



# THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

*St Michael and All Angels*

Watford

**LAST SUNDAY after TRINITY**

**BIBLE SUNDAY**

Sunday 23 October 2011

A warm welcome to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Sung Eucharist, Fr Geoff celebrates, Violet Allen-Smith preaches and Sarah Dunning leads the intercessions.

**Hymns: 606, 597 (t.9), 605 (t.416ii) and 474**

**Setting: Aston**

Please stay on for tea and coffee which will be served in church after the 9.30 service.

The Baptism of Chloë Eames-Odell is at 3.00pm.

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

---

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

**The Church:** The Anglican Observer at the United Nations.  
Holy Cross Theological College in Myanmar/Burma supported by USPG.  
Church Army work with homeless women in the Marylebone Project.

**The World:** One World Week bringing people together across the world.  
The work of the United Nations.  
People suffering economic hardship.

**The Community and Parish:** Our PCC.  
The prayer life of our Church.  
The young people of our deanery and town.

**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:**

---

**Collect**

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy scriptures to be written for our learning: help us so to hear them, to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them that, through patience, and the comfort of your holy word, we may embrace and for ever hold fast the hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**Nehemiah 8.1–4a, 8–12**

A reading from the book of Nehemiah.

- 1 All the people gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the LORD had given to Israel.
- 2 Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month.
- 3 He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law.
- 4 The scribe Ezra stood on a wooden platform that had been made for the purpose;
- 8 So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.
- 9 And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, 'This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep.' For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law.
- 10 Then he said to them, 'Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our LORD; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.'
- 11 So the Levites stilled all the people, saying, 'Be quiet, for this day is holy; do not be grieved.'
- 12 And all the people went their way to eat and drink and to send portions and to make great rejoicing, because they had understood the words that were declared to them.

## **SECOND READING Colossians 3.12–17**

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Colossians.

- <sup>12</sup> As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.
- <sup>13</sup> Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.
- <sup>14</sup> Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.
- <sup>15</sup> And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful.
- <sup>16</sup> Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God.
- <sup>17</sup> And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

## **GOSPEL Matthew 24.30–35**

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

Jesus said to his disciples:

- <sup>30</sup> 'The sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see "the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven" with power and great glory.
- <sup>31</sup> And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.
- <sup>32</sup> From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near.
- <sup>33</sup> So also, when you see all these things, you know that he is near, at the very gates.
- <sup>34</sup> Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place.
- <sup>35</sup> Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.'

## THIS WEEK

Mon	24	Oct	<i>School Half Term week</i>	
			Toddlers' Group	10 – 11.30am
Tue	25	Oct	Prayer Group (Choir Vestry)	2.30pm
			Pause (134 Mildred Avenue)	7.30pm
Wed	26	Oct	Coffee in Church	10.30am-12 noon
			<b>PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL</b>	7.55pm
Thur	27	Oct	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
			Choir Practice	7.00 – 8.30pm
Sun	30	Oct	<i>British Summer Time ends – put clocks back</i>	
			<b><u>ALL SAINTS</u></b>	
			Holy Communion (Pres: Fr Geoff)	8.00am
			<b>SUNG EUCHARIST</b> (President: Fr Geoff; preacher: Martin Heath) – followed by Bring-&-Buy Sale	<b>9.30am</b>
			Evening Prayer	6.00pm

## **NOTICES**

**CHRISTMAS FAIR:** 12 November 2011 from 11 .am – 2.30.pm. Have you read the article in this month's Sword? This is an annual event when we raise funds to help pay the 'housekeeping' bills. There are sheets on the signings table asking for many kinds of help. Please do your utmost to help this year. Tell your friends and neighbours about it. Make a note to have lunch at the Fair on that day. Start to bring items for sale as soon as you can. Your church needs YOU.

**FINAL COPY DATE FOR THE NOVEMBER SWORD** is midday today Sunday, 23 October. Hard copy or floppy disc to Dennis Beach or email to dhbeach@sky.com.

**MORNING PRAYER** in the Lady Chapel restarts tomorrow, Monday 24 October.

**MEMORIAL SERVICE:** Our annual Memorial Service will be on Sunday, 6 November at 9.30 am. This is the occasion when we invite those people in the parish who have lost a relative in recent months to come to church and light a candle in memory of the loved one. If you have a friend or neighbour who might like to come to this service please tell them about it.

**ALL SOULS:** Wednesday, 2 November 2011. We shall have a said Eucharist at 7.30 pm when the Chantry List (all the names in our Book of Remembrance which is kept in the Lady Chapel) will be read out.

**CHRISTMAS FAIR:** Have you started to make jam and marmalade for this yet. If you make that in the next few days then there will be plenty of time to make cakes nearer the date – 12 November 2011. – and provide time to help decorate the church and set up the stalls on the Friday before the Fair.