



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

EASTER 7

Sunday 20 May 2007

A warm welcome to everyone to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Eucharist, Fr John celebrates and preaches and Jane Talbot leads the intercessions. A crèche is available.

Hymns: 380, 563, 304 and 165

Setting: Wilson

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

Amy and Kerry Scott will be Baptised at 12.30pm

The Youth Group meets at 4.00pm.

There is Evensong in the Lady Chapel at 6.30pm.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: All churches within the world-wide Anglican Communion – at a time of debate as to the nature of Anglicanism.

The Deanery of Watford: Geoffrey Warren – Rural Dean, Pam Rastall – Lay Chairman.

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

For a spirit of public service in political life.

All who investigate crime.

The Community and Parish: Amy and Kerry Scott, to be baptised today.

Those from our Church preparing to go to Copenhagen this week.

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, David Simon, Maureen Swann, June Tatnall, Bill Widdowson and Anne Wightman.

The Departed:

Collect

O God the king of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven:
we beseech you, leave us not comfortless, but send your Holy Spirit to strengthen us and exalt us to the place where our Saviour Christ is gone before, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING Ezekiel 36.24–28

A reading from the book of the prophet Ezekiel.

The word of the LORD came to me:

- 24 I will take you from the nations, and gather you from all the countries, and bring you into your own land.
- 25 I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you.
- 26 A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will remove from your body the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.
- 27 I will put my spirit within you, and make you follow my statutes and be careful to observe my ordinances.
- 28 Then you shall live in the land that I gave to your ancestors; and you shall be my people, and I will be your God.

SECOND READING Acts 16.16–34

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

- 16 One day, as we were going to the place of prayer, we met a slave-girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners a great deal of money by fortune-telling.
- 17 While she followed Paul and us, she would cry out, 'These men are slaves of the Most High God, who proclaim to you a way of salvation.'
- 18 She kept doing this for many days. But Paul, very much annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, 'I order you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.' And it came out that very hour.
- 19 But when her owners saw that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the market-place before the authorities.
- 20 When they had brought them before the magistrates, they said, 'These men are disturbing our city; they are Jews and are advocating customs that are not lawful for us as Romans to adopt or observe.'
- 21 The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates had them stripped of their clothing and ordered them to be beaten with rods.

23 After they had given them a severe flogging, they threw them into prison and
ordered the jailer to keep them securely.

24 Following these instructions, he put them in the innermost cell and fastened
their feet in the stocks.

25 About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the
prisoners were listening to them.

26 Suddenly there was an earthquake, so violent that the foundations of the prison
were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains
were unfastened.

27 When the jailer woke up and saw the prison doors wide open, he drew his
sword and was about to kill himself, since he supposed that the prisoners had
escaped.

28 But Paul shouted in a loud voice, 'Do not harm yourself, for we are all here.'

29 The jailer called for lights, and rushing in, he fell down trembling before Paul and
Silas.

30 Then he brought them outside and said, 'Sirs, what must I do to be saved?'

31 They answered, 'Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your
household.'

32 They spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house.

33 At the same hour of the night he took them and washed their wounds; then he
and his entire family were baptized without delay.

34 He brought them up into the house and set food before them; and he and his
entire household rejoiced that he had become a believer in God.

GOSPEL John 17.20–26

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

Jesus looked up to heaven and prayed: 'Holy Father,

20 I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in
me through their word,

21 that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they
also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.

22 The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as
we are one,

23 I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the
world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have
loved me.

24 Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where
I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the
foundation of the world.

25 Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you; and these
know that you have sent me.

26 I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love
with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.'

THIS WEEK

Mon	21	May	Toddlers' Group	10 – 11.30am
Wed	23	May	Coffee in Church	10.30am-12 noon
			Meeting of the PCC	7.45 for 7.55pm
Thur	24	May	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
			Kids' Club	3.30 – 5.00pm
			Choir Practice	7.00 – 8.00pm
Fri	25	May	Departure of Church party to Copenhagen	
Sun	27	May	<u>PENTECOST</u>	
			Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	8.00am
			Eucharist (Pres and Preacher: The Rev Michael Carter)	9.30am
			followed by a Bring-&-Buy Sale	
			Evensong	6.30pm

NOTICES

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 Talbot on 226276 or halfsentence@yahoo.co.uk.

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

THE REV MICHAEL CARTER will be taking both 8 and 9.30 am services on Sunday, 27 May (Pentecost) when most of the choir, our organist and other church members will be in Copenhagen. The music will be accompanied by David Reason on the piano (a friend of Dennis Beach). The party in Copenhagen will be taking part in a Pentecost Eucharist at St Albans Church which is near the Little Mermaid.

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

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.

CELEBRATION! 2007 at the Colosseum 11am – 6pm on 28 May. "Watford's Diverse Cultures, Faiths and Talents". Free entry. www.watfordcelebration.org.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 3 June – CHORAL EVENSONG at 6.30 pm – please make every effort to attend and support our choir.

6 June – Bible Study in the Choir Vestry at 8 pm

13 June – Tea on the Triangle – the Mothers' Union invite families and anyone else who likes tea and cakes.

ST ALBANS FESTIVAL PILGRIMAGE – 23 June 2007 lead by Archbishop Desmond Tutu. This promises to be a very exciting day – car parking is available in the field at the bottom of Holywell Hill and requests for spaces need to be in without delay. 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.