



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

HARVEST FESTIVAL

Sunday 1 October 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: 270 Come, ye thankful people come, 254 For the fruits of his creation, Thank you Lord for this new day (leaflet), 275 We plough the fields and scatter.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: Church musicians, and the Royal School of Church Music.

The Anglican Church of Japan.

The Bishop of St Albans’ Harvest Appeal.

The World: Victims of the fire in Iraq: the dead and bereaved and those with life-changing injuries.

Food producers and distributors.

People suffering from inadequate food and other necessities.

The Community and Parish: The Watford Food Bank.

All who work in food retail and distribution.

People in Watford who struggle to feed families.

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

Eternal God,

you crown the year with your goodness and you give us the fruits of the earth in their season: grant that we may use them to your glory, for the relief of those in need and for our own well-being; 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 Deuteronomy 8.7–18

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy.

- ⁷ The LORD your God is bringing you into a good land, a land with flowing streams, with springs and underground waters welling up in valleys and hills,
⁸ a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey,
⁹ a land where you may eat bread without scarcity, where you will lack nothing, a land whose stones are iron and from whose hills you may mine copper.
¹⁰ You shall eat your fill and bless the LORD your God for the good land that he has given you.
¹¹ Take care that you do not forget the LORD your God, by failing to keep his commandments, his ordinances, and his statutes, which I am commanding you today.
¹² When you have eaten your fill and have built fine houses and live in them,
¹³ and when your herds and flocks have multiplied, and your silver and gold is multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied,
¹⁴ then do not exalt yourself, forgetting the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery,
¹⁵ who led you through the great and terrible wilderness, an arid waste-land with poisonous snakes and scorpions. He made water flow for you from flint rock, and fed you in the wilderness with manna that your ancestors did not know, to humble you and to test you, and in the end to do you good.
¹⁶ Do not say to yourself, 'My power and the might of my own hand have gained me this wealth.'
¹⁷ But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth, so that he may confirm his covenant that he swore to your ancestors, as he is doing today.

SECOND READING 2 Corinthians 9.6–15

A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

- ⁶ The one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.
⁷ Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.
⁸ And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.

9 As it is written, 'He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor; his righteousness endures for ever.'

10 He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness.

11 You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us;

12 for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God.

13 Through the testing of this ministry you glorify God by your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ and by the generosity of your sharing with them and with all others,

14 while they long for you and pray for you because of the surpassing grace of God that he has given you.

15 Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

GOSPEL Luke 12.16–30

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

16 Jesus told the people a parable: 'The land of a rich man produced abundantly.

17 And he thought to himself, "What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?"

18 Then he said, "I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods.

19 And I will say to my soul, 'Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.'"

20 But God said to him, "You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?"

21 So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich towards God.'

22 He said to his disciples, 'Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear.

23 For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing.

24 Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds!

25 And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life?

26 If then you are not able to do so small a thing as that, why do you worry about the rest?

27 Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these.

28 But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you – you of little faith!

29 And do not keep striving for what you are to eat and what you are to drink, and do not keep worrying.

30 For it is the nations of the world that strive after all these things, and your Father knows that you need them.'

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.

Today is 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.

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

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