



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

TRINITY 14

Sunday 25 September 2011

A warm welcome to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Sung Eucharist Fr Geoff celebrates, Martin Heath preaches and Paul Chandler leads the intercessions.

Hymns: 398, 565, 262 and 563

Setting: Rawsthorne

Tea and coffee will be served in church after the 9.30 service and there will be a Bring-&-Buy Sale – please stay on.

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

For your prayers this week:

The Church: Herman Hollerith, Bishop of Southern Virginia, USA, Christopher Chessun, Bishop of Southwark, their Dioceses and People.
The Anglican Church in Zambia, and the work of USPG.
St John's Seminary, and St Francis' Hospital, Katete, in Zambia.

The World: Flood victims in Pakistan.
A peaceful and just solution between Israel and the Palestinian People.
Famine victims in East Africa and the Horn of Africa.

The Community and Parish: Jeffrey John, our Patronal Festival President and Preacher.
Chater Infants School.
Chaplaincy work at Watford General Hospital.

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: Douglas Redman, Robert Everett, Gladys Holloway and Gladys Robertson.

COLLECT

Almighty God, whose only Son has opened for us a new and living way into your presence: give us pure hearts and steadfast wills to worship you in spirit and in truth; 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 17.1–7

A reading from the book of Exodus.

- 1 From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink.
- 2 The people quarrelled with Moses, and said, 'Give us water to drink.' Moses said to them, 'Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?'
- 3 But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?'
- 4 So Moses cried out to the LORD, 'What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.'
- 5 The LORD said to Moses, 'Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go.
- 6 I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.' Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel.
- 7 He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarrelled and tested the LORD, saying, 'Is the LORD among us or not?'

SECOND READING Philippians 2.1–13

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.

- 1 If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy,
- 2 make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.
- 3 Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves.
- 4 Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others.
- 5 Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,
- 6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited,

7 but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And
being found in human form,
8 he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death – even death on a
cross.
9 Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every
name,
10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and
under the earth,
11 and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the
Father.
12 Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my
presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with
fear and trembling;
13 for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his
good pleasure.

GOSPEL Matthew 21.23–32

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

23 When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came
to him as he was teaching, and said, ‘By what authority are you doing these things,
and who gave you this authority?’
24 Jesus said to them, ‘I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then
I will also tell you by what authority I do these things.
25 Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?’ And they
argued with one another, ‘If we say, “From heaven,” he will say to us, “Why then
did you not believe him?”
26 But if we say, “Of human origin,” we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as
a prophet.’
27 So they answered Jesus, ‘We do not know.’ And he said to them, ‘Neither will I
tell you by what authority I am doing these things.
28 What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, “Son, go
and work in the vineyard today.”
29 He answered, “I will not”; but later he changed his mind and went.
30 The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, “I go, sir”; but
he did not go.
31 Which of the two did the will of his father?’ They said, ‘The first.’ Jesus said to
them, ‘Truly I tell you, the tax-collectors and the prostitutes are going into the
kingdom of God ahead of you.
32 For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but
the tax-collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you
did not change your minds and believe him.’

THIS WEEK

Mon	26	Sep	Toddlers' Group	10 – 11.30am
Tue	27	Sep	Pause and House Communion (134 Mildred Ave)	7.30pm
Wed	28	Sep	Coffee in Church	10.30am-12 noon
			Chater Infants School visit to St Michaels	1.15 – 3.00pm
Thur	29	Sep	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
			MICHAELMAS EUCHARIST (Pres & Preacher: The Very Rev Dr Jeffrey John, Dean of St Albans)	7.30pm
			Followed by festive refreshments	
Fri	30	Sep	Funeral of Gladys Holloway in church	10.30am
Sat	1	Oct	Parish Walk	10.00am
Sun	2	Oct	<u>HARVEST</u>	
			Holy Communion (Pres: Fr Geoff)	8.00am
			SUNG EUCHARIST (Pres and Preacher: Fr Geoff)	9.30am
			Craft Workshop	3.30 – 6.00pm
			United Service	6.00pm

NOTICES

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.

HARVEST: There will be a **RETIRING COLLECTION** on Sunday 2nd October in support of **Water Aid's** famine and drought relief projects in Ethiopia. As you will have seen in the media, the Horn of Africa has been drastically affected this year by water shortage and crop failure. Please do try to make a donation. A list of suggested **DRY GOODS** which will be given to the local Refugee Project and may be brought to the 9.30 service is at the back of the church. **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**. 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.

MOTHERS' UNION BIBLE QUIZ: All completed entries must be in the box at the back of the church by the end of September. There will be a small prize for the first correct entry drawn. There is still time to buy a copy of the quiz (price £1).

WARNING! Sunday before last 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.

PARISH WALK: Saturday, 1 October and **BRING-AND-SHARE LUNCH:** Wednesday, 5 October, at 12.30 pm. Please sign the lists on the signings table.

FINAL COPY DATE FOR THE OCTOBER SWORD is MIDDAY today Sunday, 25 September. Hard copy or floppy disc to Dennis Beach or email to dhbeach@sky.com.