



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

MICHAELMAS
Sunday 24 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.

A warm welcome to our services today when we celebrate our Patronal Festival.

Hymns are: 230 Ye watchers and ye holy ones, 245 Around the throne of God, 246 Christ the fair glory, In this place (leaflet).

For your prayers this week:

The Church: The Parish of Sarratt in our Diocese.

The Church of Ireland.

People working in chaplaincy.

The World: People who suffer with migraines.

People living in areas dependent on tourism.

The work of MacMillan Cancer Support.

The Community and Parish: People preparing for marriage in Watford.

Work at St Michael's towards net zero carbon.

The care and maintenance of our Church building.

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

Everlasting God, you have ordained and constituted the ministries of angels and mortals in a wonderful order: grant that as your holy angels always serve you in heaven, so, at your command, they may help and defend us on earth; 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 Genesis 28.10–17

A reading from the book of Genesis.

¹⁰ Jacob left Beer-sheba and went towards Haran.

¹¹ He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place.

¹² And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it.

¹³ And the LORD stood beside him and said, 'I am the LORD, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring;

¹⁴ and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring.

¹⁵ Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.'

¹⁶ Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, 'Surely the LORD is in this place – and I did not know it!'

¹⁷ And he was afraid, and said, 'How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.'

SECOND READING Hebrews 1.5–14

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

- ⁵ To which of the angels did God ever say, ‘You are my Son; today I have begotten you’? Or again, ‘I will be his Father, and he will be my Son’?
- ⁶ And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, ‘Let all God’s angels worship him.’
- ⁷ Of the angels he says, ‘He makes his angels winds, and his servants flames of fire.’
- ⁸ But of the Son he says, ‘Your throne, O God, is for ever and ever, and the righteous sceptre is the sceptre of your kingdom.
- ⁹ You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.’
- ¹⁰ And, ‘In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands;
- ¹¹ they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like clothing;
- ¹² like a cloak you will roll them up, and like clothing they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will never end.’
- ¹³ But to which of the angels has he ever said, ‘Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet’?
- ¹⁴ Are not all angels spirits in the divine service, sent to serve for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation?

GOSPEL John 1.47–51

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

- ⁴⁷ When Jesus saw Nathanael coming towards him, he said of him, ‘Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!’
- ⁴⁸ Nathanael asked him, ‘Where did you come to know me?’ Jesus answered, ‘I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you.’
- ⁴⁹ Nathanael replied, ‘Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!’
- ⁵⁰ Jesus answered, ‘Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these.’
- ⁵¹ And he said to him, ‘Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.’

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.

Next Sunday will be a First Sunday of the Month Service with the theme of **Harvest**. Harvest Gifts will be going to Watford Food Bank. Please make sure your contributions of tinned or dried food have a sell by date long ahead. Monetary contributions will go to the Bishop of St Albans Harvest Appeal 2023.

All Christians in Watford are invited to “An evening encounter with our Creator God on Climate Change”. Sunday 24th September at St Mary’s Church Watford, 5.30pm - 6.45pm (refreshments from 5.00pm) Details at the back of Church.

Norma will be having a Bring-and-Buy Sale after the 9.30 service today, Sunday, 24th September. Please support.

New Hope, in conjunction with Watford Borough Council, will be running a winter shelter from 1st December 2023 to 31st March 2024 – providing a hot meal and emergency accommodation for people rough sleeping in the town.

Help is needed! - as follows:

Support workers (info at website newhope.org.uk/jobs), volunteers to help prepare meals, set up the room and staff the reception area (info at website newhope.org.uk/volunteers).

An additional freezer, and donations of food such as mince and vegetables, for healthy, hot meals

contact rpalmer@newhope.org.uk