



# THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

*St Michael and All Angels*

Watford

**TRINITY 13**

Sunday 18 September 2011

A warm welcome to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Sung Eucharist Fr George celebrates and preaches and Valerie Alvarez leads the intercessions.

**Hymns: 604, 624 (t 282), 81 and 430**

**Setting: Rawsthorne**

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

At 6 30pm the drama students from Wesley College, Melbourne, will be giving their own interpretation of Twelfth Night. Please come along and support them.

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

**The Church:** Leopold Frade and Dabney Smith, Bishops of South Florida, USA, their dioceses and people.

The Anglican Peace and Justice Network.

The "Come Dine with USPG" campaign.

**The World:** All those suffering through the difficulties in the economy.

People suffering through floods in Pakistan and drought in East Africa.

Serving members and veterans of the Royal Air Force.

**The Community and Parish:** Our visitors from Wesley College, Melbourne

Plans for "Watford Celebration" in 2012

Staff and Residents at the Chase Care Centre.

**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, 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, Eric and Anne Wightman.

**The Departed:** Gladys Holloway, Douglas Redman, June Tatnall.

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**Collect**

Almighty God, who called your Church to bear witness that you were in Christ reconciling the world to yourself:  
help us to proclaim the good news of your love, that all who hear it may be drawn to you;  
through him who was lifted up on the cross, and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**FIRST READING Exodus 16.2–15**

A reading from the book of Exodus.

- 2 The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness.
- 3 The Israelites said to them, 'If only we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.'
- 4 Then the LORD said to Moses, 'I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not.'
- 5 On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days.'
- 6 So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, 'In the evening you shall know that it was the LORD who brought you out of the land of Egypt,
- 7 and in the morning you shall see the glory of the LORD, because he has heard your complaining against the LORD. For what are we, that you complain against us?'
- 8 And Moses said, 'When the LORD gives you meat to eat in the evening and your fill of bread in the morning, because the LORD has heard the complaining that you utter against him – what are we? Your complaining is not against us but against the LORD.'
- 9 Then Moses said to Aaron, 'Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, "Draw near to the LORD, for he has heard your complaining."'
- 10 And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked towards the wilderness, and the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud.
- 11 The LORD spoke to Moses and said,
- 12 'I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, "At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the LORD your God."'
- 13 In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp.
- 14 When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground.
- 15 When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, 'What is it?' For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, 'It is the bread that the LORD has given you to eat.'

**SECOND READING Philippians 1.21–30**

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.

21 For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain.  
22 If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labour for me; and I do not know which I prefer.  
23 I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better;  
24 but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you.  
25 Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith,  
26 so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.  
27 Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel,  
28 and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing.  
29 For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well –  
30 since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

## **GOSPEL Matthew 20.1–16**

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew. Jesus said to his disciples:

1 'The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard.  
2 After agreeing with the labourers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard.  
3 When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the market-place;  
4 and he said to them, "You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right." So they went.  
5 When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same.  
6 And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, "Why are you standing here idle all day?"  
7 They said to him, "Because no one has hired us." He said to them, "You also go into the vineyard."  
8 When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, "Call the labourers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first."  
9 When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage.  
10 Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage.  
11 And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner,  
12 saying, "These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat."  
13 But he replied to one of them, "Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage?  
14 Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you.  
15 Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?"  
16 So the last will be first, and the first will be last.'

## THIS WEEK

Mon	19	Sep	Toddlers' Group (Wesley College students leave at 8 am)	10 – 11.30am
Tue	20	Sep	Service at the Chase Care Home	2.30pm
Wed	21	Sep	Coffee in Church Bible Study (Choir Vestry)	10.30am-12 noon 8.00pm
Thur	22	Sep	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language) Choir Practice	10.00am 7 – 8.30pm
Sun	25	Sep	<b><u>TRINITY 14</u></b> Holy Communion (Pres: Fr George) <b>SUNG EUCHARIST</b> (Pres: Fr George; Preacher: Martin Heath) Evening Prayer	8.00am <b>9.30am</b> 6.00pm

## NOTICES

**WARNING!** Last Sunday during coffee a wallet including a credit card was stolen from a handbag which had been left on pew seat. The thief later tried to use the card to obtain money from an ATM. Luckily they were unsuccessful. Please keep a close eye on your possessions.

**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 have arrived 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 what promises to be a lively performance and give the Australians a warm welcome.