



# THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

*St Michael and All Angels*

Watford

EASTER 3

6 April 2008

A warm welcome to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Eucharist Fr John celebrates. Martin Heath preaches and Paul Jenkins leads the intercessions. A crèche is available.

**Hymns: 563, 501, 468 and 527**

**Setting: Aston**

Sunday School is in Littlebury Hall at 9.30am.

Coffee and tea will be served in church after the 9.30 service – please stay on.

United Evening Service at 6.30pm (venue to be announced).

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

**The Church:** Paul KWONG, Archbishop of Hong Kong Island  
Sue Bentley, Diocesan World Development Advisor  
The Deanery of Biggleswade: Rural Dean William THACKRAY

**The World:** The people of Zimbabwe at a time of profound political change.  
The many-sided work of the United Nations.  
All who work at Heathrow Airport

**The Community and Parish:** Bishop Christopher Herbert as he addresses the Deanery Synod on Tuesday. The residents of Homemanor House.  
Give thanks for the birth of KYLE WILLIAM to Claire and Tony Challis.

**The Ill and the Housebound:** Especially Ray Angles, Monica Batt, Ellen Benoy, Mel Browne, John Burn, Marjorie Carlisle, Maureen Clark, Jennifer Coley, Bill Craddock-Jones, Jean Crouch, Ifagaani Desiderio, June Dickinson, Kate Dickinson, Jocelyn Harewood, Sarah Heath, Jenny Houghton, Mary Kearns, Lesley Kinch, Loretta Lynch, Maggie Maguire, Stella Meager, Eva Portas, Myrtle Powell, Bryony Purse, Ann Reed, Gladys Robertson, Maureen Swann, June Tatnall, Bill Widdowson, Anne Wightman and Maureen Williams.

**The Departed:** Jessica Alderton (aged 99) River Court.

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**COLLECT**

Almighty Father, who in your great mercy gladdened the disciples with the sight of the risen Lord:  
give us such knowledge of his presence with us, that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life and serve you continually in righteousness and truth;  
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 ACTS 2.14a, 36–41**

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles. On the day of Pentecost,

<sup>14</sup> Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd,

<sup>36</sup> ‘Let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.’

<sup>37</sup> Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, ‘Brothers, what should we do?’

<sup>38</sup> Peter said to them, ‘Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

<sup>39</sup> For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.’

<sup>40</sup> And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, ‘Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.’

<sup>41</sup> So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added to their number.

**SECOND READING I Peter 1.17–23**

A reading from the first letter of Peter.

<sup>17</sup> If you invoke as Father the one who judges all people impartially according to their deeds, live in reverent fear during the time of your exile.

<sup>18</sup> You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold,

<sup>19</sup> but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish.  
<sup>20</sup> He was destined before the foundation of the world, but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake.

<sup>21</sup> Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God.

<sup>22</sup> Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply from the heart.

<sup>23</sup> You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

## GOSPEL Luke 24.13–35

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

- <sup>13</sup> On that same day, two of the disciples were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem,
- <sup>14</sup> and talking with each other about all these things that had happened.
- <sup>15</sup> While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them,
- <sup>16</sup> but their eyes were kept from recognizing him.
- <sup>17</sup> And he said to them, 'What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?' They stood still, looking sad.
- <sup>18</sup> Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, 'Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?'
- <sup>19</sup> Jesus asked them, 'What things?' They replied, 'The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people,
- <sup>20</sup> and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him.
- <sup>21</sup> But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place.
- <sup>22</sup> Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning,
- <sup>23</sup> and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive.
- <sup>24</sup> Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see Jesus.'
- <sup>25</sup> Then he said to them, 'Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared!
- <sup>26</sup> Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?'
- <sup>27</sup> Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.
- <sup>28</sup> As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on.
- <sup>29</sup> But they urged him strongly, saying, 'Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.' So he went in to stay with them.
- <sup>30</sup> When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them.
- <sup>31</sup> Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized Jesus; and he vanished from their sight.
- <sup>32</sup> They said to each other, 'Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?'
- <sup>33</sup> That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together.
- <sup>34</sup> They were saying, 'The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!'
- <sup>35</sup> Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

## THIS WEEK

Mon	7	Apr	Toddlers' Group	10.00 – 11.30am
Wed	9	Apr	Coffee in Church	10.30am-12 noon
Thu	10	Apr	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
			St Anthony's	morning
			Choir Practice	7.00 - 8.30pm
Sun	13	Apr	<b><u>EASTER 4</u></b>	
			Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	8.00am
			<b>Sung Eucharist</b> (crèche available)	9.30am
			Simple Eucharist	11.15am
			River Court Service	3.00pm
			Evensong in the Lady Chapel	6.30pm

## **NOTICES**

**ELECTORAL ROLL REVISION:** Today is the last day to add your name to the Roll before the Annual Meeting. A copy of the current Roll is on the notice board at the back of the Church for you to check. If anyone would like their name added to the Roll, please get a form from the Clergy or Henry Moring.

**HELP PLEASE!** We badly need volunteers to join the rota for Sunday morning crèche (please see Alison Makin), serving coffee (please see Pat Brown) and sidespeople (please see one of the churchwardens).

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

**Fr. John would like to thank** all those who contributed to his miscellaneous expenses at Easter.

**Norma would like to thank** those who bought Easter cards etc. They raised £8.75, and last Sunday's Bring & Buy for the Major Works Fund raised £51.50. Many thanks.

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:**

**8 April** An open Deanery Synod meeting at St Luke's Church when Bishop Christopher Herbert will give a talk entitled 'The Image of the Cross' starting at 7.45 pm.

**19 April fabulous family music day** with the BBC Concert Orchestra out and about in Watford from 11 am. Take one of the leaflets around church to read about the different things that are happening. Please note that several activities (including the one at St Michael's) require entry by ticket which you can get by calling 0871 663 2599.

**23 April** Next Bible Study 8 pm (Acts 27).

**26 April** Radlett Choral Society give a concert in St Michael's starting at 7.30 pm. The programme includes Beethoven's Mass in C and Bach's cantata no 140 – Sleepers Wake. Tickets from Pat and Dennis Beach.