



# THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

*St Michael and All Angels*

Watford

**EASTER 5**  
**24 April 2016**

A warm welcome to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Eucharist Fr Geoff celebrates and we welcome a preacher from New Hope. Sarah Dunning leads the intercessions.

**Hymns: 435, 490, 443 and 556**

**Setting: Thorne**

Coffee and tea will be served in church after the 9.30 service and there is a Bring-&-Buy Sale – please stay on.

(Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church 1.00pm – 5.00pm)

NO Evening Prayer tonight.

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

**The Church:** The Parish of Gilston with Eastwick in our Diocese.  
The Diocese of the New Guinea Islands, Allan Migi its Bishop and all its people.  
The Church of Pakistan, and all Christians in Pakistan.

**The World:** Her Majesty the Queen.  
The work of Church Army with marginalised people in our Society.  
Earthquake victims in Ecuador and Japan.

**The Community and Parish:** The work of New Hope with homeless people.  
Our AGM, and all who give their time, resources, prayers and goodwill to our Church.  
The Ahmaddiya Muslim Community in Watford.

**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:**

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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 11.1–18

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

- 1 The apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God.
- 2 So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him,
- 3 saying, "Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?"
- 4 Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying,
- 5 'I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me.
- 6 As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air.
- 7 I also heard a voice saying to me, "Get up, Peter; kill and eat."
- 8 But I replied, "By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth."
- 9 But a second time the voice answered from heaven, "What God has made clean, you must not call profane."
- 10 This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven.
- 11 At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were.
- 12 The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house.
- 13 He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, "Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter;
- 14 he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved."
- 15 And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning.
- 16 And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, "John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

- <sup>17</sup> If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?’
- <sup>18</sup> When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, ‘Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life.’

## **SECOND READING Revelation 21.1–6**

A reading from the book of Revelation.

- <sup>1</sup> I, John, saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.
- <sup>2</sup> And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.
- <sup>3</sup> And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, ‘See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them;
- <sup>4</sup> he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.’
- <sup>5</sup> And the one who was seated on the throne said, ‘See, I am making all things new.’ Also he said, ‘Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.’
- <sup>6</sup> Then he said to me, ‘It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.’

## **GOSPEL John 13.31–35**

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

- <sup>31</sup> During the supper, when Judas had gone out, Jesus said, ‘Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him.
- <sup>32</sup> If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once.
- <sup>33</sup> Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, “Where I am going, you cannot come.”
- <sup>34</sup> I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.
- <sup>35</sup> By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.’

## THIS WEEK

Mon	25	Apr	Toddlers' Group	10 – 11.30am
Wed	27	Apr	Food Bank	10.00am – 12 noon
			Coffee in Church	10.30am – 12 noon
			Holy Communion (in Lady Chapel)	7.00pm
			ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING	7.45pm
			ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING	8.00pm
Thur	28	Apr	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
			Choir Practice	7.00 – 8.30pm
Sun	1	May	<b><u>EASTER 6</u></b>	
			Holy Communion (Pres: Fr Geoff)	8.00am
			<b>SUNG EUCHARIST</b> (President and Preacher: Fr Geoff)	<b>9.30am</b>
			Evening Prayer	6.00pm

## 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 and will be followed by refreshments. 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.

THE CHURCH ANNUAL REPORT for 2015 has been sent out electronically to members on the Electoral Roll with email addresses. There are printed copies available for those who signed the list to request one.

ABRAHAMIC REUNION: - This evening, Sunday 24th April, 6.30 pm, 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 May Sword is today Sunday, 24 April. Hard copy or floppy disc to Rob White or email to [robwhite.watford@googlemail.com](mailto:robwhite.watford@googlemail.com).

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

- 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                        Tea on the Triangle.