



# THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

*St Michael and All Angels*

Watford

**EASTER 5**

**Sunday 14 May 2017**

A warm welcome to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Eucharist Fr Geoff celebrates and Martin Heath preaches. Pat Beach leads the intercessions.

**Hymns: 145, 151, 467 and 140**

**Setting: Thorne**

Children's Church in Littlebury Hall

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

(Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church 1.00 pm – 5.00 pm)

Evening Prayer at 6.00 pm.

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

**The Church:** The Parish of Barley (Buntingford) in our Diocese.  
The Diocese of New Jersey in the USA, William Stokes its Bishop and all its people.  
Church Army evangelists.

**The World:** The protection of young people from forced marriages.  
Christian Aid Week volunteers.  
All those working to recover NHS records and restore services.

**The Community and Parish:** Our PCC members.  
Our Mothers' Union members.  
Our Church Hall users.

**The Ill and the Housebound:** Especially 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:**

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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 7.55–60**

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Standing before the high priest and the council,  
55 Stephen, filled with the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God.  
56 'Look,' he said, 'I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!'  
57 But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him.  
58 Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul.  
59 While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.'  
60 Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, 'Lord, do not hold this sin against them.' When he had said this, he died.

**SECOND READING I Peter 2.2–10**

A reading from the first letter of Peter.

2 Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation –  
3 if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.  
4 Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight.  
5 Like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.  
6 For it stands in scripture: 'See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.'  
7 To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe, 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner,' and

- 8 'A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall.' They  
stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.
- 9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people,  
in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of  
darkness into his marvellous light.
- 10 Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had  
not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

## **GOSPEL John 14.1-14**

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

Jesus said to his disciples:

- 1 'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me.
- 2 In my Father's house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I  
have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?
- 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to  
myself, so that where I am, there you may be also.
- 4 And you know the way to the place where I am going.'
- 5 Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we  
know the way?'
- 6 Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to  
the Father except through me.
- 7 If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him  
and have seen him.'
- 8 Philip said to him, 'Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.'
- 9 Jesus said to him, 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not  
know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say,  
"Show us the Father"?'
- 10 Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words  
that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me  
does his works.
- 11 Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not,  
then believe me because of the works themselves.
- 12 Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I  
do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the  
Father.
- 13 I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in  
the Son.
- 14 If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.'

## THIS WEEK

Mon	15	May	Toddlers' Group	10 – 11.30am
Tue	16	May	(Post Natal Class (Choir Vestry)	11.15 – 12.15pm)
Wed	17	May	Food Bank	10.00am – 12 noon
			Coffee	10.30am – 12 noon
			PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL	7.25pm
Thu	18	May	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
			Coffee will be served after the service	
			NO Choir Practice	
Sun	21	May	<b><u>EASTER 6</u></b>	
			Holy Communion (Pres: Fr George)	8.00am
			<b>SUNG EUCHARIST</b>	<b>9.30am</b>
			(Pres: Fr Geoff; speaker from The Children's Society)	
			Children's Church in Littlebury Hall	
			Evening Prayer	6.00pm

## NOTICES

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK: This week: 14-21 May. See Vicki Matthews' note in Sword. Envelopes for your gifts are at the back of the church.

PEOPLE ARE NEEDED to serve on our PCC Committees, Finance, Social, Mission, Estates. Please sign up on lists at the back of Church if you can help

SWORD for May is available. Please collect your copy.

CHILDREN'S SOCIETY and LENT BOXES Please return any boxes remaining as soon as possible.

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

THANK YOU AFTERNOON CREAM TEA. On Saturday 27th May, 3.00pm – 5.00pm, The Vicar and Churchwardens are holding a Thank You afternoon Cream Tea for all the laypeople who have special responsibilities in our Sunday morning Eucharist, or would like to have!

Please come along. There will be a chance for learning and suggestions.

CHILDREN'S SOCIETY There will be a speaker from the Children's Society at the 9.30 Service on Sunday, 21 May 2017.

CELEBRATION 2017 - 29 May 2017 in the Multi Cultural Community Centre and St Michael's Church.