



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

TRINITY 3

Sunday 16 June 2024

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 service today.

Hymns for Sunday are: 516 Love Divine all loves excelling, 589 The King of Love, 563 Rejoice the Lord is King, 444 God is working his purpose out.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: The Parish of Chalgrave in our Diocese
The Anglican Church of Chile
The Church's care for same-sex couples.

The World: Victims of knife crime
Prisoners of conscience
Victims of telephone and computer fraud.

The Community and Parish: People preparing for baptism at St Michael's
People who can't get to Church
Our children and young people.

The Ill and the Housebound: Especially Jean Alexander, Violet Allen-Smith, Julie Alvarez, Janet Chandler, Jemima Hill, Owen Hutchinson, Kristina Jenkins, Lisa Mills, Brian O'Riordan, Valerie O'Riordan, Matthew Paterson, Josephine Stadden, Catherine Stone, Fay Storey, Adelaide Tonkin, and all who care for them.

The Departed:

Collect

Almighty God, you have broken the tyranny of sin and have sent the Spirit of your Son into our hearts whereby we call you Father:
give us grace to dedicate our freedom to your service, that we and all creation may be brought to the glorious liberty of the children of God;
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 I Samuel 15.34 – 16.13

A reading from the first book of Samuel.

- ³⁴ Samuel went to Ramah; and Saul went up to his house in Gibeah of Saul.
- ³⁵ Samuel did not see Saul again until the day of his death, but Samuel grieved over Saul. And the LORD was sorry that he had made Saul king over Israel.
- ¹ The LORD said to Samuel, 'How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.'
- ² Samuel said, 'How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me.' And the LORD said, 'Take a heifer with you, and say, "I have come to sacrifice to the LORD."
- ³ Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.'
- ⁴ Samuel did what the LORD commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, 'Do you come peaceably?'
- ⁵ He said, 'Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.' And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.
- ⁶ When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed is now before the LORD.'
- ⁷ But the LORD said to Samuel, 'Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.'
- ⁸ Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, 'Neither has the LORD chosen this one.'
- ⁹ Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, 'Neither has the LORD chosen this one.'
- ¹⁰ Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, 'The LORD has not chosen any of these.'
- ¹¹ Samuel said to Jesse, 'Are all your sons here?' And he said, 'There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.' And Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here.'
- ¹² He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The LORD said, 'Rise and anoint him; for this is the one.'

¹³ Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

SECOND READING 2 Corinthians 5.6–10, 14–17

A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians. Brothers and sisters,

⁶ we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord –

⁷ for we walk by faith, not by sight.

⁸ Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord.

⁹ So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him.

¹⁰ For all of us must appear before the judgement seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil.

¹⁴ The love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died.

¹⁵ And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them.

¹⁶ From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way.

¹⁷ So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

GOSPEL Mark 4.26–34

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark. Such a large crowd gathered around Jesus that he got into a boat and began to teach them using many parables.

²⁶ Jesus said, 'The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground,
²⁷ and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how.

²⁸ The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head.

²⁹ But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come.'

³⁰ Jesus also said, 'With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it?

³¹ It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth;

³² yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.'

³³ With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it;
³⁴ he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

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 each Thursday 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.

St. Michael’s Quiz: Join us on Saturday 29th June at 7pm for a 7.15pm start. Tickets are £12 per person to include a Ham or Cheese Ploughman’s supper. Join us for an evening of fun and help raise much needed funds. Contact Valerie on blacklockv@gmail.com or 0785876394 for more information and to buy tickets.

Another wonderful musical by NuWorks theatre from Melbourne. 5pm on Sunday June 30th in St Michael’s. They are presenting “Treasure Island” and it is suitable for 12 years and upwards. Booking not required, free entry although donations are welcome and all donations go to church funds.

Every donation that is made to SAINT MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS PCC WATFORD is gratefully received. Code 20-91-79 Account 70409448. Gift Aid? Please contact a warden. Thank you very much!

Dementia Awareness: As you may be aware, the PCC wishes St Michael’s to be recognised as a Dementia-friendly church. A number of you have signed the list at the back of church saying that you would like to be part of this. Age UK are holding a Dementia Awareness training session on July 29th starting at 10.30a.m. and ending at 12.00noon. All would be very welcome to join members of the Say it with a Smile charity at the excellent Lord Lieutenant’s Charity Hub at Warner Bros studios at Leavesden. If you are interested (and for directions) please speak to or email Simon Fowle (simon.fowle@ntlworld.com).