



# THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

*St Michael and All Angels*

Watford

EASTER 6

Sunday 13 May 2007

A warm welcome to everyone to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Eucharist, Fr John celebrates, Martin Heath preaches and Neil Hart leads the intercessions. The new PCC will be dedicated during the service. A crèche is available.

**Hymns: 534 (tune 424), 449, 558 and 626**

**Setting: Wilson**

This is followed by the 11.15 which is a Baptism Renewal Service this month – please stay on.

The monthly service at River Court is at 3.00 pm.

There is Evensong in the Lady Chapel at 6.30pm.

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## **For your prayers this week:**

**The Church:** The Episcopal Church of the USA; Edward Little, Bishop of Northern Indiana.

The Parish of St Mary's, Watford; Vicar: John Aldis.

Christian Aid Week: its success.

**The World:** Peace in Iraq, Afghanistan and Darfur.

Pray for the McCann family in Portugal.

**The Community and Parish:** Those who will collect for Christian Aid in our part of Watford.

The Guild of Servants of the Sanctuary.

Matthew Alvarez and Amy Lysaght, married at Telford yesterday.

**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, Bill Widdowson and Anne Wightman.

**The Departed:** Marion Vidal (aged 92), Newcastle, Australia (Elizabeth Watkin's mother).

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**Collect**

God our redeemer, you have delivered us from the power of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of your Son: grant, that as by his death he has recalled us to life, so by his continual presence in us he may raise us to eternal joy; 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 Ezekiel 37.1–14**

A reading from the book of the prophet Ezekiel.

- <sup>1</sup> The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones.
- <sup>2</sup> He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry.
- <sup>3</sup> He said to me, ‘Mortal, can these bones live?’ I answered, ‘O Lord GOD, you know.’
- <sup>4</sup> Then he said to me, ‘Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD.
- <sup>5</sup> Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live.
- <sup>6</sup> I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD.’
- <sup>7</sup> So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone.
- <sup>8</sup> I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them.
- <sup>9</sup> Then he said to me, ‘Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.’
- <sup>10</sup> I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.
- <sup>11</sup> Then he said to me, ‘Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, “Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.”
- <sup>12</sup> Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel.
- <sup>13</sup> And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people.

<sup>14</sup> I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act, says the LORD.'

## **SECOND READING Acts 16.9–15**

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

<sup>9</sup> During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, 'Come over to Macedonia and help us.'

<sup>10</sup> When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them.

<sup>11</sup> We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis,

<sup>12</sup> and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days.

<sup>13</sup> On the sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there.

<sup>14</sup> A certain woman named Lydia, a worshipper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul.

<sup>15</sup> When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, 'If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home.' And she prevailed upon us.

## **GOSPEL John 14.23–29**

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John. Jesus said to his disciples:

<sup>23</sup> 'Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.

<sup>24</sup> Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; and the word that you hear is not mine, but is from the Father who sent me.

<sup>25</sup> I have said these things to you while I am still with you.

<sup>26</sup> But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you.

<sup>27</sup> Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.

<sup>28</sup> You heard me say to you, "I am going away, and I am coming to you." If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I.

<sup>29</sup> And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe.'

## THIS WEEK

Mon	14	May	Toddlers' Group	10 – 11.30am
Tue	15	May	Service for Guild of Servers of the Sanctuary	8.00pm
Wed	16	May	Coffee in Church	10.30am-12 noon
			Living with the Bible (Choir Vestry)	8.00pm
Thur	17	May	<b>ASCENSION DAY</b>	
			Said Eucharist	10.00am
			Funeral of Bill Thorne (Lady Chapel)	11.00am
			Kids' Club	3.30 – 5.00pm
			Choir Practice	7.00 – 8.00pm
			<b>Sung Eucharist</b>	8.00pm
Fri	18	May	Set-up (in Church) for Plant Sale	7.00 – 8.00pm
Sat	19	May	<b>PLANT SALE</b>	10.00am – 12 noon
Sun	20	May	<b><u>EASTER 7 – Sunday after Ascension</u></b>	
			Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	8.00am
			<b>Sung Eucharist</b>	9.30am
			Baptisms of Amy and Kerry Scott	12.30pm
			Evensong	6.30pm

## **NOTICES**

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK starts today. Please sign the list at the back of Church if you can help or see Valerie Blacklock (251312). There is an article in the May Sword about Christian Aid.

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.

LUCY ECCLESHALL would like to thank everyone who so generously supported her cake and jam sale on Easter Day. She raised a magnificent £175.65 which will go directly towards the charity Soft Power Education and their work in Uganda.

CRICKET: We have been challenged to a cricket match by St Mary's, Watford!! It will be played at Woodside on 30th June. Of course it can only happen if we get a team. If interested please contact Jane on 226276 or halfsentence@yahoo.co.uk.

FINAL COPY DATE FOR THE JUNE SWORD is MIDDAY next Sunday, 20 May. Please submit copy before this date if possible. Hard copy, floppy disc or email to DENNIS.H.BEACH@sky.com.

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

ST ALBANS FESTIVAL PILGRIMAGE – 23 June 2007 lead by Archbishop Desmond Tutu. This promises to be a very exciting day – requests for car parking spaces need to be in. If you would like one please sign the list at the back of the church or see Pat Beach. Let's make this a St Michael's day out.

PLANT SALE Saturday, 19 May 2007, from 10 am – 12 noon. We welcome plants from as many people as possible. All help welcome both for set up from 7-8 pm on Friday or during the sale. Would anyone like to run a stall; sell raffle tickets, make coffee, make cakes - please see Sylvia or Norma. All proceeds go to our mission and charitable giving.