



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

TRINITY 19

Sunday 15 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.

Hymns are: 453 Great is thy faithfulness, 589 The king of love my shepherd is, 313 My God and is thy table spread, 455 Guide me, O thou great redeemer.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: The Parish of Ravensden in our Diocese.

The Anglican Church of Kenya.

The Church's work in peacemaking.

The World: The dead, injured, bereaved, traumatised, suffering and taken hostage of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and all their loved ones.

That world leaders may work for peace and reconciliation.

The Community and Parish: All those who look after our buildings.

The Watford Interfaith Association.

Laurance Haines School.

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**Collect**

O God, forasmuch as without you we are not able to please you; mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; 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 Exodus 32.1–14

A reading from the book of Exodus.

- ¹ When the people of Israel saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people gathered around Aaron, and said to him, 'Come, make gods for us, who shall go before us; as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.'
- ² Aaron said to them, 'Take off the gold rings that are on the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me.'
- ³ So all the people took off the gold rings from their ears, and brought them to Aaron.
- ⁴ He took the gold from them, formed it in a mould, and cast an image of a calf; and they said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!'
- ⁵ When Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made proclamation and said, 'Tomorrow shall be a festival to the LORD.'
- ⁶ They rose early the next day, and offered burnt-offerings and brought sacrifices of well-being; and the people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to revel.
- ⁷ The LORD said to Moses, 'Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely;
- ⁸ they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf, and have worshipped it and sacrificed to it, and said, "These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!"'
- ⁹ The LORD said to Moses, 'I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are.
- ¹⁰ Now let me alone, so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them; and of you I will make a great nation.'
- ¹¹ But Moses implored the LORD his God, and said, 'O LORD, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand?
- ¹² Why should the Egyptians say, "It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth"? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people.
- ¹³ Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, "I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it for ever."
- ¹⁴ And the LORD changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

SECOND READING Philippians 4.1–9

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.

- 1 My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.
- 2 I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord.
- 3 Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.
- 4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.
- 5 Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near.
- 6 Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.
- 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.
- 8 Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.
- 9 Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

GOSPEL Matthew 22.1–14

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

- 1 Once more Jesus spoke to the chief priests and Pharisees in parables, saying:
- 2 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son.
- 3 He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come.
- 4 Again he sent other slaves, saying, "Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet."
- 5 But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business,
- 6 while the rest seized his slaves, maltreated them, and killed them.
- 7 The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city.
- 8 Then he said to his slaves, "The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy.
- 9 Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet."
- 10 Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.
- 11 But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe,
- 12 and he said to him, "Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?" And he was speechless.
- 13 Then the king said to the attendants, "Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."
- 14 For many are called, but few are chosen.

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 begins the Week of Prayer for World Peace. Prayer leaflets are at the back of Church, with prayers for each day from different faiths.

All are warmly invited to attend Watford Interfaith Association’s annual Week of Prayer for World Peace gathering in the Peace Garden on Sunday 22nd October at 2.00pm, commencing with planting, and prayers at 3.00pm. Everyone is welcome to come along and give prayers or reflections about world peace from spiritual, faith perspectives, or just silent appraisal. Everyone is also invited to bring donations of plants of all kinds and bulbs for spring flowering, both on Sunday 22nd, and Wednesday 25th October at 10 am.

We are fast approaching the time when we turn our attention to the Christmas Fair, our biggest fundraising event of the year and most fun. As in previous years we will be serving lunches and having many varied stalls. We would like to start collecting items for the stalls from now. Please see below some ideas.

Soft toys your children have outgrown and would be willing to donate for a Soft Toy Tombola.

Bottles of any shape or size that will fit into a bottle bag eg wine, vinegar, washing up liquid, sauce or bubble bath to name a few. The more diverse the better for a Bottle Bag Lucky Dip. Used bottle bags gratefully received.

Items suitable for a raffle or tombola - a good way to repurpose gifts and good condition used items.

If you have a contact in a local company who you think may be willing to give a voucher or piece of merchandise as a raffle prize please speak to Valerie Blacklock who can provide a letter.

If you cannot source any of the above but would like to support a stall you may consider being a sponsor by giving a donation that we can use to buy the items.

Any ideas for a stall also welcome.

On the day we will welcome donations of cakes and preserves.

Maggie Shrive is organising the lunches and will have more information nearer the time.

As always, we welcome anyone who wishes to help on the day and beforehand to make the church ready.

Above all we want the day to be fun.

Best wishes from your organising group: Maggie, Elizabeth, Julie, Charissa and Valerie