



# THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

*St Michael and All Angels*

Watford

**ST THOMAS THE APOSTLE**

**3 July 2016**

A warm welcome to our services today.

At 9.30 am there is our First Sunday of the Month Sung Eucharist; Fr Geoff celebrates. Kristine Jenkins leads the intercessions.

**Hymns: Leaflet**

**Setting: Thorne**

Refreshments will be served in church after the 9.30 service – please stay on.

United Evening Service here at St Michael's at 6.00 pm.

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

**The Church:** The Parish of Whipsnade in our Diocese.

The Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea, Clyde Igara its Archbishop and all its People.

Church Army's St Asaph Centre of Mission.

**The World:** People feeling threatened in our nation.

Vulnerable religious minorities in India.

The people and government of the Isle of Man.

**The Community and Parish:** Racial and Religious harmony in our community.

People remembering relatives who fought on the Somme.

Our MP and other elected representatives.

**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,

Mervyn Jones, Mary Kearns, Lesley Kinch, Loretta Lynch,

Dorcas Ochola, Brian O'Riordan, Helen Perry, Christina Simon,

Mark Simon and Karen Stride.

**The Departed:** Alan Cockram.

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**Collect**

Almighty and eternal God, who, for the firmer foundation of our faith, allowed your holy apostle Thomas to doubt the resurrection of your Son till word and sight convinced him:

grant to us, who have not seen, that we also may believe and so confess Christ as our Lord and our God;

who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**FIRST READING Ephesians 2: 19-end (Message Bible)**

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians.

That's plain enough, isn't it? You're no longer wandering exiles. This kingdom of faith is now your home country. You're no longer strangers or outsiders. You belong here, with as much right to the name Christian as anyone. God is building a home. He's using us all—irrespective of how we got here—in what he is building. He used the apostles and prophets for the foundation. Now he's using you, fitting you in brick by brick, stone by stone, with Christ Jesus as the cornerstone that holds all the parts together. We see it taking shape day after day—a holy temple built by God, all of us built into it, a temple in which God is quite at home.

This is the word of the Lord

## **GOSPEL John 20.24–29**

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

- <sup>24</sup> Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came.
- <sup>25</sup> So the other disciples told him, ‘We have seen the Lord.’ But he said to them, ‘Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.’
- <sup>26</sup> A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, ‘Peace be with you.’
- <sup>27</sup> Then he said to Thomas, ‘Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.’
- <sup>28</sup> Thomas answered him, ‘My Lord and my God!’
- <sup>29</sup> Jesus said to him, ‘Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.’

## **THIS WEEK**

Mon	4	July	Toddlers' Group	10 – 11.30am
			Discovering the Bible (Choir Vestry)	2.30pm
Tue	5	July	(Post natal class in choir vestry)	9.30am – 11.30am)
			Service at River Court	2.30pm
Wed	6	July	Food Bank	10.00am – 12 noon
			Coffee in Church	10.30am – 12 noon
Thur	7	July	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
			Blessing of Marriage	1.00pm
			Choir Practice	7.00 – 8.30pm
Sun	10	July	<b><u>TRINITY 7</u></b>	
			Holy Communion (Pres: Fr George)	8.00am
			<b>SUNG EUCHARIST</b>	<b>9.30am</b>
			(President: Fr Geoff and Preacher: Martin Heath)	
			Children's Church	
			(Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church)	1.00 – 5.00pm)
			Evening Prayer	6.00pm

## **NOTICES**

**TEA ON THE TRIANGLE:** This will be on Sunday, 17 July, from 3-5 pm and will take place either in the church and/or on the triangle at the west end according to the weather. There will be a cream tea and stalls selling books, bric-a-brac, and a Norma mixture, children's table-top activities and a raffle.

The Social Committee would like help with the arrangements and lists asking for volunteers to make cakes, scones, help run stalls, children's activities, raffle and anything else - ideas are always welcome. Please look at the lists and see how you can help. Make a note of the date in your diary. Tell your friends and neighbours and see if they would be interested in coming.

Tickets (price £2.50) on sale at the coffee bar, and from Gill Heath, Elizabeth Watkin, Sue Ellison, Sylvia Moring, Iola Bilson.

**PARISH OUTING:** On Saturday 6th August we plan a parish outing to Chalgrove in Oxfordshire, where a nationally important set of mediaeval wall-paintings have been preserved in the Church, which has recently re-opened after refurbishment. After lunch (possibly at the Church-owned pub in the village!), we go on to Dorchester-on-Thames to visit the splendid Dorchester Abbey. Please sign the list if you would like to come, and indicate whether you need, or can offer, a lift.