



# THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

*St Michael and All Angels*

Watford

**SUNDAY AFTER ASCENSION**

**EASTER 7**

**17 May 2015**

We wish you a warm welcome to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Eucharist Fr Geoff celebrates and preaches. Sylvia Moring leads the intercessions.

**Hymns: 165, 168, 167 and 563**

**Setting: Rawsthorne**

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

Messy Church is at 11.15 am.

Evening Prayer at 6.00 pm.

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

**The Church:** The Parish of Bygrave (Buntingford Deanery) in our Diocese.  
The Diocese of North Eastern Caribbean & Aruba (West Indies):  
Leroy Brooks its Bishop and all its people.

The work of Us and Hope Africa against gender-based violence.

**The World:** Places of pilgrimage and their pilgrims and staff.

The people of Nepal and aid workers helping them.

Princess Charlotte of Cambridge and the Royal Family.

**The Community and Parish:** Preparations for Celebration 2015 and the Big Lunch.

Our Mothers' Union Members.

All who have responsibility for aspects of our Sunday morning worship.

**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, Sharon Goodwin, 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:** Peggy Lear.

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**Collect**

O God the king of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven:  
we beseech you, leave us not comfortless, but send your Holy Spirit to strengthen us and exalt us to the place where our Saviour Christ is gone before,  
who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**FIRST READING Acts 1.15–17, 21–26**

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

- 15 In those days Peter stood up among the believers (together the crowd numbered about one hundred and twenty people). He said,  
16 ‘Friends, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus –  
17 for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry.  
21 So one of the men who have accompanied us throughout the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us,  
22 beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us – one of these must become a witness with us to his resurrection.’  
23 So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias.  
24 Then they prayed and said, ‘Lord, you know everyone’s heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen  
25 to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.’  
26 And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

**SECOND READING I John 5.9–13**

A reading from the first letter of John.

- 9 If we receive human testimony, the testimony of God is greater; for this is the testimony of God that he has testified to his Son.  
10 Those who believe in the Son of God have the testimony in their hearts. Those who do not believe in God have made him a liar by not believing in the testimony that God has given concerning his Son.

- 11 And this is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.  
12 Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.  
13 I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

## **GOSPEL John 17.6–19**

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

Jesus looked up to heaven and prayed:

- 6 ‘Father, I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word.  
7 Now they know that everything you have given me is from you;  
8 for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me.  
9 I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours.  
10 All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them.  
11 And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.  
12 While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled.  
13 But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves.  
14 I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world.  
15 I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one.  
16 They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world.  
17 Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.  
18 As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world.  
19 And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.’

## THIS WEEK

|     |    |     |   |                        |
|-----|----|-----|---|------------------------|
| Mon | 18 | May | Toddlers' Group   | 10.00 – 11.30am        |
|     |    |     | Publicity Committee                                     | 8.00pm                 |
| Wed | 20 | May | Coffee in Church and Food Bank                          | 10.30am – 12 noon      |
| Thu | 21 | May | Holy Communion  | 10.00am                |
|     |    |     | followed by coffee in Choir Vestry                      |                        |
|     |    |     | Choir Practice  | <i>to be announced</i> |
| Fri | 22 | May | Funeral of Bernard Hunt in church – all welcome         | 2.00pm                 |
| Sat | 23 | May | (The Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church                    | 9.00am – 5.00pm)       |
| Sun | 24 | May | <b>PENTECOST</b>  |                        |
|     |    |     | Holy Communion (Pres: Fr George)                        | 8.00am                 |
|     |    |     | <b>SUNG EUCHARIST</b> President and Preacher: Fr Geoff; | <b>9.30am</b>          |
|     |    |     | Sunday School   |                        |
|     |    |     | (The Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church                    | 1.00 – 5.00pm)         |
|     |    |     | Evening Prayer  | 6.00pm                 |

## NOTICES

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK ends today. St Michael's is no longer able to do a door-to-door collection for Christian Aid but we do hope that church members will donate towards the work of Christian Aid by using one of the envelopes which are at the back of the church. Completed envelopes should be put in the box beside them. If you are able, please gift aid your donation. Thank you.

FINAL COPY DATE for June Sword is next Sunday 24 May. Hard copy or floppy disc to Rob White or email to [robwhite.watford@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:robwhite.watford@tiscali.co.uk)

NewHope Community Market Garden Open Day is on Saturday 23rd May from 10.30 am to 3.00 pm at 64 Rickmansworth Road - more details in the Sword!

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:

**Celebration 2015** Monday, 25 May 2015

**Animal Blessing Service:** In St Michael's on Sunday, 31 May 2015, at 3 pm

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