



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

EASTER 5
29 April 2018

A warm welcome to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Eucharist Fr Geoff celebrates and preaches. Mark Simon leads the intercessions.

Hymns: 141 (t2), 156, 136 and 143

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 the Mundens (Bishop's Stortford) in our Diocese.

The Episcopal Church of the USA in Jerusalem and the Middle East.

Church Army's Belfast Centre of Mission.

The World: Communities in the Philippines threatened by mining activities.

Fair and just treatment for all immigrants in our country.

Victims of knife and gun crime.

The Community and Parish: Watford's Grammar Schools.

Our Church Finances.

Residents and staff at River Court.

The Ill and the Housebound: Especially Christopher Bilson, Peter Coley, Marion Craddock-Jones, Kate Dickinson, Audrey Dixon, Cynthia Dixon, Sister Dominic, Claire Dunning, Jemima Hill, Peter Hinchey, Mary Kearns, Lesley Kinch, Loretta Lynch, Dorcas Ochola, Brian O'Riordan, Michele Rodford, Christina Simon, Mark Simon, Peter White; and all who care for them.

The Departed:

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 8.26–40

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

- ²⁶ An angel of the Lord said to Philip, ‘Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.’ (This is a wilderness road.)
- ²⁷ So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship
- ²⁸ and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah.
- ²⁹ Then the Spirit said to Philip, ‘Go over to this chariot and join it.’
- ³⁰ So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, ‘Do you understand what you are reading?’
- ³¹ He replied, ‘How can I, unless someone guides me?’ And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him.
- ³² Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: ‘Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth.
- ³³ In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.’
- ³⁴ The eunuch asked Philip, ‘About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?’
- ³⁵ Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus.
- ³⁶ As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, ‘Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?’
- ³⁸ He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him.
- ³⁹ When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing.
- ⁴⁰ But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

SECOND READING I John 4.7–21

A reading from the first letter of John.

7 Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is
born of God and knows God.
8 Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love.
9 God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the
world so that we might live through him.
10 In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be
the atoning sacrifice for our sins.
11 Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another.
12 No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is
perfected in us.
13 By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his
Spirit.
14 And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Saviour of
the world.
15 God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in
God.
16 So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those
who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them.
17 Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of
judgement, because as he is, so are we in this world.
18 There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with
punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love.
19 We love because he first loved us.
20 Those who say, 'I love God,' and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those
who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom
they have not seen.
21 The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their
brothers and sisters also.

GOSPEL John 15.1–8

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

Jesus said to his disciples:

1 'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower.
2 He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit
he prunes to make it bear more fruit.
3 You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you.
4 Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it
abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me.
5 I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear
much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.
6 Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such
branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned.
7 If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it
will be done for you.
8 My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.'

THIS WEEK

Mon	30	Apr	Toddlers' Group	10.00 – 11.30am
Tue	1	May	River Court	2.30pm
Wed	2	May	Food Bank	10.00am – 12 noon
			Coffee in Church	10.30am – 12 noon
Thur	3	May	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
			(Preparation for Grammar School Services	1.00 - 5.00pm)
Fri	4	May	(Grammar School Founders Day Services	8.30am – 4.30pm)
Sun	6	May	<u>EASTER 6</u>	
			Holy Communion (Pres: Fr George)	8.00am
			SUNG EUCHARIST (President: Fr Geoff)	9.30am
			(First Sunday booklet; All Age Presentation)	
			Followed by refreshments	
			Evening Prayer	6.00pm

NOTICES

CELEBRATION 2018 will be on Monday May 7th, 11.0am-4.0pm, a great occasion celebrating Watford's rich diversity of cultures, faiths and talents. Any help making refreshments or helping on the day will be very welcome. Please see Gill Heath. Yellow Celebration fliers at back of church or from Fr. Geoff.

CHILDREN'S SOCIETY BOXES and LENT COLLECTING BOXES FOR MISSION: Please return as soon as possible if you still have any. Thank you.