



# THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

*St Michael and All Angels*

Watford

**EASTER 5**

**3 May 2015**

We wish you a warm welcome to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Eucharist Fr Geoff celebrates and preaches. Jamie Wareham leads the intercessions.

**Hymns: 156, 185, 143 (ii) and 155**

**Setting: Rawsthorne**

Coffee and tea will be served in church after the 9.30 service – please stay on.

United Evening Service here at St Michael's 6.00 pm.

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## **For your prayers this week:**

**The Church:** Chaplains in Educational Establishments.

The Diocese of Ngbo (Enugu, Nigeria): Christian Ebisike its Bishop and all its People.

Us in Britain and Ireland.

**The World:** The people of Nepal and relief efforts after the earthquake.

The General Election this week.

All victims of extremism, violence, and civil conflict.

**The Community and Parish:** Residents and Staff at River Court and Fairhaven.

Our Churchwardens and PCC members.

Our Messy Church leaders.

**The Ill and the Housebound:** Especially Bruce Alexander, Sonia Anderson,

Tina Bennett, Janet Bridge, Jean and Robert Caton, Peter Coley,

Marion Craddock-Jones, Pamela Cutler, Audrey Dixon, Claire

Dunning, Sandra Fullerton, Jenny Houghton, Audrey Jaquest,

Mary Kearns, Lesley Kinch, Loretta Lynch, Audrey Morgan,

Dorcas Ochola, Brian O'Riordan, Helen Perry, Mark Pritchard,

Christina Simon, Mark Simon, Karen Stride, and Anne

Wightman.

**The Departed:** Bernard Hunt

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**Collect**

Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ have overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life:  
grant that, as by your grace going before us you put into our minds good desires, so by your continual help we may bring them to good effect;  
through Jesus Christ our risen Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**FIRST READING Acts 8.26–40**

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

- <sup>26</sup> An angel of the Lord said to Philip, ‘Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.’ (This is a wilderness road.)
- <sup>27</sup> So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship
- <sup>28</sup> and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah.
- <sup>29</sup> Then the Spirit said to Philip, ‘Go over to this chariot and join it.’
- <sup>30</sup> So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, ‘Do you understand what you are reading?’
- <sup>31</sup> He replied, ‘How can I, unless someone guides me?’ And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him.
- <sup>32</sup> Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: ‘Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth.
- <sup>33</sup> In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.’
- <sup>34</sup> The eunuch asked Philip, ‘About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?’
- <sup>35</sup> Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus.
- <sup>36</sup> As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, ‘Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?’
- <sup>38</sup> He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him.
- <sup>39</sup> When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing.
- <sup>40</sup> But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

**SECOND READING I John 4.7–21**

A reading from the first letter of John.

7 Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is  
born of God and knows God.  
8 Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love.  
9 God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the  
world so that we might live through him.  
10 In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be  
the atoning sacrifice for our sins.  
11 Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another.  
12 No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is  
perfected in us.  
13 By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his  
Spirit.  
14 And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Saviour of  
the world.  
15 God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in  
God.  
16 So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those  
who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them.  
17 Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of  
judgement, because as he is, so are we in this world.  
18 There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with  
punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love.  
19 We love because he first loved us.  
20 Those who say, 'I love God,' and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those  
who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom  
they have not seen.  
21 The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their  
brothers and sisters also.

## **GOSPEL John 15.1–8**

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

Jesus said to his disciples:

1 'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower.  
2 He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit  
he prunes to make it bear more fruit.  
3 You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you.  
4 Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it  
abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me.  
5 I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear  
much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.  
6 Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such  
branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned.  
7 If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it  
will be done for you.  
8 My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.'

## THIS WEEK

Mon	4	May	<i>Bank Holiday</i> NO Toddlers' Group	
Tue	5	May	River Court	3.00pm
Wed	6	May	Coffee in Church and Food Bank	10.30am – 12 noon
			Messy Church meeting (venue to be announced)	8.00pm
Thu	7	May	<b>GENERAL ELECTION</b> Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
			Fairhaven	morning
			Choir Practice	<i>to be announced</i>
Sat	9	May	Living God's Love - Workshop at St Luke's	<i>tba</i>
Sun	10	May	<b><u>EASTER 6</u></b> Holy Communion (Pres: Fr George)	8.00am
			<b>SUNG EUCHARIST</b> President: Fr George;	<b>9.30am</b>
			Preacher from the Church Army	
			Sunday School	
			(The Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church	1-9 pm)
			Evening Prayer in Littlebury Hall	6.00pm

## NOTICES

**FOOD BANK:** Don't forget that we are still collecting. There is a list at the back of church of the items of food that can be included in the parcels. If you would like to donate any of these items please bring them to church and put them in the box at the west end. Thank you.

**BIG LUNCH:** On Sunday, 7 June 2015, St Michael's is to be one of many venues over the country that will be joining in the Big Lunch. This will be the third time we have done this and we shall be inviting our neighbours who live in the roads near the church to join in a bring-and-share lunch. The lunch will start at 12 noon and people may arrive with their food from 11.30 am. More details to follow.

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

**Christian Aid Week:** Starting 11 May 2015. St Michael's no longer does a house-to-house collection but there will be envelopes in church to enable you to put in your donation if you wish.

**Ascension Day:** 14 May - Services at 10 am and in the evening - time *tba*

**Pentecost:** Sunday, 24 May 2015

**Celebration 2015:** 25 May 2015

**Animal Blessing Service:** In St Michael's on 31 May 2015

**Parochial Church Council:** 3 June 2015 at 7.55 pm