



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

12th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY
Sunday 26 August 2012

A warm welcome to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Eucharist, Fr Geoff celebrates and Violet Allen-Smith preaches. Pat Beach leads the intercessions. The service will include the Renewal of Marriage Vows between Mark and Elizabeth Watkin.

Hymns: 467, 281, 318 and 299

Setting: White (traditional words)

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

(The Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church will be using the church 1 – 5 pm)

Evening Prayer in the Lady Chapel at 6.00 pm.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: The Parish of St Mary, Ponsbourne in our Diocese.
The Anglican Church of the Southern Cone of South America.
The Church of Bangladesh, and the work of USPG there.

The World: All who acts as mentors, guides, counsellors and trainers.
All those living with HIV/AIDS.
The people of Syria.

The Community and Parish: Children and young people preparing to begin, or return to school.
Teachers and school staff in our local area.
Members of our congregation celebrating special wedding anniversaries this year.

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

The Departed:

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 I Kings 8.22–30, 41–43

A reading from the first book of Kings.

- 22 Then Solomon stood before the altar of the LORD in the presence of all the assembly of Israel, and spread out his hands to heaven.
- 23 He said, 'O LORD, God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven above or on earth beneath, keeping covenant and steadfast love for your servants who walk before you with all their heart,
- 24 the covenant that you kept for your servant my father David as you declared to him; you promised with your mouth and have this day fulfilled with your hand.
- 25 Therefore, O LORD, God of Israel, keep for your servant my father David that which you promised him, saying, "There shall never fail you a successor before me to sit on the throne of Israel, if only your children look to their way, to walk before me as you have walked before me."
- 26 Therefore, O God of Israel, let your word be confirmed, which you promised to your servant my father David.
- 27 But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Even heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you, much less this house that I have built!
- 28 Have regard to your servant's prayer and his plea, O LORD my God, heeding the cry and the prayer that your servant prays to you today;
- 29 that your eyes may be open night and day towards this house, the place of which you said, "My name shall be there," that you may heed the prayer that your servant prays toward this place.
- 30 Hear the plea of your servant and of your people Israel when they pray towards this place; O hear in heaven your dwelling-place; heed and forgive.
- 41 Likewise when a foreigner, who is not of your people Israel, comes from a distant land because of your name –
- 42 for they shall hear of your great name, your mighty hand, and your outstretched arm – when a foreigner comes and prays toward this house,
- 43 then hear in heaven your dwelling place, and do according to all that the foreigner calls to you, so that all the peoples of the earth may know your name and fear you, as do your people Israel, and so that they may know that your name has been invoked on this house that I have built.'

SECOND READING Ephesians 6.10–20

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians.

- 10 Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power.

11 Put on the whole armour of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

12 For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

13 Therefore take up the whole armour of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm.

14 Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness.

15 As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace.

16 With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one.

17 Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

18 Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints.

19 Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel,

20 for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

GOSPEL John 6.56–69

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

Jesus said to the crowd:

56 'Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them.

57 Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me.

58 This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live for ever.'

59 He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

60 When many of his disciples heard it, they said, 'This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?'

61 But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, 'Does this offend you?

62 Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before?

63 It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life.

64 But among you there are some who do not believe.' For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him.

65 And he said, 'For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father.'

66 Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him.

67 So Jesus asked the twelve, 'Do you also wish to go away?'

68 Simon Peter answered him, 'Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life.

69 We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.'

THIS WEEK

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|------|----|-----|---|-----------------|
| Mon | 27 | Aug | <i>Bank Holiday</i> NO Toddlers' Group | |
| Wed | 29 | Aug | Coffee in Church | 10.30am-12 noon |
| Thur | 30 | Aug | Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language) | 10.00am |
| Sun | 2 | Sep | <u>TRINITY 13</u> Holy Communion (Pres: Fr Geoff) | 8.00am |
| | | | SUNG EUCHARIST | 9.30am |
| | | | President and preacher Fr Geoff | |
| | | | Evening Prayer | 6.00pm |

NOTICES

MARK & ELIZABETH WATKIN are celebrating their Ruby Wedding and renewing their marriage vows during the 9.30 Eucharist this morning. They invite you all to refreshments after the service to celebrate the occasion.

ART EXHIBITION There will be an INSPIRE Art Exhibition in St Michael's from 8 – 22 September. The Church will be open at published times each day during this period. Normal service times will not be altered.

EMMAUS: Please give your completed form to Father Geoff as soon as you can so that he can plan the Emmaus course. He will be happy to talk to you about the course if you have any queries.

FINAL COPY DATE FOR THE SEPTEMBER SWORD is MIDDAY today, Sunday, 26 August. Hard copy or floppy disc to Dennis Beach or email to dhbeach@sky.com

SIX O'CLOCK SERIES - 16 SEPTEMBER AT 6 PM: This service will take the form of a songs of praise followed by refreshments. We invite parishioners to suggest any hymns, readings or poems, that they would like to see included in this service. There is a list for your suggestions on the signings table at the west end.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

11 September Interscessory Prayer Group at 2.30 pm (Valerie Alvarez)

17 September Bible Study at 8 pm (Violet Allen Smith)

Everyone is very welcome to attend any of the groups. If you would like further information please ask the person named above.

8 September 2012: Sponsored Bike 'n Hike Ride. Please see article in the August Sword. After spending so much time in front of the TV watching the Olympics, this is your opportunity to get some exercise by doing a sponsored bike ride or walk on 8 September. Phil Gough has more details. If you are able to welcome visitors to our church during the morning or afternoon please see Jannice Mordue or Sylvia Moring.