



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

TRINITY 20

Sunday 22 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: 202 Holy holy holy, 497 Let all the world, 565 Rock of ages, 612 We have a gospel to proclaim.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: The Parish of Thurleigh in our Diocese.
The Anglican Church of Korea
The Al-Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza (run by the Anglican Church).

The World: De-escalation of violent conflict in Israeli and Palestinian Territories.
World, regional and local political leaders in the Middle East.
The dead, injured, traumatised, bereaved, taken hostage or made homeless in Israel and Gaza.

The Community and Parish: Jewish and Palestinian people living in our community.
The work of interfaith dialogue and friendship in Watford.
Churches Together in Watford.

The Ill and the Housebound: Especially Jean Alexander, Violet Allen-Smith, Julie Alvarez, 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: June Arnold, Peter Bainbridge.

Collect

God, the giver of life, whose Holy Spirit wells up within your Church:
by the Spirit's gifts equip us to live the gospel of Christ and make us eager
to do your will, that we may share with the whole creation the joys of
eternal life;

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 33.12–23

A reading from the book of Exodus.

¹² Moses said to the LORD, 'See, you have said to me, "Bring up this people"; but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. Yet you have said, "I know you by name, and you have also found favour in my sight."

¹³ Now if I have found favour in your sight, show me your ways, so that I may know you and find favour in your sight. Consider too that this nation is your people.'

¹⁴ He said, 'My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.'

¹⁵ And he said to him, 'If your presence will not go, do not carry us up from here.

¹⁶ For how shall it be known that I have found favour in your sight, I and your people, unless you go with us? In this way, we shall be distinct, I and your people, from every people on the face of the earth.'

¹⁷ The LORD said to Moses, 'I will do the very thing that you have asked; for you have found favour in my sight, and I know you by name.'

¹⁸ Moses said, 'Show me your glory, I pray.'

¹⁹ And he said, 'I will make all my goodness pass before you, and will proclaim before you the name, "The LORD"; and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy.

²⁰ But,' he said, 'you cannot see my face; for no one shall see me and live.'

²¹ And the LORD continued, 'See, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock;

²² and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by;

²³ then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back; but my face shall not be seen.'

SECOND READING I Thessalonians 1.1–10

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Thessalonians.

- ¹ From Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace.
- ² We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers,
- ³ constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labour of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.
- ⁴ For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you,
- ⁵ because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake.
- ⁶ And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit,
- ⁷ so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia.
- ⁸ For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it.
- ⁹ For the people of those regions report about us what kind of welcome we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God,
- ¹⁰ and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead – Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming.

GOSPEL Matthew 22.15–22

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

- When the chief priests and Pharisees had heard the parables, they realized that Jesus was speaking about them.
- ¹⁵ Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said.
- ¹⁶ So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, ‘Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality.
- ¹⁷ Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?’
- ¹⁸ But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, ‘Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites?
- ¹⁹ Show me the coin used for the tax.’ And they brought him a denarius.
- ²⁰ Then he said to them, ‘Whose head is this, and whose title?’
- ²¹ They answered, ‘The emperor’s.’ Then he said to them, ‘Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor’s, and to God the things that are God’s.’
- ²² When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

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.

Norma will be having a Bring-and-Buy Sale after the 9.30 service next Sunday, 29th October. Please come and support.

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

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