



# THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

*St Michael and All Angels*

Watford

Lent 5 (Passion Sunday)  
Sunday 25 March 2007

A warm welcome to everyone to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Eucharist, Fr John celebrates, Violet Allen-Smith preaches and Anne Eccleshall leads the intercessions. A crèche is available.

**Hymns: 499, back page of Music Notes, 375 and 376**      **Setting: Oldroyd**

Coffee and tea will be served in church after the 9.30 service. This is followed by a bring-&-buy sale – please stay on.

Lent Meditation led by Andy Benoy and Kristine Jenkins at 6.30 pm.

---

## For your prayers this week:

**The Church:** The Church in Burundi.  
The growth of Anglican-Methodist relations in the Diocese.  
The Deanery of St Albans: Rural Dean: David Ridgeway.

**The World:** All those still enslaved in the world today – in so many different ways.  
Peace in Iraq, Afghanistan, Somalia and Sudan.  
Those who plan the economic future of our country.

**The Community and Parish:** We give thanks and pray for Thomas James, born to Melanie and Joe, great grandson for June Dickinson.  
The members of the Deanery Mothers' Union as they come to St Michael's to celebrate Lady Day.

**The Ill and the Housebound:** Especially Ray Angles, Alec Bennett, Ellen Benoy, Mel Browne, John Burn, Jennifer Coley, Bill Craddock-Jones, Jean Crouch, June Dickinson, Kate Dickinson, Maureen Elvery, Jocelyn Harewood, Jenny Houghton, Mary Kearns, Loretta Lynch, Maggie Maguire, Stella Meager, Morfa Pope, Myrtle Powell, Mary Pringle, Maureen Swann, June Tatnall, Bill Thorne, Marion Vidal, Bill Widdowson and Anne Wightman.

**The Departed:** We give thanks for the work of William Wilberforce (1759-1833).

---

**Collect**

Most merciful God, who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ delivered and saved the world:  
grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross we may triumph in the power of his victory;  
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 Isaiah 43.16–21**

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

- <sup>16</sup> Thus says the LORD, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters,  
<sup>17</sup> who brings out chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down, they cannot rise, they are extinguished, quenched like a wick:  
<sup>18</sup> Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old.  
<sup>19</sup> I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.  
<sup>20</sup> The wild animals will honour me, the jackals and the ostriches; for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people,  
<sup>21</sup> the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise.

**SECOND READING Philippians 3.4b–14**

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.

- <sup>4</sup> If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more:  
<sup>5</sup> circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee;  
<sup>6</sup> as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.  
<sup>7</sup> Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ.

8 More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him,  
9 not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith.  
10 I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death,  
11 if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.  
12 Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own.  
13 Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead,  
14 I press on towards the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

## **GOSPEL John 12.1-8**

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

1 Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead.  
2 There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him.  
3 Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.  
4 But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said,  
5 'Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?'  
6 (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.)  
7 Jesus said, 'Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial.  
8 You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me.'

## THIS WEEK

Mon	26	Mar	Toddlers' Group	10 – 11.30am
			Mothers' Union Lady Day Service at St Michael's	2.30pm
			All welcome to this service and it will be followed by tea	
Wed	28	Mar	Coffee in Church	10.30-12 noon
			PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL	7.45 for 7.55pm
Thur	29	Mar	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
			Kids' Club	3.30 – 5.00pm
			Choir Practice	7.00 – 8.30pm
Sat	31	Mar	Quiz Evening (contact Allen Talbot for further information)	8.00pm
Sun	1	Apr	<b><u>PALM SUNDAY</u></b>	
			Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	8.00am
			SUNG EUCHARIST with Passion Reading	9.30am
			United Evening Service at Trinity Methodist Church	6.30pm

## NOTICES

VIGIL - MAUNDY THURSDAY/GOOD FRIDAY: Please sign up if you can keep watch one hour through the night. List by Mildred Ave door.

ELECTORAL ROLL: The date for the preparation of a NEW roll has been brought forward a year to 2007. **The last date for receipt of forms and for inclusion before the AGM will be next Sunday 1 April.** Church members on the current roll will be given new forms to complete. If somehow you are not given a form or wish to be added to the roll as a new member, please ask Fr John or Henry or Sylvia Moring for one and ensure it is returned by 1 April please. Only persons on the electoral roll may vote at the AGM.

EASTER LEAFLETS: Please volunteer to deliver these to local roads. List on table.

JOIN THE CHOIR FOR EASTER: Please see Andy Benoy or Pat Beach.

EASTER FLOWERS: If you wish to make a donation towards the Easter flowers please see Fay Storey. If you are able to gift aid your donation please use a small white envelope.

TUESDAY (27 March): Deanery Synod is an open meeting at 8 pm at St Lawrence, Abbots Langley. Archdeacon Helen will lead a Lent meditation. ALL WELCOME.

OUR MONTHLY PARISH WALK is on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> April (not 7<sup>th</sup>). and leaves strictly on time at 10 am from Church. Please sign list if you wish to come.

BRING-&-SHARE LUNCH: Please sign the list for Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> April.

A GLOBAL ARMS TRADE TREATY TALK by Brian Wood manager of arms control at Amnesty International: Monday 2nd April 8.00pm at St Mary's Parish Centre.

FINAL COPY DATE FOR THE APRIL SWORD is MIDDAY today Sunday, 25 March. Hard copy, floppy disc or email to DENNIS.H.BEACH@sky.com.

VISIT of YOUTH CHOIR from COPENHAGEN 27-30 April. Can you kindly offer accommodation? Please sign list at west end if you can.

ARE YOU 15 -18? Do you want to meet the Archbishop of Canterbury in a small group from the Diocese? See page 18 of Sword or ask Fr John.