



# THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

*St Michael and All Angels*

Watford

**PENTECOST**

**24 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: 175 (i), 365, 180 and 191**

**Setting: Rawsthorne**

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

(The Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church 1.00 – 5.00pm)

Evening Prayer at 6.00 pm.

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

**The Church:** The Parish of Meesden (Buntingford Deanery) in our Diocese.  
The Diocese of Northern Luzon (Philippines): Renato Mag-Gay  
Abibico its Bishop and all its people.

The work of Us with the poor of Brazil.

**The World:** Continuing relief efforts in Nepal.

All those threatened by the advances of IS in Syria and Iraq.

All migrants risking dangerous journeys.

**The Community and Parish:** All attending and helping at Celebration 2015.

Our preparations for the Big Lunch.

The work of Watford Town Centre Chaplaincy.

**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:**

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**Collect**

God, who as at this time taught the hearts of your faithful people by sending to them the light of your Holy Spirit:  
grant us by the same Spirit to have a right judgement in all things and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort;  
through the merits of Christ Jesus our Saviour, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**FIRST READING Acts 2.1–21**

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

- <sup>1</sup> When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place.  
<sup>2</sup> And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting.  
<sup>3</sup> Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them.  
<sup>4</sup> All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.  
<sup>5</sup> Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem.  
<sup>6</sup> And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in their native language.  
<sup>7</sup> Amazed and astonished, they asked, 'Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?  
<sup>8</sup> And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language?  
<sup>9</sup> Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia,  
<sup>10</sup> Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes,  
<sup>11</sup> Cretans and Arabs – in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power.'  
<sup>12</sup> All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, 'What does this mean?'  
<sup>13</sup> But others sneered and said, 'They are filled with new wine.'  
<sup>14</sup> But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, 'Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say.  
<sup>15</sup> Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning.  
<sup>16</sup> No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:  
<sup>17</sup> "In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams.  
<sup>18</sup> Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy.  
<sup>19</sup> And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist.

- 20 The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day.
- 21 Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

## **SECOND READING Romans 8.22–27**

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

- 22 We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now;
- 23 and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.
- 24 For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen?
- 25 But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.
- 26 Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words.
- 27 And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

## **GOSPEL John 15.26–27, 16.4b–15**

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

Jesus spoke to his disciples:

- 26 ‘When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father, he will testify on my behalf.
- 27 You also are to testify because you have been with me from the beginning.
- 4 I have said these things to you so that when their hour comes you may remember that I told you about them. I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you.
- 5 But now I am going to him who sent me; yet none of you asks me, “Where are you going?”
- 6 But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your hearts.
- 7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.
- 8 And when he comes, he will prove the world wrong about sin and righteousness and judgement:
- 9 about sin, because they do not believe in me;
- 10 about righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will see me no longer;
- 11 about judgement, because the ruler of this world has been condemned.
- 12 I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now.
- 13 When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.
- 14 He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you.
- 15 All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.’

## THIS WEEK

Mon	25	May	<i>Bank Holiday; Half Term Week</i>	
			NO Toddlers' Group	
			<b>CELEBRATION 2015</b>	
Wed	27	May	Coffee in Church and Food Bank	10.30am – 12 noon
Thu	28	May	Holy Communion	10.00am
			Choir Practice	<i>to be announced</i>
Sun	31	May	<b><u>TRINITY SUNDAY</u></b>	
			Holy Communion (Pres: Fr Geoff)	8.00am
			<b>SUNG EUCHARIST</b> Sunday School	<b>9.30am</b>
			President: Fr Geoff; Preacher: Jamie Wareham	
			Followed by a Bring-&-Buy Sale	
			Animal Blessing Service	3.00pm
			(everyone with/or without pet welcome)	
			Evening Prayer	6.00pm

## NOTICES

**CHRISTIAN AID WEEK:** Completed envelopes should be put in the box at the back of church. If you are able, please gift aid your donation. Thank you. We need to pay in the donations we have received this week.

**FINAL COPY DATE** for June Sword is today Sunday 24 May. Hard copy or floppy disc to Rob White or email to robwhite.watford@tiscali.co.uk. Items welcome from church members or any age.

**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. There are leaflets of invitation at the back of the church and a list of roads near the church where we would like them to be delivered - please deliver some of them if you can and sign the list indicating which road you will do.

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:**

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

**VERY ADVANCE DATE FOR YOUR DIARY:** This year's Christmas Fair will be on SATURDAY, 28 NOVEMBER 2015 - please put it in your diary and tell anyone you know who usually comes.