



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

TRINITY 13

Sunday 3 September 2023

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.

Welcome to our service today, which is a “First Sunday” service.

Hymns are: 418 Father, Lord of all creation, 416 Father hear the prayer we offer, HONA 322 Love is his word (words inside), 470 I the Lord of Sea and Sky.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: The Parish of all Saints with St Peter, Luton.
The Church of the Province of the Indian Ocean.
All those exploring a vocation to lay or ordained ministry.

The World: All those caring for someone living with dementia.
Victims of the Johannesburg fire.
Children with cancer.

The Community and Parish: Lay and ordained ministers in the Watford Deanery.
Our Food Bank volunteers.
The people who make tea and coffee for us.

The Ill and the Housebound: Especially Jean Alexander, Violet Allen-Smith, Julie Alvarez, June Arnold, Janet Chandler, Paddy Gaffney, Jemima Hill, Owen Hutchinson, Kristine Jenkins, Lisa Mills, Josephine Stadden, Catherine Stone, Fay Storey, Adelaide Tonkin, and all who care for them.

The Departed:

Collect

Almighty God, who called your Church to bear witness that you were in Christ reconciling the world to yourself:
help us to proclaim the good news of your love, that all who hear it may be drawn to you;
through him who was lifted up on the cross, and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING Romans 12: 9-18 Good News Bible

Love must be completely sincere. Hate what is evil, hold on to what is good. Love one another warmly as Christians, and be eager to show respect for one another. Work hard and do not be lazy.

Serve the Lord with a heart full of devotion. Let your hope keep you joyful, be patient in your troubles, and pray at all times. Share your belongings with your needy fellow Christians, and open your homes to strangers.

Ask God to bless those who persecute you - yes, ask him to bless, not to curse. Be happy with those who are happy, weep with those who weep. Have the same concern for everyone.

Do not be proud, but accept humble duties. Do not think of yourselves as wise. If someone has done you wrong, do not repay him with a wrong. Try to do what everyone considers to be good.

Do everything possible on your part to live in peace with everybody.

This is the word of the Lord

GOSPEL Matthew 16.21-28

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

- ²¹ From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised.
- ²² And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, 'God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.'
- ²³ But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling-block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.'
- ²⁴ Then Jesus told his disciples, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.'
- ²⁵ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.

- 26 For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or
what will they give in return for their life?
- 27 For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he
will repay everyone for what has been done.
- 28 Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they
see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.'

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HYMN 3 "Love is His word"

1. Love is His word, love is His way,
Feasting with all, fasting alone,
Living and dying, rising again
Love, only love is His way.

(Chorus)

*Richer than gold is the love of my Lord.
Better than splendour and wealth.*

2. Love is His way, love is His mark,
Sharing His last Passover feast.
Christ at the table, host to the twelve
Love, only love, is His mark.

3. Love is his mark, love is His sign,
Bread for our strength, wine for our joy,
This is my body, this is my blood
Love, only love is His sign.

4. Love is His sign, love is His news,
Do this He said Lest you forget
All my deep sorrow, all my dear blood,
Love, only love, is His news.

5. Love is His news, Love is His name,
We are His own, chosen and called,
Family, brethren, cousins and kin.
Love, only love is His name.

6. Love is His name, love is His law,
Hear His command, all who are His,
Love one another, I have loved you
Love, only love, is His law.

7. Love is His law, Love is His word,
Love of the Lord, Father, and Word,
Love of the Spirit, God ever one,
Love, only love, is His word.

Our service today 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.

On Saturday 9th September, St Michael’s will be open from 9.00am to 5.00pm for Heritage Open Day, and the Bike & Hike for the Beds & Herts Historic Churches Trust. Please do drop in and tell your friends about it. Angelic Coffee will be available all day! Please also see Bob Bilson about sponsoring the Bike & Hike. Half of the proceeds come back to St Michael’s.

Don’t forget to come on Monday 11th September at 17.30 to enjoy the energetic musical interpretation of *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* by our friends from Wesley College, Melbourne. This is suitable for all ages. More information available from Jane Talbot.

A preview of their performance is on YouTube:

<https://youtu.be/oJ3a5lC1hvc>

If any of you are able and willing to provide some cake towards their dinner it would be really appreciated. If you can help please leave them in Church on Sunday 10th with a note on saying it is for Wesley College.