



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

SUNDAY AFTER ASCENSION

8 May 2016

A warm welcome to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Eucharist Fr George celebrates and preaches and Vicki Matthews leads the intercessions. The service will include the Dedication of the new PCC. Children's Church in Choir Vestry.

Hymns: 166, 174 (t.577), 167 and 563

Setting: Thorne

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 in Lady Chapel at 6.00pm.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: The Parish of Anstey in our Diocese.

The Diocese of the Niger Delta, Ralph Ebirien its Bishop and all its People.

Church Army Evangelists working as Chaplains.

The World: Poor communities affected by climate change.

All communities supported through Christian Aid.

Refugee children separated from their parents.

The Community and Parish: Our new PCC members.

Residents and Staff at Home Manor and St Anthony's.

Newly elected Councillors.

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

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 16.16–34

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

- ¹⁶ One day, as we were going to the place of prayer, we met a slave-girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners a great deal of money by fortune-telling.
- ¹⁷ While she followed Paul and us, she would cry out, 'These men are slaves of the Most High God, who proclaim to you a way of salvation.'
- ¹⁸ She kept doing this for many days. But Paul, very much annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, 'I order you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.' And it came out that very hour.
- ¹⁹ But when her owners saw that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the market-place before the authorities.
- ²⁰ When they had brought them before the magistrates, they said, 'These men are disturbing our city; they are Jews and are advocating customs that are not lawful for us as Romans to adopt or observe.'
- ²² The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates had them stripped of their clothing and ordered them to be beaten with rods.
- ²³ After they had given them a severe flogging, they threw them into prison and ordered the jailer to keep them securely.
- ²⁴ Following these instructions, he put them in the innermost cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.
- ²⁵ About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them.
- ²⁶ Suddenly there was an earthquake, so violent that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were unfastened.
- ²⁷ When the jailer woke up and saw the prison doors wide open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, since he supposed that the prisoners had escaped.
- ²⁸ But Paul shouted in a loud voice, 'Do not harm yourself, for we are all here.'
- ²⁹ The jailer called for lights, and rushing in, he fell down trembling before Paul and Silas.
- ³⁰ Then he brought them outside and said, 'Sirs, what must I do to be saved?'
- ³¹ They answered, 'Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.'
- ³² They spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house.

- ³³ At the same hour of the night he took them and washed their wounds; then he and his entire family were baptized without delay.
- ³⁴ He brought them up into the house and set food before them; and he and his entire household rejoiced that he had become a believer in God.

SECOND READING Revelation 22.12–14, 16–17, 20–21

A reading from the book of Revelation.

- I, John, heard a voice saying to me:
- ¹² 'See, I am coming soon; my reward is with me, to repay according to everyone's work.
- ¹³ I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.'
- ¹⁴ Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they will have the right to the tree of life and may enter the city by the gates.
- ¹⁶ 'It is I, Jesus, who sent my angel to you with this testimony for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star.'
- ¹⁷ The Spirit and the bride say, 'Come.' And let everyone who hears say, 'Come.' And let everyone who is thirsty come. Let anyone who wishes take the water of life as a gift.
- ²⁰ The one who testifies to these things says, 'Surely I am coming soon.' Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!
- ²¹ The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all the saints. Amen.

GOSPEL John 17.20–26

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

- Jesus looked up to heaven and prayed: 'Holy Father,
- ²⁰ I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word,
- ²¹ that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.
- ²² The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one,
- ²³ I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.
- ²⁴ Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.
- ²⁵ Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you; and these know that you have sent me.
- ²⁶ I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.'

THIS WEEK

Mon	9	May	Toddlers' Group	10 – 11.30am
Wed	11	May	Food Bank	10.00am – 12 noon
			Coffee in Church	10.30am – 12 noon
			Home Manor	2.30pm
			PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL	7.55pm
Thur	12	May	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
			St Anthony's	morning
			Choir Practice	7.00 – 8.30pm
Sat	14	May	(RSCM Exams	9.30am – 2.30pm)
Sun	15	May	<u>PENTECOST</u>	
			Holy Communion (Pres: Fr George)	8.00am
			SUNG EUCHARIST (President Fr Geoff;	
			Preacher: Martin Heath)	9.30am
			; Children's Church	
			Evening Prayer	6.00pm

NOTICES

NEW CHURCH OFFICERS: At the Annual Meetings, Elizabeth Watkin was re-elected and Gillian Heath was elected, as Churchwardens for the year. Kristine Jenkins, was thanked for everything she had done during the three years that she had been Churchwarden.

Penny Allen-Smith, Sue Ellison and Jane Talbot were elected as members of the PCC and Martin Matthews was elected as our second Deanery Synod member. Paul Chandler was re-elected as Assistant Churchwarden.

THE DIOCESAN OFFICE is looking to appoint a part-time (21 hpw) Parish Development Team Administrator at Diocesan Office. Details are available on the website at <http://www.stalbans.anglican.org/diocese/other-vacancies/>.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Wednesday 11 May	First meeting of new PCC at 7.55 pm.
Monday 30 May	(Bank Holiday) Celebration 2016, 12 noon - 4 pm in Multicultural Community Centre, St Michael's Church and Littlebury Hall
Sunday 12 June	Big Lunch in church during the Queen's official 90th Birthday Celebration weekend.
Sunday 17 July	Tea on the Triangle with sales stalls.