



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

TRINITY 9

14 August 2022

Welcome to our service today. We are now able to receive the wine at communion. There will be a chalice on your left for those who wish to receive by drinking, and on your right for those who wish to receive by dipping their wafer in the wine. You are also welcome to just receive the bread.

Hymn numbers are CP1 Awake my soul. Pt 1 plus doxology, CP191 O thou who camest from above, CP498 Let us with a gladsome mind, (Lead me Lord-Communion Anthem), CP585 The Church's one foundation (Omit * verses).

For your prayers this week:

The Church: The Parish of St Paul, Letchworth.

The Extra-Provincial Churches of the Anglican Communion.

Anglican Franciscan Brothers and Sisters.

The World: All those facing hardship through the increased cost of living.

Farmers unable to produce food because of drought.

All those vulnerable to hot weather conditions.

The Community and Parish: Our Churchwardens.

People who have recently joined our congregation.

Our children and young people and their families.

The Ill and the Housebound: Especially Jean Alexander, Violet Allen-Smith, Janet Chandler, Sue Ellison, Jemima Hill, Ron Hornsby, Keith Levinson, Lisa Mills, 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

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

- ¹ Let me sing for my beloved my love-song concerning his vineyard: My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill.
- ² 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.
- ³ And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and people of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard.
- ⁴ 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?
- ⁵ 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.
- ⁶ 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.
- ⁷ 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

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

- ²⁹ By faith the people of Israel passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned.
- ³⁰ By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days.
- ³¹ By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace.
- ³² 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 –
- ³³ who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions,
- ³⁴ quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight.

35 Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to
accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection.
36 Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment.
37 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 –
38 of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains,
and in caves and holes in the ground.
39 Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what
was promised,
40 since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us,
be made perfect.
1 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,
2 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 Luke 12.49–56

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

Jesus said to his disciples:

49 'I came to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled!
50 I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what stress I am under until it is
completed!
51 Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but
rather division!
52 From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two
against three;
53 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.'
54 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.
55 And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, "There will be scorching
heat"; and it happens.
56 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?'

Our Eucharist for **Trinity 9** is available to attend in person or via livestream on our YouTube channel “St Michael’s Church Watford”
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC8GTX0MfiICGmcDUkXTGFSw>

The 10.00am Eucharist on Thursdays is also available to attend in person, and livestreamed.

The Church will be open for tea and coffee on Wednesday mornings from 10.00am – 12.00 noon.

The funeral of Mervyn Jones is at St Lawrence’s Church, Whitchurch Lane, Little Stanmore on Wednesday 17th August at 12.30pm. St Michaels’ folk are very welcome.

Please put Saturday 10th September in your diary. There will be things going on all day at St Michael’s. In the morning – Angelic Coffee and Bring and Buy. In the afternoon – Tea on the Triangle. The Church will be open all day for the Historic Churches Trust Bike ‘n Hike, and also for Heritage Open Day.

There will be a St Michael’s Family Fun Sports Day in Cassiobury Park on 27th August, 2.00pm – 5.00pm. All ages welcome, children accompanied by parents or carers. Bring a picnic.

In conjunction with a designer we have been working on a new website for St Michael’s. It still needs further work and we will continue to refine and expand the contents but we think it is now sufficiently advanced to be ready for release. Please do have a look at it via the following link:

<http://www.stmichaels-watford.org.uk/>.

All comments will be gratefully received either by the Vicar or by Simon Fowle (simon.fowle@ntlworld.com).