



# THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

*St Michael and All Angels*

Watford

BIRTH of JOHN the BAPTIST

24 June 2012

A warm welcome to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Eucharist, Fr Geoff celebrates and preaches. Pat Beach leads the intercessions.

**Hymns: 558, 235, 470, 396 (tune 530).**

**Setting: Wilson**

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

Animal Blessing Service at 3pm - all are welcome to bring their animals for a blessing.

Evening Prayer is at 6 pm.

(Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church meeting in St Michael's 12 - 2.30pm)

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

**The Church:** The Parish of Lemsford (nr Welwyn Garden City) in our Diocese.  
The Church of North India (United) Most Revd Dr Philip Marandih,  
Moderator of CNI and Bishop of Patna.  
USPG in Britain and Ireland and USPG's Annual Conference this week.

**The World:** The work of Christian Aid addressing poverty in the Dominican Republic.  
The people of Syria.  
Stable and just government in Egypt and Libya.

**The Community and Parish:** The welfare of animals under our care.  
Our toddlers' group.

The Bishop's Clergy Conference for the St Albans Diocese this week.

**The Ill and the Housebound:** Especially Bruce Alexander, Christopher Bilson, Peter Coley, Bill and Marion Craddock-Jones, Jean Crouch, Darrell Dunning, Ben Heath, Jessie Hobby, Leena Hosie, Jenny Houghton, Audrey and Harvey Jaquest, Mary Kearns, Lesley Kinch, Loretta Lynch, Jacqui Lyons, Maggie Maguire, Stella Nicholas, Faith Nkugwa, Dorcas Ochola, Helen Perry, Myrtle Powell, Christina and David Simon, Rosie Waite, Eric and Anne Wightman.

**The Departed:** The Revd Bridget Adams.

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# THE BIRTH OF JOHN THE BAPTIST

YEARS A B C

24 June

## COLLECT

Almighty God, by whose providence your servant John the Baptist was wonderfully born, and sent to prepare the way of your Son our Saviour by the preaching of repentance:

lead us to repent according to his preaching and, after his example, constantly to speak the truth, boldly to rebuke vice, and patiently to suffer for the truth's sake; 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 Isaiah 40.1-11

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

<sup>1</sup> Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.

<sup>2</sup> Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.

<sup>3</sup> A voice cries out: 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

<sup>4</sup> Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.

<sup>5</sup> Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.'

<sup>6</sup> A voice says, 'Cry out!' And I said, 'What shall I cry?' All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field.

<sup>7</sup> The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass.

<sup>8</sup> The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever.

<sup>9</sup> Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, 'Here is your God!'

<sup>10</sup> See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.

<sup>11</sup> He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

## SECOND READING Acts 13.14b-26

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

<sup>14</sup> On the sabbath day Paul and his companions went into the synagogue and sat down.

<sup>15</sup> After the reading of the law and the prophets, the officials of the synagogue sent them a message, saying, 'Brothers, if you have any word of exhortation for the people, give it.'

<sup>16</sup> So Paul stood up and with a gesture began to speak: 'You Israelites, and others who fear God, listen.

<sup>17</sup> The God of this people Israel chose our ancestors and made the people great during their stay in the land of Egypt, and with uplifted arm he led them out of it.  
<sup>18</sup> For about forty years he put up with them in the wilderness.  
<sup>19</sup> After he had destroyed seven nations in the land of Canaan, he gave them their land as an inheritance  
<sup>20</sup> for about four hundred and fifty years. After that he gave them judges until the time of the prophet Samuel.  
<sup>21</sup> Then they asked for a king; and God gave them Saul son of Kish, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, who reigned for forty years.  
<sup>22</sup> When he had removed him, he made David their king. In his testimony about him he said, "I have found David, son of Jesse, to be a man after my heart, who will carry out all my wishes."  
<sup>23</sup> Of this man's posterity God has brought to Israel a Saviour, Jesus, as he promised;  
<sup>24</sup> before his coming John had already proclaimed a baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel.  
<sup>25</sup> And as John was finishing his work, he said, "What do you suppose that I am? I am not he. No, but one is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of the sandals on his feet."  
<sup>26</sup> My brothers, you descendants of Abraham's family, and others who fear God, to us the message of this salvation has been sent.'

## **GOSPEL Luke 1.57–66, 80**

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

<sup>57</sup> The time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son.  
<sup>58</sup> Her neighbours and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her.  
<sup>59</sup> On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him Zechariah after his father.  
<sup>60</sup> But his mother said, 'No; he is to be called John.'  
<sup>61</sup> They said to her, 'None of your relatives has this name.'  
<sup>62</sup> Then they began motioning to his father to find out what name he wanted to give him.  
<sup>63</sup> He asked for a writing-tablet and wrote, 'His name is John.' And all of them were amazed.  
<sup>64</sup> Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue freed, and he began to speak, praising God.  
<sup>65</sup> Fear came over all their neighbours, and all these things were talked about throughout the entire hill country of Judea.  
<sup>66</sup> All who heard them pondered them and said, 'What then will this child become?' For, indeed, the hand of the Lord was with him.  
<sup>80</sup> The child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day he appeared publicly to Israel.

## THIS WEEK

|      |    |      |  |                 |
|------|----|------|--|-----------------|
| Mon  | 25 | June | NO Toddlers' Group                                       |                 |
| Wed  | 27 | June | Coffee in Church   | 10.30am-12 noon |
| Thur | 28 | June | Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)       | 10.00am         |
|      |    |      | Choir Practice   | 7.00 – 8.30pm   |
| Sun  | 1  | July | <b><u>TRINITY 4</u></b>                                  |                 |
|      |    |      | Holy Communion (Pres: Fr George)                         | 8.00am          |
|      |    |      | <b>SUNG EUCHARIST</b> (President and preacher Fr George) | 9.30am          |
|      |    |      | Evening Prayer   | 6.00pm          |

### **NOTICES**

**FINAL COPY DATE FOR THE JULY SWORD** is TODAY Sunday, 24 June. Hard copy or floppy disc to Dennis Beach or email to dhbeach@sky.com.

**CHILDREN'S SOCIETY BOXES:** It is the time of year when these are emptied and the collection sent to the Society. If you have one please bring it in to Norma Twitchin to be emptied.

#### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:**

**WEDNESDAY 4TH JULY**, 10.30am in Church – presentation by neighbourhood police team on protecting against distraction burglary, purse dipping, and rogue traders. Please tell your neighbours and aim to come. Coffee will be served.

**LUNCHTIME BARBECUE 8 JULY 2012** – at 8 Cassiobury Park Avenue Tickets are £6 (including all food); children under 5 free. Tickets are available from any member of the Social Committee now. Please get yours early.

**SUNDAY, 15 JULY 2012 AT 6.30 pm.** Archdeacon Jonathan Smith is coming to Choral Evensong which will include the induction of Fr Geoffrey Calvert as our Vicar. Please make every effort to attend this very special occasion for Fr Geoff and St Michael's.

**WEDNESDAY 25TH JULY, 7.55pm:** for PCC members and anyone else interested – a special meeting with Geoff Fletcher, Diocesan Stewardship Officer.

**SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL AT PENDLEY MANOR:** Last year 10 of us went to this and had a very enjoyable evening. This year the plays and dates are as follows: Romeo and Juliet (31 July to 4 August) and Much Ado About Nothing (7-11 August). If you would be interested in joining a group to go to one of these plays please sign the list on the signings table within the next week.