



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

PASSION SUNDAY
Sunday 2 April 2017

We wish you a warm welcome to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Service Fr George celebrates and preaches. Phil Gough leads the intercessions. Phoebe Talea Odiase will be Baptised during the service. Children's Church in Littlebury Hall.

Hymns: 499 (omit *s), 174 (t.248), 534 (t.424) and 468 **Setting: Missa Seraphica**

Tea and coffee will be served in church after the 9.30 service – please stay on.

Evening Prayer at 6.00 pm.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: Church Schools in our Diocese.
The Diocese of Mityana in Uganda, Stephen Kaziimba its Bishop,
and all its people.

The Church in South Africa.

The World: People struggling against injustice and corruption.

All those taking part in Brexit negotiations.

Members of our Police and Security Services.

The Community and Parish: Residents and staff at River Court and Fairhaven.

Phoebe Talea Odiase, being baptised today.

More people to feel called to serve on our PCC.

The Ill and the Housebound: Especially Bruce Alexander, Gavin Ashenden,
Christopher Bilson, Janet Bridge, Robert Caton, Peter Coley, Marion
Craddock-Jones, Judith Degen, Audrey Dixon, Claire Dunning,
Peter Hinchey, Kristine Jenkins, Mary Kearns, Lesley Kinch, Loretta
Lynch, Dorcas Ochola, Brian O'Riordan, Helen Perry, John Ramsey,
Pat Ricketts, Michele Rodford, Christina Simon, Mark Simon, and
all who care for them.

The Departed: Emma Muller.

Collect

Most merciful God, who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ delivered and saved the world:
grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross we may triumph in the power of his victory;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING Ezekiel 37.1–14

A reading from the book of the prophet Ezekiel.

- ¹ The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones.
- ² He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry.
- ³ He said to me, ‘Mortal, can these bones live?’ I answered, ‘O Lord GOD, you know.’
- ⁴ Then he said to me, ‘Prophesy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD.
- ⁵ Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live.
- ⁶ I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD.’
- ⁷ So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone.
- ⁸ I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them.
- ⁹ Then he said to me, ‘Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.’
- ¹⁰ I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.
- ¹¹ Then he said to me, ‘Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, “Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.”
- ¹² Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel.
- ¹³ And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people.
- ¹⁴ I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act, says the LORD.’

SECOND READING Romans 8.6–11

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

- 6 To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.
- 7 For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law – indeed it cannot,
- 8 and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.
- 9 But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.
- 10 But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness.
- 11 If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

GOSPEL John 11.17-27, 38-45

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

- 17 When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days.
- 18 Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away,
- 19 and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother.
- 20 When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home.
- 21 Martha said to Jesus, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.
- 22 But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.'
- 23 Jesus said to her, 'Your brother will rise again.'
- 24 Martha said to him, 'I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.'
- 25 Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live,
- 26 and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?'
- 27 She said to him, 'Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.'
- 38 Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it.
- 39 Jesus said, 'Take away the stone.' Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, 'Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days.'
- 40 Jesus said to her, 'Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?'
- 41 So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upwards and said, 'Father, I thank you for having heard me.
- 42 I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.'
- 43 When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out!'
- 44 The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, and let him go.'
- 45 Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

Mon	3	Apr	Toddlers' Group	10 – 11.30am
			Lent Group at the Vicarage	2.30pm
			Lent Group (18 Lynbury Court)	7.30pm
Tue	4	Apr	Service at River Court	2.30pm
Wed	5	Mar	Food Bank	10.00am – 12 noon
			Coffee in Church	10.30am – 12 noon
Thur	6	Apr	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
			Choir Practice	7.00 – 8.30pm
Sat	8	Apr	(Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church)	9.00am – 7.00pm
Sun	9	Apr	<u>PALM SUNDAY</u>	
			Holy Communion (Pres: Fr Geoff)	8.00am
			SUNG EUCHARIST: Passion Narrative according to Matthew	
			President and Preacher: Fr Geoff	9.30am
			Evening Prayer	6.00pm

NOTICES

THE LENT GROUP on Monday afternoon at 2.30pm will be held at the Vicarage this week.

LENT COLLECTING BOXES for mission are available at the back of church. Please take one and return it on Easter Day.

VOLUNTEERS needed for readers for Palm Sunday Dramatised Gospel, Passover Meal Readings, Good Friday Dramatised Gospel, Service of Light, people to have their feet washed on Maundy Thursday, and people for the Maundy Watch.

LAST SUNDAY'S BRING-&-BUY raised £42. Many thanks.

ELECTORAL ROLL REVISION: This year's revision finishes **TODAY** A copy of the current Roll is on the notice board at the back of the Church for you to check. If anyone would like their name added to the Roll, please get a form from Fr Geoff or Henry or Sylvia Moring fill it in and return it before leaving church today. Please inform us if you have changed your email address or telephone number.

PASSOVER MEAL - on Monday 10 April (Monday in Holy Week), at 7.00 pm. This was the meal Jesus shared with his disciples, and the early Christians shared together in Christ. A meal with meaning! Tickets £5.00 are available from members of the Social Committee.

CHILDREN'S SOCIETY BOXES: Please return any boxes remaining as soon as possible. All the proceeds from the boxes go to The Children's Society.

EASTER PLANTS If you would like to bring a plant to decorate the Church at Easter Tide please bring it to Church and give it to Fay during Holy Week.