

Happening in church this week..

Wednesday 10am-12noon - Coffee morning and Foodbank
5.30pm - Eucharist

Sunday 9.30am - Morning Prayer from the 1662 Book of
Common Prayer led by Reader Stephen Davidson

Celebrating Our Community - this week we shine a spotlight on all those who add to the spirituality of our Sunday Service by leading the intercessions.

Thank you!

If you would like to shine a spotlight on someone, please email **halfsentence@gmail.com** with their name and a brief explanation.

First Aid Kits

Outside the clergy vestry.
In the ladies toilet.

Baby Changing

In the ladies toilet

Every donation that is made to **SAINT MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS PCC WATFORD** is gratefully received.

Code 20-91-79

Account 70409448.

Gift Aid? Please contact a warden.

Thank you very much!

Contact: Father Stephen Mephram 07852 622904
Stephenmephram07@gmail.com

For Home Communion

Contact: Martin Heath 01923 249168

www.stmichaels-watford.org.uk

St Michael and All Angels PCC is a Registered Charity No 1132010



St Michael & All Angels,
Watford

THE MESSENGER



9TH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Sunday 17th August 2025

Welcome to our service today. Father Robert Fletcher is presiding,

Hymns

for this Sunday
are:

144

Come, let us join
our cheerful songs

183

Holy Spirit,
come, confirm us

423

Fight the good
fight

386

Be thou my
vision

In your prayers this week:

The Church

Norton (Hitchin) Eugene Hanshaw, (Rs) Helen Giles, Karen Williams, (LLW) Susan Taylor

ACP Scottish Episcopal Church

The World

For all suffering from war and hardship—especially in Gaza, Sudan, Israel, Ukraine, and Russia—Lord, grant protection, comfort, and strength. Guide leaders toward peace and compassion. Bring hope to the despairing, healing to the grieving, and courage to the fearful. Bless our veterans and troops, past and present, and lead us toward lasting peace. For all harmed by climate change, grant relief and resilience, and inspire us to care for your creation with wisdom, humility, and love.

The Community and Parish

Happy 90th Birthday to Fay Storey and thanks for her her life, love, and faithful service. For the beauty she brought to our church and the care she gave so generously, we are deeply grateful. Bless her with joy and peace as she continues to shine with Your grace. Lord, bless our local small business owners. May their hard work be recognised, their efforts rewarded with fair profit, their staff paid justly, their service valued, and their families provided for.

The Ill and the Housebound

Especially Jean Alexander, Julie Alvarez, Janet Chandler, David Dimmock, Mihai Fezariu, Jemima Hill, Zuzana Hruskova, Owen Hutchinson, Sylvia Obeng, Valerie O’Riordan, Morris Parbhu, Matthew Paterson, Catherine Stone, Fay Storey, Keziah Thairu, Adelaide Tonkin and all who care for them

The Departed

Collect

Almighty God, who sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of your Church: open our hearts to the riches of your grace, that we may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit in love and joy and peace; 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 5.1–7

Let me sing for my beloved my love-song concerning his vineyard: My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill. He dug it and cleared it of stones, and planted it with choice vines; he built a watch-tower in the midst of it, and hewed out a wine vat in it; he expected it to yield grapes, but it yielded wild grapes. And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and people of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. What more was there to do for my vineyard that I have not done in it? When I expected it to yield grapes, why did it yield wild grapes? And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard. I will remove its hedge, and it shall be devoured; I will break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down. I will make it a waste; it shall not be pruned or hoed, and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns; I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it. For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel, and the people of Judah are his pleasant planting; he expected justice, but saw bloodshed; righteousness, but heard a cry!

SECOND READING

Hebrews 11.29–12.2

By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace. And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets-who through faith conquered kingdoms,

administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned to death, they were sawn in two, they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented-of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground. Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had provided something better so that they would not, without us, be made perfect. Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

GOSPEL READING

Luke 12.49–56

I came to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! I have a baptism with which to be baptised, and what stress I am under until it is completed! Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! From now on, five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; they will be divided: father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law. He also said to the crowds, When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, It is going to rain; and so it happens. And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, There will be scorching heat; and it happens. You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?