



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

EASTER 6

Sunday 21 May 2017

A warm welcome to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Eucharist Fr Geoff celebrates, Rachel Brockie from The Children's Society will be speaking. Vicki Matthews leads the intercessions.

Hymns: 143, 197 (t.415), 258 and 254

Setting: Thorne

Children's Church in Littlebury Hall

Coffee and tea 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: The Parish of Hormead with Widdyal in our Diocese.

The Diocese of Ngbo (Nigeria), Christian Ebisike its Bishop and all its people.

The "Thy Kingdom Come" campaign.

The World: The fight against cholera in Southern Africa.

First-time house buyers.

Everyone working to end extreme poverty in our world.

The Community and Parish: Everyone preparing for marriage in our Church and community.

Our young people.

Our Deanery Synod representatives.

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: Monica Batt, Graham John Gower.

Collect

God our redeemer, you have delivered us from the power of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of your Son:
grant, that as by his death he has recalled us to life, so by his continual presence in us he may raise us to eternal joy;
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 Acts 17.22–31

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

- ²² Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, ‘Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way.
- ²³ For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, “To an unknown god.” What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you.
- ²⁴ The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands,
- ²⁵ nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things.
- ²⁶ From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live,
- ²⁷ so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him – though indeed he is not far from each one of us.
- ²⁸ For “In him we live and move and have our being”; as even some of your own poets have said, “For we too are his offspring.”
- ²⁹ Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals.
- ³⁰ While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent,
- ³¹ because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.’

SECOND READING I Peter 3.13–22

A reading from the first letter of Peter.

- ¹³ Who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good?
¹⁴ But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated,
¹⁵ but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defence to anyone who demands from you an account of the hope that is in you;
¹⁶ yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame.
¹⁷ For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil.
¹⁸ For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit,
¹⁹ in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison,
²⁰ who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water.
²¹ And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you – not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,
²² who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

GOSPEL John 14.15–21

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

- Jesus said to his disciples:
¹⁵ 'If you love me, you will keep my commandments.
¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you for ever.
¹⁷ This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.
¹⁸ I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you.
¹⁹ In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live.
²⁰ On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you.
²¹ They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.'

THIS WEEK

Mon	22	May	Toddlers' Group	10 – 11.30am
Tue	23	May	(Post Natal Class (Choir Vestry)	11.15 – 12.15pm)
			Wedding Rehearsal	8.00pm
Wed	24	May	Food Bank	10.00am – 12 noon
			Coffee	10.30am – 12 noon
Thu	25	May	<i>ASCENSION DAY</i>	
			Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
			Choir Practice	7.00 – 8.00pm
			Sung Eucharist	8.00pm
Sat	27	May	Wedding	11.00am
			Thank You Cream Tea Party	3.00pm
Sun	28	May	<u>SUNDAY after ASCENSION4</u>	
			Holy Communion (Pres: Fr Geoff)	8.00am
			SUNG EUCHARIST (Pres: Fr Geoff)	9.30am
			Children's Church in Littlebury Hall	
			Followed by a Bring-&-Buy Sale	
			(Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church)	1.00 – 5.00pm)
			Evening Prayer	6.00pm

NOTICES

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK: (This week: 14-21 May.) See Vicki Matthews' note in Sword. Today is the last day; please use an envelope for your gift from the back of the church if you wish to contribute.

THANK YOU CREAM TEA PARTY, Saturday 27th May, 3.00pm. A Thankyou party for all who take special responsibilities in our worship. All welcome, including those who would like to take part and want to know what is involved. Courtesy of the Vicar and Churchwardens

CELEBRATION 2017: Monday 29th May, 11.00am – 4.00pm. A lovely day of Multicultural Performances, Food, Children's Activities and Sacred Space, at St Michael's, Littlebury Hall and the Multicultural Community Centre

THY KINGDOM COME is an initiative of the Archbishops of Canterbury and York to involve people in 9 days of Prayer for God's Kingdom, between Ascension Day and Pentecost. More information at the back of Church.

OUTING TO WINCHESTER on the 15th July (St Swithin's Day!) If you would like to go on an outing to Winchester on that day, there is a sign-up list in Church. We will be going in cars, so please indicate whether you need or can offer a lift. Distance is approximately 70 miles.

THE BIG LUNCH is on Sunday 11 June at 12.00 pm.