



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

EASTER 4
17 April 2016

A warm welcome to our services today.

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

Hymns: 278, 517, 482 and 627 (t.227)

Setting: Thorne

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

Evening Prayer in Lady Chapel at 6.00 pm.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: The Parish of Willington in our Diocese.
The Navajoland Area Mission in the USA, David Bailey its Bishop and all its People.

The Us-supported work of the Anglican Church in communities in Malawi.

The World: The voluntary work of retired people in our communities.
Peace and Justice in Syria.

All who struggle to live on low pay.

The Community and Parish: Our Mothers' Union Members.

The work of doctors, nurses and other medical professionals.

Volunteers for the office of Churchwarden, PCC members and other roles.

The Ill and the Housebound: Especially Bruce Alexander, Sonia Anderson, Tina Bennett, Christopher Bilson, Janet Bridge, Robert Caton, Peter Coley, Marion Craddock-Jones, Audrey Dixon, Claire Dunning, Simon Fowle, Sandra Fullerton, Kristine Jenkins, Mary Kearns, Lesley Kinch, Loretta Lynch, Dorcas Ochola, Brian O'Riordan, Helen Perry, Christina Simon, Mark Simon and Karen Stride.

The Departed:

Collect

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life: raise us, who trust in him, from the death of sin to the life of righteousness, that we may seek those things which are above, where he reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING Acts 9.36–43

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

- 36 In Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity.
- 37 At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs.
- 38 Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, 'Please come to us without delay.'
- 39 So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them.
- 40 Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, 'Tabitha, get up.' Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up.
- 41 He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive.
- 42 This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord.
- 43 Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

SECOND READING Revelation 7.9–17

A reading from the book of Revelation.

- 9 After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands.
- 10 They cried out in a loud voice, saying 'Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!'

- 11 And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshipped God,
- 12 singing, 'Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honour and power and might be to our God for ever and ever! Amen.'
- 13 Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, 'Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?'
- 14 I said to him, 'Sir, you are the one that knows.' Then he said to me, 'These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.
- 15 For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.
- 16 They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat;
- 17 for the Lamb at the centre of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.'

GOSPEL John 10.22–30

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

- 22 At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter,
- 23 and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon.
- 24 So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, 'How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly.'
- 25 Jesus answered, 'I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me;
- 26 but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep.
- 27 My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me.
- 28 I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand.
- 29 What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand.
- 30 The Father and I are one.'

THIS WEEK

Mon	18	Apr	Toddlers' Group Social Committee (Choir Vestry)	10 – 11.30am 8.00pm
Tue	19	Apr	Intercessory Prayer Group	2.30pm
Wed	20	Apr	Food Bank Coffee in Church	10.00am – 12 noon 10.30am-12 noon
Thur	21	Apr	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language) attended my members of Mothers' Union and followed by coffee for all in Choir Vestry NO Choir Practice	10.00am
Sat	23	Apr	<i>St George's Day</i>	
Sun	24	Apr	<u>EASTER 5</u> Holy Communion (Pres: Fr George) SUNG EUCHARIST (President: Fr Geoff) Preacher from New Hope; followed by Bring-&-Buy Sale (Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church NO Evening Prayer	8.00am 9.30am 1.00pm – 5.00pm)

NOTICES

ELECTORAL ROLL: The revised Electoral Roll is displayed on the notice board. Please check your entry for any errors or omissions and inform Henry Moring or a churchwarden if there are any inaccuracies.

ANNUAL MEETINGS: These are to be held on Wednesday, 27 April 2016. There are agendas in white addressed envelopes for people at the west end of the church. Please help yourself to one. Before that date the secretary needs nominations for churchwardens
a Deanery Synod representative (for one year)
PCC members
sidespeople

Jean Alexander will provide the appropriate nomination forms.

ABRAHAMIC REUNION: - On the evening of Sunday 24th April, 6.30pm, at St Mary's Church Centre, Watford, Christian, Jewish, Muslim and Druze speakers will address an open meeting about the ways in which religion can be a force for peacemaking in the Holy Land.

FINAL COPY DATE for April Sword is next Sunday, 24 April. Hard copy or floppy disc to Rob White or email to robwhite.watford@googlemail.com.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Wednesday 27 April at 7 pm	Holy Communion before Annual Meetings.
Wednesday 11 May at 7.55 pm	PCC meeting
Sunday 12 June	Big Lunch in church during the Queen's official 90th Birthday Celebration weekend.
Sunday 17 July	Cream Tea at church.