

April
2008

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MAGAZINE

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50p



**ST MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS
CHURCH (Anglican)**
Mildred Ave. / Durban Rd.
Watford



WEST WATFORD FREE CHURCH
(Baptist)
'Church by the Zebra Crossing'
Tolpits Lane, Watford

A Pastoral Letter.....

Dear Friends,

My turn to write this letter and again I'm having to look ahead. Today is Maundy Thursday and I've just returned from St Albans Abbey where, each year on this day, all the Clergy and Readers in the diocese are called by the Bishop to renew their commitment to ministry. This takes place in the setting of the Eucharist, at which the oils used by the clergy for baptisms, confirmations and in ministry to those who are sick, are blessed by the Bishop. So I am on a high just now, with that moving and re-invigorating experience very much with me.

Tomorrow though it will be Good Friday, with its profound and disturbing ceremonies and, by the time you read this, Easter Day's euphoria will have come and gone, with Mary Magdalene's encounter with the Risen Christ replaced by Low Sunday's story of Doubting Thomas. So – lots of ups and downs, highs and lows in the space of a few days. How does it all hold together?

Unless there are some surprises in store our personal lives and the life of the world will carry on just the same. We shall still have to deal with sickness and death, and possibly with increased financial worries. There will still be wars, and rumours of wars, tyranny and oppression. Small wonder that some feel closer emotionally to Holy Week than to Easter – to the Lamentations of Jeremiah than to shouts of Alleluia - as more authentically expressing their feelings.

As I write I am listening to a CD of the Passion according to St John by the contemporary Estonian composer Arvo Part (with two dots over the 'a'). With its blend of harmony and discord it feels to me an appropriate medium for the appalling events it describes. The notes on the cover describe the music as being based on the composer's principle 'that the melody and the accompaniment are one'. This seems to express something of the tension we experience between the realities of life (the accompaniment) and the Easter message of hope renewed (the melody), for the two are always in some kind of juxtaposition.

But, being human, we often become preoccupied with the accompaniment so that, distracted, we miss the melody –the music of the Risen Christ eternally present and at one with the life of the world in its sorrows as well as its joys. So, Easter is the time above all for allowing ourselves to be renewed (it doesn't just happen) so that we can engage with the world again in faith and hope. This means, especially, waiting patiently on the Lord in the flux of life and being attentive in prayer, so that we sing to the melody of the Christ who both enters our human suffering, and makes us and all things new.

Fr John, Violet and I wish you every Blessing this Eastertide.

With love and prayers



A CELTIC THOUGHT

*May the hand of a friend always be near,
May God fill your heart with good cheer.*

*May the dreams that you dream be the ones that you pray,
May the blackbirds that sing start off your day.*

*May there always be work for your hands to do,
May your purse always hold a coin or two.*

*May the sun always shine on your window pane,
May a rainbow be certain to follow each rain.*

Submitted by Bill Craddock-Jones



FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday 8 April

***The Image of the Cross* talk by the Bishop of St Albans
In St Lukes Church, Langley Way at 7.45pm**

Saturday 19 April

**Fabulous Family Music Day -
Free Wind & Brass Concert -
In St Michael's at 11.00am.**

Saturday 26 April

**Radlett Choral Society Concert
Beethoven *Mass in C*
Bach: *Cantata No 140 'Sleepers, Wake!'*
In St Michael's at 7.30pm.**

Report of PCC Meeting held on 19th March 2008

- ❑ The draft Agreement for the Littlebury Hall Children's Centre has been returned by the lawyers for final approval by both parties.
- ❑ Approval of the annual accounts prior to the AGM will be given by the Standing Committee on 6th April.
- ❑ Phil Gough reported on recent repair works, mainly to the roof. The organ is an on-going problem.
- ❑ Nick Kimberley will supervise a canal trip on 1st August; the Holiday Club will start on 4th August, probably for a week; a Quiz Night is planned for 16th May.
- ❑ It was hoped as many people as possible would go on the Easter Monday Pilgrimage to St Albans.
- ❑ The difficulty of keeping the church tidy was discussed. The Publicity Committee was especially commended for recent displays for Epiphany, Lent and Easter.
- ❑ The next meeting of the Deanery Synod will be on 8th April in St Luke's Church, Langley Way and will be open to everyone. The Bishop of St Albans will speak on *The Image of the Cross*.
- ❑ Alan Cockram reported on recent events at West Watford Free Church, saying he was pleased to see so many children of various nationalities and the 50th anniversary celebrations had been very successful. However, the Holywell community had been shocked by the recent death of Pamela Bangs, who was killed by a van as she collected her son from school.
- ❑ The Vicar expressed thanks to all who delivered the local churches' Easter folders.

The next meeting will be the AGM on 30th April 2008.

Sue Winterbotham
(PCC Secretary)

THE AMERSHAM MILLENNIUM LECTURES

St Michael and All Angels Church, Amersham, has been organising these lectures for some time. On Tuesday 11 March Simon and I went along to one entitled "Dead Meat - Human beings: careful stewards of the animal world or frightened and bullying butchers?", presented by Revd Dr Steven Shakespeare. What a title! Father John had drawn our attention to it.

The powerful and thought-provoking lecture had our minds buzzing on the journey home. It is impossible to summarise it in so small a space, suffice to say that Dr Shakespeare argued that we reduce animals to raw materials for one overriding purpose: to secure our fragile human identity in an age of anxiety and change by sacrificing nature. So many problems are interrelated, he explained, the same fears driving colonialism, racism, sexism and homophobia.

Dr Shakespeare, a young man, is the Anglican Chaplain of Liverpool Hope University and a member of the steering group of the international Ecclesiological Investigational Network. His publications include "The Inclusive God" [Canterbury Press]. He has kindly agreed to send me the transcript of his lecture; if anyone would like a copy, just ask me. I shall also have it on CD.

The Amersham Millennium Lectures are on various subjects and I shall hope to attend more in the future.

Sarah Dunning



A PILGRIMAGE FOR OUR TIMES

On a foggy February morning members of the Bridge of Peace set off on their long- anticipated visit to St Albans Abbey, using some of their government grant. A group of twenty- one Muslim ladies and fifteen Christians (including three from St Michael's) travelled by two mini -buses and cars to the Abbey. The arrangement was that Canon Iain Lane would welcome us at 11.00am and then show us around. He had been very enthusiastic when we first began to explore the possibility of such a visit and was a great help throughout all the planning.



Some of the Muslim ladies arriving at the Abbey

I had been apprehensive about getting there on time as one mini- bus had planned to collect visitors from three areas around Watford because some of the ladies had limited mobility and two were wheel-chair users; also it was market day in St Albans! Prayers were answered however and everyone was in the right place at the right time – and I've

never seen Holywell Hill so free of traffic.

On arrival we were told that Canon Lane would meet us in the Crypt – which is down two flights of stairs, so we wondered how we would all manage to get down there. Happily he asked us instead to make our way to the West Door. This took some time as people were stopping and talking and looking at everything en route, but eventually we all arrived and sat in pews while Canon Lane told us the story of St Alban the Martyr, and about the development of the Abbey

over the centuries. I learned a lot! The visitors asked many questions before we moved to the Sanctuary, sitting near the choir stalls. The women really appreciated the architecture, especially pointing out the height of the coloured arches and the roof decoration. They said it reminded them of Mosque styles.

We then went for lunch in the Refectory, each of us having been given a voucher for £5 towards this. Cheryl Turner, the catering manager-who had been most helpful beforehand- had

laid out places for us on reserved tables, so it all looked very welcoming.

The party then moved to the Lady Chapel, passing the Shrine of St Alban on the way. Some of the Muslim ladies had said that they would like to pray at 1.00pm. There was no problem with this and Canon Lane said that they were very welcome to pray anywhere, asking whether they needed any resources. All



Canon Lane with the group in St Albans Abbey

they needed though was to be able to face east. When, later I was trying to see who was where –some having gone to the bookshop and others to the washrooms, I came across a most memorable sight with a small group of the Muslim women kneeling devoutly at prayer in the Prayer room alongside the Shrine. I thought, how wonderful that this house of prayer can be so hospitable and inclusive, welcoming others of faith in this way.

Canon Lane then spoke to us all in the Lady Chapel about the Shrine. He told us how pleased he was to welcome us and that an integral part of his ministry at the Abbey is reaching out in friendship to others of faith, and that he is building good relations with local mosques and synagogues. He then gave each person a glossy coloured guide to the Abbey, saying that he hoped this visit had whetted our appetites, and that the women would come again, bringing their families.



Pat Gandy helps one of the Muslim ladies

In the buses on the way home everyone seemed to have appreciated and enjoyed the visit-and asked us to arrange another before too long!

Gill Heath

MARCH

31st Mon MU Lady Day Service at Langleybury 2.30 pm

APRIL

2nd Wed Bring-&-Share Lunch 12.30 pm

Bible Study (Acts 21, 27 -) (Choir Vestry) 8.00 pm

3rd Thu Fairhaven (during morning)

Choir Practice 7 - 8.30 pm

5th Sat Parish Walk - leave church at 10 am

6th SUN EASTER 3

Holy Communion 8.00 am

SUNG EUCHARIST (Pres: Fr John; Preacher: Violet Allen Smith) (with crèche) 9.30 am

Sunday School in Littlebury Hall 9.30 am

United Service - tba 6.30 pm

8th Tue Talk by the Bishop of St Albans – The Image of the Cross - at St Luke’s Church (Synod meeting, open to all) 7.45 pm

10th Thu St Anthony’s (during morning)

Choir Practice 7 – 8.30 pm

13th SUN EASTER 4

Holy Communion (Pres: Fr John) 8.00 am

SUNG EUCHARIST (Pres & Preacher: Fr John) (with crèche) 9.30 am

11.15 Service – Simple Eucharist 11.15 am

River Court Service 3.00 pm

Evensong (Off: Fr John) 6.30 pm

14th Mon Service at the Chase Care Home 3.00 pm

15th Tue Intercessory Prayer Group (15 Lynbury Court) 2.30 pm

16th Wed Service at Home Manor (Violet) 3.00 pm

17th Thu Mission & Stewardship Committee (Clergy Vestry) 10.30 pm

Rehearsal for the BBC Concert Orchestra 1.30 pm – 8.30 pm

(Please note no Kids’ Club or Choir Practice)

19th Sat BBC CONCERT ORCHESTRA – WIND & BRASS 11.00 am

CONCERT (admission free)

20th SUN EASTER 5

Holy Communion (Pres: Fr John) 8.00 am

SUNG EUCHARIST (Pres: Fr John; Preacher: Janet Ridgeway of the Mothers’ Union) (with crèche) 9.30 am

CS FOR APRIL

		Sunday School in Littlebury Hall	9.30 am
		Evensong (Off: Fr John)	6.30 pm
21st	Mon	Radlett Choral Society set up and rehearsal 6 pm -	10.00 pm
24th	Thu	Kids' Club 3.30 – 5 pm	
		Choir Practice 7 – 8.30 pm	
26th	Sat	CONCERT BY RADLETT CHORAL SOCIETY	7.30 pm
27th	SUN	EASTER 6	
		Holy Communion (Pres: Fr John)	8.00 am
		SUNG EUCHARIST (with crèche)	9.30 am
		Followed by Bring-&-Buy Sale	
		Sunday School in Littlebury Hall	9.30 am
		Evensong	6.30 pm
30th	Wed	ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING	7.45 pm
		ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING	8.00 pm

MAY

1st	Thu	Fairhaven (during morning)	
		Kids' Club 3.30 – 5 pm	
		Choir Practice 7.00 – 8.30 pm	
4th	SUN		
		Holy Communion	8.00 am
		SUNG EUCHARIST	9.30 am
		Baptism of Miyah & Corey Hutchinson	3.00 pm
		Evening Service – tba	6.30 pm
5th	Mon	<i>Bank Holiday</i>	
		NB No Toddlers Group	

Morning Prayer is said daily in the Lady Chapel (Monday to Friday) at 9.00 am.

A service of Holy Communion is held every Thursday at 10.00 am. Both this and the 8 am on Sunday morning are Order One in Traditional Language.

The Toddlers' Group meets in Church every Monday from 10.00 – 11.30 am. (Except Bank Holidays).



ST MICHAEL'S MOTHERS' UNION DIARY



Wednesday 7th May

2.0pm Garden Meeting at 15 Lynbury Court.

Wednesday ? June
(day to be arranged)

from 3pm Tea on the Triangle from 3 pm - particularly for young families.

Tuesday 8th July

2.00pm Wave of Prayer.

Pat Gandy



Funerals

13 March 2008

IAN ('PIP') YEO. (aged 63) Pip and Pauline have lived in Croxley View since 1966 – two years after they were married: (he was 21 and she only 17!). They first met when they both lived in Harris Road/Clarkes Way in North Watford. Pip spent much of his childhood in the care of Barnardos where he was a keen boxer (boxing gloves on coffin!) and athlete. He found his work in roofing (an ingenious floral tribute came in the form of a house with a ladder!). Characteristically always wearing a cap Pip was a very popular man and his funeral at the Crematorium was completely full: of relatives, neighbours, friends and colleagues, many well-known to Fr John from years of contact with Holywell families. Fr John married both Pip's daughters: Julie (in 1989 and now in the Caribbean), and Tracey (in 1991 and now in Bricket Wood). Pip also has Paul (married, now in Abbots Langley). Pip has five grandchildren, to whom he was devoted. Shannon (10), his oldest granddaughter, wrote a lovely poem about her grandad which Fr John read out at the service. To Pauline and all the family we send our love and sympathy.

Fr John

FINAL COPY DATE FOR MAY SWORD:-

Midday on Sunday 20th April 2008

Please submit copy before this date if possible -

hard copy, floppy disc or e-mail to

DENNIS.H.BEACH@sky.com

Teenage Charity Quiz night

(in aid of Christian Aid)

Friday May 16th 19:00 until 22:00

St Michaels and All Angels Church

Mildred Avenue, Watford

Teams: Maximum eight teenagers

Bring your own drinks, £1 for heads and tails.

Also we have a rematch of Soccer re: St Lukes youth group in Cassiobury Park on Sunday 13th April. Not sure what time yet.



**ARE YOU PRICKING OUT
SEEDLINGS AND POTTING
UP CUTTINGS READY FOR
THE
PLANT SALE
SATURDAY
10 MAY**

PLEASE LABEL PLANTS CLEARLY

WEST WATFORD FREE CHURCH (BAPTIST)

NEWSLETTER

Pastor: Garth Woodhead

Services during April:

EVERY Sunday morning there is an Act of Worship for ALL ages at 10.30am to which you are very welcome. The children present have their own session from about 11.00am onwards. Holy Communion is celebrated on the 4th Sunday morning of each month.

Refreshments are served immediately after the morning service and you are invited to stay for a time of fellowship with other members of the congregation.

Other services:

6th Joint service at St Michael and All Angels at 6.30pm

13th Service at Rivercourt NOTE at 3.00pm

20th Joint service, including Holy Communion, HERE at 6.30pm

From the Herts Baptist Forum's Prayer Link: (not to hand)

From the Baptist Union's Prayer Diary:

April Fool's – God of all fools, Give us eyes that see our world as it is, and see you at work in it. Give us ears that hear the cries of the oppressed and listen for your voice. Give us a voice that utters prophecy and radiates grace. Give us a heart that feels compassion and stirs us to action. Where hope is lost, where darkness has prevailed, where injustice reigns – make us fools enough to be true heralds of your kingdom.

6th – 12th BUGB President: John Weaver, currently Principal of South Wales Baptist College will be installed in post in May

13th – 19th Barnwell Baptist Church, Cambridge (Eastern) – Rev Stuart Wood

20th - 26th Northern Baptist Association

27th - May 3rd Baptist Assembly at the Norbeck Castle Hotel, Blackpool.

From the Baptist Missionary Society's Prayer Guide:

March 30th – April 5th Hungary – Many Hungarians feel unhappy about their lot in life, both individually and as a nation but are a very proud people. The 20000-strong Baptist Church is among those pointing to Christ by church planting, running summer tent missions in strategic county towns and ministering to those with particular needs eg

homelessness, being orphaned, drug addicts and the disabled.

6th – 12th Guinea – there are very few trained pastors. So many often have to pastor more than one church and in rural areas this could mean that he has to cover 5 or 6 churches. The Church in Guinea also supports its own mission workers who go to live in communities where the majority of the population will be hostile in the gospel message. Here are a few facts about Guinea – the Capital is Conakry, population is estimated at 9 947 814, life expectancy is a shade under 50 years and approximately 47% live in poverty.

13th – 19th International Mission Centre (IMC) is the BMS residential training centre in Selly Oak, Birmingham, which prepares people to serve overseas with BMS – long-term personnel, mid-term volunteers, Action Teams and other forms of volunteering. IMC training lasts from a single weekend to a full year with all sorts of interaction between the various groups who find themselves here at the same time.

20th – 26th Belgium, seen by many as the centre of an increasingly united Europe, continues to struggle to keep together its three regions and three linguistic groups. The capital, Brussels – like so many world cities – attracts people from all over the world seeking a new life. The Baptist Church, with several workers supported by BMS, seeks to bring the Good News of Jesus to all.

27th – May 3rd Baptist Assembly with BMS World Mission – May 2nd to 5th.

Church and Family News & Views:

It was good to hear the latest news from the Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF) via the recent visit from the new area representative, Tony Picton. We were able to give Tony a donation to MAF funds of just over £150. (Many, many years ago when I was a Crusader leader our group supported MAF and I mentioned this to Tony and he recalled the name of Steve Stevens DFC for me as I knew him! Steve is still active with MAF at the age of 89 – so I'm going to get in touch with at his home in Worthing).

We received Easter greetings from Rosemary and Roelant in New Zealand. Rosemary is still officially on maternity leave following the birth of Jean-Luc but is getting back into her service with the Bible College of NZ by lecturing on Missions. She is also starting studying for a PhD in June. Currently they are in Sydney to meet some colleagues who worked in Kyrgyzstan.

There was some concern that no direct news had been received from Steve and Caroline Sanderson in Uganda – they are the BMS missionaries acting as Parlegals that we support. Paul Hayler of Leavesden Road

Baptist Baptist Church got in touch with parents. We learn that Caroline's time is mostly taken up with the care of their daughter, Hannah. Its quite tough going, Hannah is not old enough to receive an anti-malarial jab so she is vulnerable to mosquito bites. Caroline was strapping Hannah into the car when an African leaned into the car – she shouted and the man ran off she gave chase and her mobile phone and cash were recovered. She had to intervene to stop the crowd from beating the man with staves. No doubt we will get more direct information in the next month or so.

A lot of the clients of Café West on Tuesday mornings were very shocked and saddened by the death of Pam Bangs following the accident on the single-lane Vicarage Road bridge last month. The café closed so that people could attend the funeral on March 18th. A collection is in progress to help fund her son, Gary's education. Contact Garth Woodhead for details. The café is flourishing and is highly recommended!

Joyce Poulton is awaiting her operation so our thoughts are with her as she waits patiently.

Please remember other members of our fellowship who are not too well at the moment in your personal prayers.

Two events that are taking place next month – the first, a family picnic in Cassiobury Park on Bank Holiday Monday afternoon, May 5th organized by Christians Across Watford and the second – Christian Aid Week, May 11th – 18th. More details next month.

Birthdays:

1st Beatrice Collings

7th Roelant Dewerse (NZ)

13th Enid Ashby – we wish all three a very happy day when it arrives.

'Tale' piece:

I have recently come across this Prayer – 'O God make the doorway of this house and our hearts wide enough to receive all who need human love and fellowship, narrow enough to shut out all envy, pride and strife. Make its threshold smooth enough to be no stumbling block to children or barrier to the elderly and disabled. Let its door be rugged and strong to turn back the tempter's power, but open and inviting to those who are guests; God make this house and our lives the doorway for many to glimpse your eternal Kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord'. AMEN

Alan Cockram

St Michael & All Angels Church

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E-mail:- stmichaels@talktalk.net

Vicar	* Revd. Canon J B Brown MA	St Michael's Vicarage, 5 Mildred Avenue	232460
Readers	* Mrs V Allen-Smith	40 Park Avenue	249921
	* Dr M Heath	72 Harwoods Road	249168
Churchwardens	Mr P Chandler	115 Kensington Avenue	252926
	Mrs S Moring	6 Cassiobury Park Avenue	231917
PCC Secretary	Mrs Sue Winterbotham	12 Westmount Apts, Met Station Approach	237673
PCC Treasurer	Mrs C J Deeley	5 Greenbury Close, Chorleywood	282001
Hall Secretary	Mrs P Brown	St Michael's Vicarage, 5 Mildred Avenue	232460
Sacristan	Mr J Wareham	26 Belgrave Avenue	221216
Organist & Choirmaster	Mr A Benoy	Flat 1, Prince Michael of Kents Lodge, Stratford Road	239524
SWORD Magazine	Mr D Beach	18 The Gardens	247982
Gift Aid Secretary	Mr R Ward	67 The Chase	242494
Electoral Roll Secretary	Mr H Moring	6 Cassiobury Park Avenue	231917
The Children's Soc. Secretary	Mrs N Twitchin	78 Princes Avenue	249327
Brownie Guides	Mrs S Mulligan		351840
Creche	Mrs A Makin	37 St James Road	236067
Kids Club & Youth Group	Mrs J Talbot	35 Kings Avenue	226276
Young Children & Grown-Ups	Lesley Kinch	Flat 21, Ashridge House, Chenies Way	234788
Mothers' Union	Mrs P Gandy	15 Lynbury Court	224215
Wednesday Coffee Morning	Mrs J Dickinson	23 Whippendell Road	228441
Social Committee	Mrs P Hart	127 Parkside Drive	220884

The names of members of the Parochial Church Council and their membership of the various committees will be found on the Church Notice Board.

* Members of the Pastoral Team.

The Vicar's day off is Tuesday

For the Month's Diary of events and details of all Church Services please turn to the centre pages of this magazine.

West Watford Free Church (Baptist)

Pastor	Mr Garth Woodhead	184 Hagden Lane	466509
Church Secretary	Mr A Cockram	139 Briar Road, Kingswood	677372