jesus said to him, 'Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.
- 23 For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves.
- 24 When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him;
- 25 and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made.
- 26 So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything."
- 27 And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt.
- 28 But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow-slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, "Pay what you owe."
- 29 Then his fellow-slave fell down and pleaded with him, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you."
- 30 But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt.
- 31 When his fellow-slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place.
- 32 Then his lord summoned him and said to him, "You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me.
- 33 Should you not have had mercy on your fellow-slave, as I had mercy on you?"
- 34 And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt.
- 35 So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.'

THIS WEEK

Mon	12	Sep	Toddlers' Group	10 – 11.30am
Tue	13	Sep	Prayer Group (Choir Vestry)	2.30pm
Wed	14	Sep	Coffee in Church	10.30am-12 noon
			Home Manor	3.00pm
			PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL	7.55pm
Thur	15	Sep	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
			attended by Mothers' Union and followed by coffee and a meeting in choir vestry	
			(Students from Wesley College, Melbourne arrive)	
			Choir Practice	7 – 8.30pm
Sun	18	Sep	<u>TRINITY 13</u>	
			Holy Communion (Pres: Fr Geoff)	8.00am
			SUNG EUCHARIST (Pres and Preacher: Fr George;)	9.30am
			Performance of <i>Twelfth Night</i> in Church by the students from Wesley College	6.30pm

NOTICES

UNFORTUNATELY THE YOUTH QUIZ IN AID OF CHRISTIAN AID today has had to be CANCELLED due to lack of support.

MOTHERS' UNION BIBLE QUIZ: Following the success of last year's MU Bible Quiz, Violet has produced another one for your entertainment. Bible references are given. The quiz costs £1 (copies are at the west end of the church) and all the proceeds will go to Mothers' Union work in this country and overseas (see September Sword). There will be a small prize for the first correct entry drawn.

CRAFT WORKSHOPS FOR ADULTS CHILDREN AND FAMILIES: An ecumenical event planned for the afternoon of our Harvest Festival, Sunday 2nd October, **3.30-6.00pm**. Offers of craft activities for adults and children sought. Please make a note in your diaries. The workshop will be followed by Ecumenical Worship at St Michael's at 6 pm.

HARVEST SUPPER We are invited to the harvest supper at Trinity Methodist church on Monday, 3 October 2011 at 7 pm. Tickets are £5 and available from Fr Geoff.

PATRONAL FESTIVAL: Our Patronal Festival is on Thursday, 29 September and we are privileged to have the Dean of St Albans, the Very Rev Jeffrey John, to preside and preach at a Sung Eucharist which will start at 7.30 pm. This will be followed by festive refreshments. We hope that many of you will be able to attend.

DRAMA STUDENTS from Wesley College, Melbourne, Australia, will be coming soon and staying with families in West Watford. On Sunday, 18 September, starting at 6.30 pm they will be giving their own interpretation of Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night* in Church. Please do your best to attend this and give the Australians a warm welcome.