



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

EASTER 5

Sunday 6 May 2007

A warm welcome to our services today and a special welcome to the Rev David Tuck who celebrates and preaches at the 9.30 Sung Eucharist. Pam Hart leads the intercessions. A crèche is available.

Hymns: 208 (ii), 443, 163 and 468

Wilson

Refreshments will be served in church after the 9.30 service – please stay on.

There is a United Evensong at St Michael's at 6.30 pm.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: The Church of South India: George Isaac, Bishop of North Kerala.

The Parish of St Andrew's, Watford: Vicar Geoffrey Warren who is also our Rural Dean.

The World: Peace in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Determination by the counties of the world to bring about peace and justice in Darfur.

All involved in the building and construction industry.

The Community and Parish: The residents and staff of Home Manor House.

The newly-elected councillors in our Borough.

Mark Watkin who is continuing to receive hate mail.

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

The Departed: Bill Thorne (aged 80), Whippendell Road

Roger Alderman, Ware (friend of Watkin family)

Collect

Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ have overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life:

grant that, as by your grace going before us you put into our minds good desires, so by your continual help we may bring them to good effect;

through Jesus Christ our risen Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING Genesis 22.1–18

A reading from the book of Genesis.

¹ God tested Abraham. He said to him, 'Abraham!' And Abraham said, 'Here I am.'

² God said, 'Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt-offering on one of the mountains that I shall show you.'

³ So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac; he cut the wood for the burnt-offering, and set out and went to the place in the distance that God had shown him.

⁴ On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place far away.

⁵ Then Abraham said to his young men, 'Stay here with the donkey; the boy and I will go over there; we will worship, and then we will come back to you.'

⁶ Abraham took the wood of the burnt-offering and laid it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. So the two of them walked on together.

⁷ Isaac said to his father Abraham, 'Father!' And Abraham said, 'Here I am, my son.' Isaac said, 'The fire and the wood are here, but where is the lamb for a burnt-offering?'

⁸ Abraham said, 'God himself will provide the lamb for a burnt-offering, my son.' So the two of them walked on together.

⁹ When they came to the place that God had shown him, Abraham built an altar there and laid the wood in order. He bound his son Isaac, and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood.

¹⁰ Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to kill his son.

¹¹ But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven, and said, 'Abraham, Abraham!' And he said, 'Here I am.'

¹² The angel said, 'Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.'

¹³ And Abraham looked up and saw a ram, caught in a thicket by its horns. Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt-offering instead of his son.

¹⁴ So Abraham called that place 'The LORD will provide'; as it is said to this day, 'On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided.'

¹⁵ The angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven,

¹⁶ and said, 'By myself I have sworn, says the LORD: Because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son,

¹⁷ I will indeed bless you, and I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of their enemies,

¹⁸ and by your offspring shall all the nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves, because you have obeyed my voice.'

SECOND READING Acts 11.1–18

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

- 1 The apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God.
- 2 So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, saying, 'Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?'
- 3 Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying,
- 4 'I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me.
- 5 As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air.
- 6 I also heard a voice saying to me, "Get up, Peter; kill and eat."
- 7 But I replied, "By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth."
- 8 But a second time the voice answered from heaven, "What God has made clean, you must not call profane."
- 9 This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven.
- 10 At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were.
- 11 The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house.
- 12 He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, "Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter;
- 13 he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved."
- 14 And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning.
- 15 And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, "John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."
- 16 If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?'
- 17 When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, 'Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life.'

GOSPEL John 13.31–35

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

- 31 During the supper, when Judas had gone out, Jesus said, 'Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him.
- 32 If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once.
- 33 Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, "Where I am going, you cannot come."
- 34 I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.
- 35 By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.'

THIS WEEK

Mon	7	May	<i>Bank Holiday</i> NO Toddlers' Group	
Wed	9	May	Coffee in Church Mothers' Union Garden Party (15 Lynbury Court) with Bring-&-Buy Sale – all welcome	10.30am-12 noon 2.00pm
			Service at Home Manor Youth & Education Committee	2.30pm 8.00pm
Thur	10	May	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language) St Anthony's Kids Club Choir Practice	10.00am morning 3.30 – 5.00pm 7.00 – 8.30pm
Sat	12	May	RSCM Examinations WATFORD PHILHARMONIC Orchestral Concert (Set up and rehearsal during afternoon)	from 8.30am 7.30pm
Sun	13	May	<u>EASTER 6</u> Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language) Sung Eucharist The new PCC will be dedicated during the service Service of Thanksgiving and Praise (Baptism Renewal) River Court Service Evensong	8.00am 9.30am 11.15am 3.00pm 6.30pm

NOTICES

CAN ANYONE ACCOUNT for the keys to Littlebury Hall which should be hanging in the cupboard in the Clergy Vestry? If you know of their whereabouts, please see Sylvia.

The FUNERAL SERVICE FOR BILL THORNE will be (as he requested) a said Eucharist at 11 am in the Lady Chapel on Ascension Day, Thursday, 17 May. All welcome.

CHILDREN'S SOCIETY: Please return boxes to Norma or Pat Beach as soon as possible.

SATURDAY, 12 MAY 2007, an ORCHESTRAL CONCERT will be given in St Michael's at 7.30 pm by Watford Philharmonic. Handbills in Church. Can anyone help Sylvia provide tea and coffee in the interval, please?

PLANT SALE Saturday, 19 May 2007, from 10 am – 12 noon. We welcome plants from as many people as possible as we hope to keep the sale up to its usual standard. All help welcome. Would anyone like to run a stall? Please see Sylvia or Norma. All proceeds go to our mission and charitable giving.

ANNUAL MEETINGS: Full details of the appointment of the churchwardens and members of the PCC are on a notice board at the back of the church.

SUNDAY, 6 MAY: The President at both the 8 am and 9.30 services will be the Rev David Tuck. Father John & Pat started a week's holiday on Saturday, 5 May.