



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

EASTER 2

Sunday 15 April 2007

A warm welcome to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Eucharist Fr John celebrates, Martin Heath preaches and Pat Beach leads the intercessions. A crèche is available.

Hymns: 138, 150, 154 and 429.

Refreshments will be served in church after the 9.30 service and this is followed by the 11.15 Service of Thanksgiving and Praise – please stay on.

The Baptism of Rebecca Jeffreys is at 3.00pm.

Youth Club from 4.00 to 6.00pm.

There is evensong in the Lady Chapel at 6.30 pm.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: The Episcopal Church of the USA – Diocese of New Hampshire:
Bishop Gene Robinson.

The Christian Education Movement.

The Royal School of Church Music.

The World: Peace in Iraq, Afghanistan, Zimbabwe, Darfur.

For guidance in resolving the many moral dilemmas with which modern technology and research confront us.

The Community and Parish: Rebecca Jeffreys – to be baptised today.

Jane and Lee Brown – married here yesterday, and for their home in Eastbury Road.

Our young people as they meet this afternoon.

Fir Rev Will Hunter as he conducts his last morning service at Trinity Methodist Church today.

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:

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 Exodus 14.10–31; 15.20–21

A reading from the book of Exodus.

- ¹⁰ As Pharaoh drew near, the Israelites looked back, and there were the Egyptians advancing on them. In great fear the Israelites cried out to the LORD.
- ¹¹ They said to Moses, 'Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us, bringing us out of Egypt?
- ¹² Is this not the very thing we told you in Egypt, "Let us alone and let us serve the Egyptians"? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness.'
- ¹³ But Moses said to the people, 'Do not be afraid, stand firm, and see the deliverance that the LORD will accomplish for you today; for the Egyptians whom you see today you shall never see again.
The LORD will fight for you, and you have only to keep still.'
- ¹⁵ Then the LORD said to Moses, 'Why do you cry out to me? Tell the Israelites to go forward.
But you lift up your staff, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the Israelites may go into the sea on dry ground.
Then I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them; and so I will gain glory for myself over Pharaoh and all his army, his chariots, and his chariot drivers.
And the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I have gained glory for myself over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his chariot drivers.'
- ¹⁹ The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them.
It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.
Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided.
The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.
The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers.
At the morning watch the LORD in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic.
He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, 'Let us flee from the Israelites, for the LORD is fighting for them against Egypt.'
Then the LORD said to Moses, 'Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers.'

27 So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal
depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the LORD tossed the Egyptians into the sea.
28 The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of
Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained.
29 But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for
them on their right and on their left.
30 Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians
dead on the seashore.
31 Israel saw the great work that the LORD did against the Egyptians. So the people feared
the LORD and believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses.
20 Then the prophet Miriam, Aaron's sister, took a tambourine in her hand; and all the
women went out after her with tambourines and with dancing.
21 And Miriam sang to them: 'Sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously; horse and
rider he has thrown into the sea.'

SECOND 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.'

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	16	Apr	<i>School term starts this week</i>	
			Toddlers' Group	10 – 11.30am
			Service at The Chase Care Home	3.00pm
			Worship Committee (Choir Vestry)	8.00pm
Wed	18	Apr	Coffee in Church	10.30am-12 noon
			Bible Study (Choir Vestry)	8.00pm
Thur	19	Apr	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
			Choir Practice	7.00 – 8.30pm
Sun	22	Apr	<u>EASTER 3</u>	
			Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	8.00am
			Sung Eucharist	9.30am
			Evensong in the Lady Chapel	6.30pm

NOTICES

ELECTORAL ROLL: The NEW Electoral Roll is displayed on the notice board. Please check your entry for any errors or omissions and inform the clergy or Henry Moring. If you did not sign a new form in time, additional names can be added any time after the Annual Meetings.

LIVING WITH THE BIBLE: The first session of our new series of Bible Study evenings starts at 8 pm on Wednesday 18th April in the Choir Vestry. Please join us if you can.

THE ANNUAL MEETINGS are on **Wednesday, 25th April**. Nominations are needed for the PCC and Churchwardens. There will also be a vacancy for a new PCC secretary. Forms for nominations are at the back of the church. Please return them to the Vicar or churchwardens. Thank you.

FINAL COPY DATE FOR THE MAY SWORD is MIDDAY next Sunday, 22 April. Please submit copy before this date if possible. Hard copy, floppy disc or email to DENNIS.H.BEACH@sky.com.

THE BRING-&-BUY sale in March raised £42 for Church funds. Thank you to all who contributed.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

27 – 30 April 2007 – Visit of Copenhagen Youth Choir. See Kristine for details.

Orchestral concert in church by Watford Philharmonic Society – Saturday, 12 May 2007, at 7.30 pm

Baptism Renewal Service – 13 May 2007 at 11.15.

Plant Sale – 19 May 2007. How are your cuttings and seedlings doing?

OUR CHURCH WEB SITE is now up and running. Please go to www.stmichaels-watford.org.uk and have a look. If you can contribute any articles which you think should be on our site, please see Andy Benoy or Henry Moring.