



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

LAST SUNDAY after TRINITY

Sunday 29 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: 474 Immortal Invisible, 621 Who would true valour see, 191 O thou who camest from above, 122 (tune.2) The royal banners forward go.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: The Parish of St Mark, Colney Heath in our Diocese.
The Anglican Church of Melanesia.

Christians and their churches in the Middle East.

The World: That humanitarian aid may be able to reach the people of Gaza.
Peace with justice for the people of Israel, Gaza, and the West Bank.

Prevention of violent conflict spreading into surrounding areas.

The Community and Parish: Interfaith dialogue in Watford.

Plans for the Interfaith Pilgrimage.

The safety of all religious worship and practice 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:

Collect

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy scriptures to be written for our learning: help us so to hear them, to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them that, through patience, and the comfort of your holy word, we may embrace and for ever hold fast the hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING Deuteronomy 34.1–12

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy.

- ¹ Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, which is opposite Jericho, and the LORD showed him the whole land: Gilead as far as Dan,
- ² all Naphtali, the land of Ephraim and Manasseh, all the land of Judah as far as the Western Sea,
- ³ the Negeb, and the Plain – that is, the valley of Jericho, the city of palm trees – as far as Zoar.
- ⁴ The LORD said to him, ‘This is the land of which I swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, saying, “I will give it to your descendants”; I have let you see it with your eyes, but you shall not cross over there.’
- ⁵ Then Moses, the servant of the LORD, died there in the land of Moab, at the Lord’s command.
- ⁶ He was buried in a valley in the land of Moab, opposite Beth-peor, but no one knows his burial place to this day.
- ⁷ Moses was one hundred and twenty years old when he died; his sight was unimpaired and his vigour had not abated.
- ⁸ The Israelites wept for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days; then the period of mourning for Moses was ended.
- ⁹ Joshua son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, because Moses had laid his hands on him; and the Israelites obeyed him, doing as the LORD had commanded Moses.
- ¹⁰ Never since has there arisen a prophet in Israel like Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face.
- ¹¹ He was unequalled for all the signs and wonders that the LORD sent him to perform in the land of Egypt, against Pharaoh and all his servants and his entire land, and for all the mighty deeds and all the terrifying displays of power that Moses performed in the sight of all Israel.
- ¹²

SECOND READING I Thessalonians 2.1–8

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

¹ You yourselves know, brothers and sisters, that our coming to you was not in vain,
² but though we had already suffered and been shamefully mistreated at Philippi, as you know, we had courage in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in spite of great opposition.
³ For our appeal does not spring from deceit or impure motives or trickery,
⁴ but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the message of the gospel, even so we speak, not to please mortals, but to please God who tests our hearts.
⁵ As you know and as God is our witness, we never came with words of flattery or with a pretext for greed;
⁶ nor did we seek praise from mortals, whether from you or from others,
⁷ though we might have made demands as apostles of Christ. But we were gentle among you, like a nurse tenderly caring for her own children.
⁸ So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us.

GOSPEL Matthew 22.34–46

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

³⁴ When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together,
³⁵ and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him.
³⁶ ‘Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?’
³⁷ He said to him, “‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’”
³⁸ This is the greatest and first commandment.
³⁹ And a second is like it: “‘You shall love your neighbour as yourself.’”
⁴⁰ On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.’
⁴¹ Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question:
⁴² ‘What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?’ They said to him, ‘The son of David.’
⁴³ He said to them, ‘How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying,
⁴⁴ “The Lord said to my Lord, ‘Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet’”?’
⁴⁵ If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?’
⁴⁶ No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

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 today Sunday, 29th October. Please support.

The amount collected for the Bike and Hike Saturday was £440. We shall receive half of this for church funds.

We are fast approaching the time when we turn our attention to the Christmas Fair, which is on Saturday 2nd December 11.30 - 14.30.

This is 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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