

May
2008

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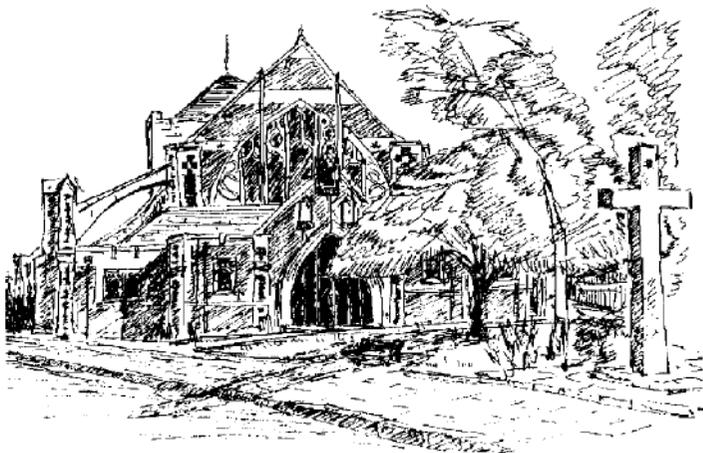
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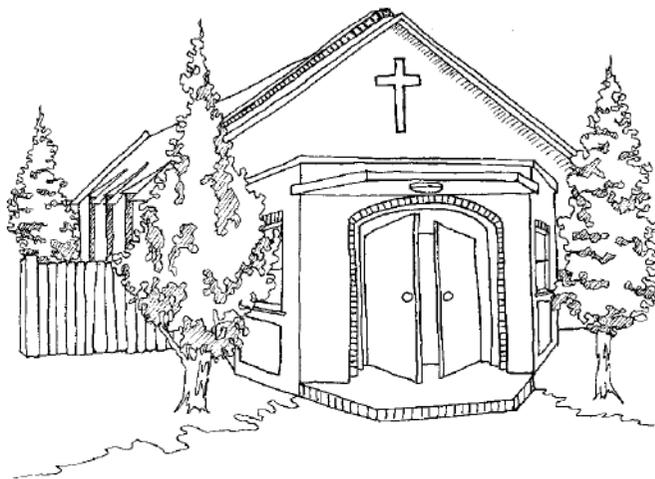
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**ST MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS
CHURCH (Anglican)**
Mildred Ave. / Durban Rd.
Watford



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

A Pastoral Letter.....

We once had a lovely cat called Sadie. She lived to be nearly 16 and we were very upset when she died. Never, in all Sadie's time, did we see another cat in the garden. But soon after she died all the cats of the neighbourhood took over our garden as their territory. "Sadie's gone; it's now all ours!" you could almost hear them saying.

It's not just cats who are 'territorial'. Humans are too. This should not surprise us as they are just as 'natural' as any other species. We can observe this human defending of space in so many different encounters in daily life. At one extreme, for example, there was this experience. At the supermarket, as I was unpacking my purchases onto the moving checkout, the lady in front of me scowled at me and made it clear that (despite the dividing bar which I had placed between us) she thought my goods were encroaching too near to hers! She was certainly sensitive to her 'space'. At the other extreme, about 20 years ago a friend of mine was reprimanded by no less a person than the Duke of Marlborough when walking with his bicycle in the grounds of Blenheim Palace. He was, the Duke agreed, on a public *foot*path, but this did not mean cycles. The Duke (owning countless acres) was certainly sensitive to *his* 'space'.

The issue of space, of course, figures prominently in the Bible, where we are given much to think about. The ancient Jews were cramped for space when in captivity in Egypt, and this experience was seared on their collective mind; and when Pharaoh 'let the people go' they found new territory in which to expand as they moved into the land of Canaan. Countless years of exile much later made them all the more fond of, and possessive about, Zion or Jerusalem. By contrast Jesus was 'spaceless', as we are told that he 'had nowhere to lay his head'.

We live in a world of huge inequalities, and one of the most obvious ways this shows is in the amount of living space a person or family has. In fact there is no better way of assessing wealth than by observing how big someone's house is! Estate agents will tell you that the amount of accommodation a dwelling possesses (or 'boasts' in their jargon!) is by far the most important factor in determining its value.

So it's all the more surprising that the issue of space, and the decreasing amount of it as more and more people need to be housed, is not more of a talking-point in our society today. In West Watford there is much overcrowding as people from overseas live in bedsits.

How far land should be regarded as a communal commodity is (in theory, and has been in the past, especially) a very controversial topic. Christians should always remember that one of the characteristics of the lives of the early Christians, as we read recently at Church, was that they pooled their belongings, and that also meant their 'space'. In our own day maybe we should explore more thoroughly how a proportion of the proceeds of the sale of ever-decreasing amounts of land (often through demolition and

replacement with a greater number of dwellings) should find its way to helping reduce the inequalities of space we are all so well aware of.

Fr John



Funerals

11th. April 2008

ALFRED HARRY CARTER was born in Southend, but moved, as a young boy, to Watford when war was declared. After he left school he worked for a time at John Dickensons in Croxley, but later joined the Merchant Navy and enjoyed visiting different countries. On his return home he met, and married, Jane in 1977. Alfred then worked for British Telecom until he retired at the age of 60. After his retirement he was pleased to be employed as a driver for the Path. Lab. at the hospital. He enjoyed animal programmes, quizzes and programmes about history on T.V. He and Jane had three children, Robert, Sharon and Charmaine, and two grandchildren, John and Jake.

11th. April 2008

JESSICA ALDERTON she was born in Croxley Green 99 years ago and was among the youngest of thirteen children. In 1930 she married Anthony Alderton and they made their home in Tudor Avenue. They had one son Dennis Allen, but he was always known as Alan. During the war Jessica worked in the catering department of Buck and Hickman and remembered being on a 'bus as a 'Doodlebug' hovered overhead! She also helped with the street party, which was held to mark the end of the war. She travelled widely during her married life with her husband. Sadly Anthony developed diabetes and she nursed him 'till his death. At the age of 80 she moved to Houston, Texas to be near her son and daughter-in-law and there she travelled and made friends. In 1999, for health reasons she came back to England and for the last eight years of her long life she was cared for in Rivercourt Nursing Home. Here she still saw friends and her niece. A long and interesting life which Jessica thoroughly enjoyed.

Violet



ST MICHAEL'S MOTHERS' UNION DIARY



Wednesday 21st May 2pm

Garden tea party at 15 Lynbury Court
please note the change of date.

This will be an occasion when we shall be fund-raising for Safe Babies in Burundi and there will be a bring-and-buy stall and raffle.

Everyone welcome.

Wednesday ? June
(date to be arranged)

Tea on the Triangle from 3 pm – particularly for young families

Tuesday 8th July 2pm

Wave of Prayer

We were very fortunate to have the Rev Janet Ridgway to preach at the 9.30 Service on 20 April when she gave a very clear account of the work done by the Mothers' Union in the 21st century. Our thanks go to Martin Heath for arranging for Janet to come and preach.

Pat Gandy



LESLEY KINCH (update)

I thought I would just let you all know what is happening about my leg. As you know I had surgery in February, which has gone fairly well. It has been a bit up and down since that operation. I have an area that is very slow to heal so am still having the district nurses dress my leg on alternate days.

My consultant wants me to have an MRI scan to see what is happening in my right thigh and this will be done in May. I am to stay on antibiotics till I have the scan results. The scan will see if I need any more surgery or not.

I want to thank you all for the continuing support you give me. I also want to thank you for the prayers, good wishes and encouragement given by the congregation. I am truly lucky to have such a good support network of friends and I thank God for all your love.

Many thanks,

Lesley Kinch



PLANT SALE

Would you like to help at the Plant Sale but don't have green fingers?

As usual, we would like to have all kinds of different stalls in addition to our main one that sells plants.

So far we know there will be

- ❖ cakes, groceries and preserves – any contributions gratefully accepted.
- ❖ gifts, greetings cards, gift wrap.
- ❖ children's books, toys.
- ❖ Bric-a-brac

There is also stock for a book and video stall and we need someone to serve coffee and biscuits during the morning.

We are very willing to have other stalls but offers of help to man them would be most gratefully accepted.

The Plant Sale is on **Saturday 10 May 2008 from 10 – 12 noon** and all the proceeds are added to our mission and charitable giving to be allocated during the year.

Sylvia Moring

PS Have you got a poster in your window and have you put handbills in your neighbours' letter boxes.

Teenage Charity Quiz night

(in aid of Christian Aid)

Friday May 16th 19:00 until 22:00

St Michael and All Angels Church

Mildred Avenue, Watford

Teams: Maximum eight teenagers

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

THE CHURCH OF BANGLADESH

The Church of Bangladesh is building safe wells to provide villagers with clean water

In 2001, Asura Khatun, 32, was diagnosed with keratosis: dark lesions on her hands, feet, chest and back – it is a skin condition that can lead to cancer.

The condition was quickly diagnosed as being caused by arsenic in the drinking water – a naturally-occurring phenomenon in Bangladesh that affects an estimated 29 million people.

The Church of Bangladesh Social Development Programme (CBSDP) built a safe well in Asura's village of Alumpur. They also gave Asura vitamin supplements and urged her to eat eggs and vegetables to eliminate the arsenic from her body. This combination of safe water and a healthier diet saved Asura's life. The marks on her body have now almost completely vanished.

She said: 'I was in a lot of pain, but the church took care of me. I could have died, but instead I'm feeling a lot better.'

Asura was so pleased she went from house to house telling her neighbours about the dangers of arsenic poisoning, urging them to drink safe water and grow more vegetables.

Bangladesh's arsenic problem was first detected in 1993 when it was found that many wells were drawing water from contaminated sources – resulting in slow arsenic poisoning which is claiming thousands of lives.

USPG-supported mission companion James Pender, who is working on CBSDP safe water projects, said: 'When I arrived in Bangladesh three years ago I had barely heard of the arsenic crisis and was staggered to learn about the extent of the problem. I visited badly affected villages and was heartbroken to hear first-hand from wives who had lost husbands, fathers who had lost children, and many more who had lost dear friends. Right away I knew that addressing the issue had to be by main priority.'

James researched the arsenic problem and helped the Church of Bangladesh to develop the Arsenic Mitigation Project. He said: 'The church's practical work has earned Christians a very positive reputation. The church's main vision is to share the love of Christ.'

*Article reproduced from **Transmission** Spring 2008*

St Michael's is supporting the Church of Bangladesh through USPG's Project scheme.

DEANERY SYNOD

The open meeting at St Luke's on 8 April heard an illustrated talk from the Bishop of St Albans entitled *The Image of the Cross*.

Bishop Christopher went back to New Testament times to explain how the symbolism of the Cross had developed. At first, though the notion of the Crucifixion pervaded all the Epistles, it was still too recent and too painful for there to be any examples of the use even of a plain Cross as a symbol in the first and second centuries AD. Christianity was in any case a persecuted minority religion for many years, without buildings of its own in which symbols might be placed. Images such as the chi-rho symbol began to appear in the third century, and the Cross itself began at last to become important in the fourth century as a sign of victory after St Helena went to Constantinople, with the Cross in Glory appearing about AD390.

Shortly after this images began to be used, notably on a casket of about AD430, and on the doors of St Sabine in Rome at about the same date. The sixth-century mosaic roof of Galla Placidia in Ravenna had another representation of the Cross in glory. By the early eighth century, the date of the Ruthwell Cross in Northumbria, carved in stone, the Cross was beginning to speak for itself, and in the ninth century in Germany a book on the Adoration of the Cross appeared at Fulda, suitably illuminated in the manner of the times. The late tenth-century monastic reforms in England produced a liturgy of veneration of the Cross in the *Regularis Concordia*. Back in Germany, the Gero crucifix of 973 now in Koln cathedral portrayed an image of Christ. Altar crosses did not however come into use until the thirteenth century. Previous crosses were smaller and had been portable. Further developments in England were the appearance of wooden rood crosses, an idea brought over from the abbey of Bec by Lanfranc when he became archbishop of Canterbury in the late eleventh century, and large wall paintings. The cathedral at St Albans has good late twelfth/early thirteenth-century examples.

By now we were getting into the Renaissance and early modern periods with very many more examples in wood, stone, paintings, sculpture or glass in a plethora of different styles, right up to modern artists like Chagal. The bishop's conclusion was that the Cross was a symbol that still mattered, even in the modern world.

Eric Wightman

FINAL COPY DATE FOR JUNE SWORD:-

Midday on Sunday 25th May 2008

Please submit copy before this date if possible -

hard copy, floppy disc or e-mail to

DENNIS.H.BEACH@sky.com

APRIL

30th	Wed	Eucharist	7.00 pm
		ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING	7.45 pm
		ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING	8.00 pm

MAY

1st	Thu	ASCENSION DAY <i>POLLING DAY</i> Fairhaven (during morning)	
		Kids' Club	3.30-5 pm
		Choir Practice	7-7.55 pm
		Sung Eucharist	8.00 pm
3rd	Sat	Parish Walk – 10 am from Church	
4th	SUN	EASTER 7/Sunday after Ascension	
		Holy Communion	8.00 am
		SUNG EUCHARIST (Pres & Preacher: Fr John)	9.30 am
		Crèche and Sunday School	9.30 am
		Baptism of Edward Dunn	12.30 pm
		Baptism of Miyah and Corey Hutchinson	3.00 pm
		Evening Service - tba	
5th	Mon	<i>Bank Holiday</i>	
7th	Wed	Bring-&-Share lunch	12.30 pm
8th	Thu	St Anthony's during morning	
		Kids' Club	3.30-5 pm
		Choir Practice	7- 8.30 pm
9th	Fri	Set-up in Church for Plant Sale	
10th	Sat	RSCM Examinations (Choir Vestry)	
		PLANT SALE	10-12 noon
11th	SUN	PENTECOST	
		Holy Communion (Pres: Fr John)	8.00 am
		SUNG EUCHARIST (Pres & Preacher: Fr John)	9.30 am
		Crèche available	
		Service of Thanksgiving and Praise (Baptism Renewal)	11.15 am
		River Court Service	3.00 pm
		CHORAL EVENSONG (Off: Fr John)	6.30 pm
12th	Mon	<i>Christian Aid week starts</i>	
13th	Tue	Worship Committee	7.00 pm
14th	Wed	Service at Home Manor (Violet)	3.00 pm

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15th	Thu	Kids Club	3.30-5 pm
		Choir Practice	7-8.30 pm
16th	Fri	Teenage Quiz Night in aid of Christian Aid	7-10 pm
18th	SUN	TRINITY	
		Holy Communion (Pres: Fr John)	8.00 am
		SUNG EUCHARIST (Pres: Fr John; Preacher: Violet Allen Smith)	9.30 am
		Crèche and Sunday School	9.30 am
		Evensong (Off: Fr John)	6.30 pm
21st	Wed	Mothers' Union Garden Party (all welcome) 15 Lynbury Court	2.00 pm
22nd	Thu	Kids' Club	3.30-5 pm
		Choir Practice	7-8.30 pm
25th	SUN	TRINITY 1	
		Holy Communion (Pres: Fr John)	8.00 am
		SUNG EUCHARIST (Pres: Fr John; Preacher: Martin Heath)	9.30 am
		Crèche and Sunday School	9.30 am
		Followed by a Bring-&-Buy Sale	
		Evensong (Off: Fay Storey)	6.30 pm
26th	Mon	<i>Bank Holiday</i>	<i>Half Term starts</i>
27th	Tue	Intercessory Prayer Group (6 Cassiobury Park Avenue)	2.30 pm
29th	Thu	Choir Practice	7-8.30 pm

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).

Tea, Coffee & Squash are served in Church every Wednesday from 10.30 until noon. On the first Wednesday of the month this is followed by a bring-and-share lunch at 12.30 pm.

A LITANY FOR PENTECOST

With great power, the Spirit of God is poured out on the expectant disciples

For a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the people of God all over the world, and in all worship traditions. For a readiness to be changed and made new; for a softening of the ground of our hearts to receive without fear.

With our whole selves we pray **Come Holy Spirit of God.**

For all the peoples of the earth to know you and honour you by name. For the healing of the nations and a new thirst for righteousness and purity at every level and in every aspect of society. For a dissatisfaction with the pursuit of pleasure and all that distracts from our true calling.

With our whole selves we pray **Come Holy Spirit of God.**

For the grace and power to live out our faith in the real and challenging world, among those we meet and eat with, whose lives we share, without compromising that calling to be the body of Christ, living God's integrity and purity, forgiveness and love.

With our whole selves we pray **Come Holy Spirit of God.**

For those whose lives feel empty or cheated, or filled with pain, or worry or guilt. For all whose hopes and dreams are in tatters; all who are in any way imprisoned.

With our whole selves we pray **Come Holy Spirit of God.**

For those who walk the dark journey of death and all who have come through it into your presence; for mourners distressed by regrets or angry with God at their loss.

With our whole selves we pray **Come Holy Spirit of God.**

For all you have in store for us, we thank you;

We look forward to walking into the future of your promise, alive with your life.

Merciful Father, accept our prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen

Taken from Wilmslow Parish Magazine

ST. MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS CHURCH
Durban Rd./Mildred Ave.
Watford

'GROW IN FAITH!'



COME TO
THE
PLANT SALE

(IN AID OF OUR CHARITABLE GIVING)

SAT. 10 MAY '08

10-00 - 12-00 NOON
IN FRONT OF THE WEST DOORS

BOOKS

PLANTS GALORE!

CAKES, GROCERIES & PRESERVES

REFRESHMENTS

GIFTS



WEST WATFORD FREE CHURCH (BAPTIST)

NEWSLETTER

Pastor: Garth Woodhead

Services during May:

EVERY Sunday morning there is an Act of Worship for ALL ages at 10.30am to which everyone is warmly invited. 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 following the service and you are invited to stay for a time of fellowship with other members of the congregation.

NOTE: On May 4th there is a Baptismal Service at 10.30am when candidates from both our fellowship and from the French speaking church will be baptised. This will be followed by a Church Lunch.

Other Services:

- 4th. Joint service HERE at 6.30pm
- 11th. Service at RIVERCOURT at 3.00pm
- 18th. Joint service at Trinity Methodist Church with Holy Communion at 6.30pm.

From the Herts Baptist Forum's Prayer Link:

- 4th Hertford – Pastors, Steve Fenton & Sarah Benham
- 11th London Colney - Rev Peter Laws
- 18th North Bushey - Rev Dianne Tidball
- 25th King's Community Church, Letchworth - Rev David Wheatley

From the Baptist Union's Prayer Diary:

Into a world overfed with information but hungry for real truth, saturated with trivia but ignorant of grim realities, tolerant of anyone,

unless their beliefs threaten mine, open to all, as long as they are just like mine.

Come, Holy Spirit, set a holy flame in our hearts, that would ignite the world in praise, come Holy Spirit, energise your Church, come Holy Spirit liberate our world.

4th – 10th South West Baptist Association

11th - 17th ‘Just Life’ – a joint initiative between the BU’s Faith and Unity Department and Christian Aid to promote justice in our world, particularly in the Middle East and West Africa.

18th - 24th London Baptist Association

25th- 31st Belmont Road Baptist Church, Hemel Hempstead (Central).

From the Baptist Missionary Society’s Prayer Guide:

4th - 10th Nepal – BMS World Mission’s long standing partner, International Nepal Fellowship (INF) is finding its feet in its new incarnation as INF Nepal, led by Dr Deependra Gautam, and INF Worldwide led by Dave Stevens. Together they testify to God’s faithfulness in leading them through both prophetic and responsive changes, which reflect changes in Nepali society and allow them still to minister in relevant and transformational ways.

11th - 17th Arab World Broadcasting - The broadcasting of Christian radio and television programmes into the Arab world still remains an effective way to reach millions of Muslims who have yet to hear the Gospel. BMS World Mission has managed to strengthen its support to those organisations and partners who are involved in the ministries of evangelism, supporting persecuted believers and discipling those who want to grow in their faith.

18th - 24th Mid-term volunteers – Our valued mid-term volunteers are those individuals or families who commit to spend two to four years overseas after three months of residential training and equipping here in the UK.

24th - 31st Croatia and Portugal - The Baptist Union in Croatia has seen substantial growth over the past decade and in order that this might continue, focuses its attention on church planting and on

training pastors. Baptists in Portugal are being confronting with the blessings and challenges of immigration as people from Africa, Eastern Europe and South America settle in Oporto, Lisbon and the Algarve.

Church and Family News & Views:

Christians Across Watford are organizing a Monster Picnic for ALL the family in Cassiobury Park on the afternoon of Bank Holiday Monday. There will be lots of activities for all ages. So go along and find out how monsters behave.

Christian Aid week is 11th – 17th – as usual we will make the offering on the 11th exclusively for Christian Aid so please be very generous with your offering so that we can make a really good donation this year!

The Christian Police Association in the Herts Constabulary is celebrating its 125th year of Christian Witness and invite anyone to join in events at their HQ in Stanborough Road, Welwyn-Garden-City on the 6th at 7.30pm. More details from chris.upton@herts.pnn.police.uk or phone (01438 757715).

The Peace Hospice are organising a sponsored dog walk called 'Paws in the Park' on Sunday, June 1st – more details by phoning (01923) 330340 or www.peacehospice.org.uk.

Another local event to support is the Hunton Park Garden Party on the 11th from 1.00 to 5.00pm.

Joyce Poulton is still awaiting further tests before her surgery can go ahead so please keep remembering her in your prayers. Barbara Thomas informed us that she is due to have an operation on her stomach – we also remember Michael, her brother.

The lunch following the Baptismal Service on the 4th will mean members bringing with them suitable items for the lunch both savoury and sweet.

A contract has been given to a painter and decorator to complete the painting work in the Church and hall which will have started on April 22nd. This will mean that Café West will have to close for one Tuesday

at the beginning of this month – watch for the announcement.

Dorothy Thornhill, Watford's Elected Mayor has accepted an invitation to attend the 10.30am service on June 22nd so make that an absolute must to be there!

Birthdays:

2nd Niamh Croft (6)

9th John Aluma

10th Nathan (7)

17th Natasha (7) – we wish them all a very happy day when it arrives.

'Tale' piece

As there seems to have been a number of references to food this month – I thought that this observation might be appropriate as a 'Tale' piece:

Japanese eat little but experience shows that they have fewer heart attacks than the UK.

Mexicans eat a great deal of fatty foods but they have fewer heart attacks than the UK.

Chinese drink very little red wine but they have fewer heart attacks than the UK.

Italians drink excessive quantities of red wine but they have fewer heart attacks than the UK.

Germans drink excessive quantities of beer and eat lots of sausage but they have fewer heart attacks than the UK.

So, eat and drink what you like its speaking English that is the problem!!

Alan Cockram

St Michael & All Angels Church

Tel:- (01923)247090

Web site:- www.stmichaels-watford.org.uk

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