



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

EASTER 2
28 April 2019

A warm welcome to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Eucharist Fr Geoff celebrates and preaches. Paul Chandler leads the intercessions.

Hymns: 163, 137, 150 and 558.

Children's Church in Littlebury Hall.

Coffee and tea will be served in church after the 9.30 service and there is a Bring-&-Buy Sale – please stay on.

(The Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church 1.00 – 5.00 pm)

Evening Prayer at 6.00 pm.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: Our brother and sister Christians in Sri Lanka.
The Parish of Much Hadham in our Diocese.
The Anglican Church in Japan, Nathaniel Makoto Uematsu its Primate, and all its people.

The World: Protection from hatred, terrorism and indiscriminate violence.
The work of Church Army in areas of deprivation in rural Norfolk.
Preparations for Christian Aid Week.

The Community and Parish: Our newly elected Churchwardens and PCC members.
Thanksgiving for our Church fellowship.
Sri Lankan people in our community.

The Ill and the Housebound: Especially Christopher Bilson, Juliette Cottam, Marion Craddock-Jones, Audrey Dixon, Cynthia Dixon, Claire Dunning, Fr Robert Featherstone, Jemima Hill, Peter Hinchey, Mary Kearns, Lesley Kinch, Loretta Lynch, Craig McKay, Lisa Mills, Sylvia Obeng, Dorcas Ochola, Martin Ranson, Michelle Rodford, Christina Simon, Mark Simon, Malcolm Talbot, Baby Adelaide Tonkin, Peter White; and all who care for them.

The Departed: Royston Bale.

Collect

Almighty Father, you have given your only Son to die for our sins and to rise again for our justification:

grant us so to put away the leaven of malice and wickedness that we may always serve you in pureness of living and truth;

through the merits of your Son Jesus Christ 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 5.27–32

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

- 27 When the temple police had brought the apostles, they made them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, saying,
- 28 ‘We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man’s blood on us.’
- 29 But Peter and the apostles answered, ‘We must obey God rather than any human authority.
- 30 The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree.
- 31 God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Saviour that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins.
- 32 And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him.’

SECOND READING Revelation 1.4–8

A reading from the book of Revelation.

- 4 John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne,
- 5 and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood,
- 6 and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

- 7 Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail. So it is to be. Amen.
- 8 'I am the Alpha and the Omega,' says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

GOSPEL John 20.19–31

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

- 19 It was evening on the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.'
- 20 After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.
- 21 Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.'
- 22 When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit.
- 23 If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'
- 24 But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came.
- 25 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.'
- 26 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.'
- 27 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.'
- 28 Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!'
- 29 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.'
- 30 Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book.
- 31 But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

THIS WEEK

Mon	29	Apr	Toddlers' Group	10 – 11.30am
			Funeral in church	12.30pm
Wed	1	May	Food Bank and Coffee in Church	10.00am – 12 noon
Thur	2	May	Holy Communion	10.00am
Sun	5	May	<u>EASTER 3</u>	
			Holy Communion (Pres: Fr Geoff)	8.00am
			FIRST SUNDAY of MONTH SUNG EUCHARIST	9.30am
			(President: Fr Geoff; All-Age Presentation)	
			Followed by refreshments	
			Holy Baptism	1.00pm
			Evening Prayer	6.00pm

NOTICES

WATFORD CELEBRATION 2019 will be on Monday May 6th, 11.0am-4.0pm, a great occasion celebrating Watford's rich diversity of cultures, faiths and talents. This will be held in the MCCC, St Michael's Church and Littlebury Hall with free entry. The event will include Music, Dance, International Food, Sacred Space, Kids' Activities and Model Railway.

CONCERT: We are thinking about inviting the Gwalia Choir, a Welsh Male Voice choir, to come and perform for us in December. We would like to make this a fundraising event. So first of all, we would like to know if you would support this concert, and, if you would be able to bring friends and family to help with the sale of tickets. Please talk to Fr Geoff, Elizabeth, Iola and Valerie B with your ideas.

CHILDREN'S SOCIETY BOXES and LENT COLLECTING BOXES: Please return the boxes and their contents to church as soon as possible.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 12 - 18 May: We do not do street collections but are aware of the very vital work that Christian Aid does throughout the world. Have a look at their magazine on the south wall and/or their website. Soon posters will be up and envelopes available to be filled. Whatever your donation it will be greatly appreciated. Thank you. Vicki.

International Prayer for Peace

Lead me from death to life, from falsehood to truth.

Lead me from despair to hope, from fear to trust.

Lead me from hate to love, from war to peace.

Let peace fill our hearts, our world, our universe.