



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

EASTER 4
13 April 2008

A warm welcome to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Eucharist Fr John celebrates and preaches. A crèche is available.

Hymns: 492, 587, 598 (tune 1) and 148

Setting: Aston

Refreshments will be served in church after the 9.30 service and will be followed by the 11.15 Service which is a Simple Eucharist this month – please stay on.

There is a Youth Group soccer match against St Luke's – meet at 2.45pm by Cha Cha Cha.

The monthly service at River Court is at 3.00 pm.

There is Evensong in the Lady Chapel at 6.30pm.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: The Church in Mauritius, Indian Ocean: Gerald Ernest, Archbishop.
The Parish of Eaton Socon: Vicar, Tim Robb.
More vocations to ministry.

The World: Peace in Iraq, Afghanistan and Tibet.
Those who are in debt – for greater responsibility in the use of money.
All who work in the Radio and TV world.

The Community and Parish: Residents and Staff of the Chase Care Home.
The children, staff, parents and governors of Holywell School.
Council staff who take away our refuse and recyclables.

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:

Collect

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life:

raise us, who trust in him, from the death of sin to the life of righteousness, that we may seek those things which are above, where he reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING Acts 2.42–47

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles. Many were baptized and were added to the community.

⁴² They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

⁴³ Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles.

⁴⁴ All who believed were together and had all things in common;
⁴⁵ they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need.

⁴⁶ Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts,

⁴⁷ praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

SECOND READING I Peter 2.19–25

A reading from the first letter of Peter.

Brothers and sisters:

¹⁹ It is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly.

²⁰ If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval.

- 21 For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.
- 22 'He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.'
- 23 When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly.
- 24 He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.
- 25 For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

GOSPEL John 10.1-10

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

Jesus said to the Pharisees:

- 1 'Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit.
- 2 The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep.
- 3 The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.
- 4 When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice.
- 5 They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.'
- 6 Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.
- 7 So again Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep.
- 8 All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them.
- 9 I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture.
- 10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.'

THIS WEEK

Mon	14	Apr	Toddlers' Group	10.00 – 11.30am
			Service at the Chase Care Home	3.00pm
Tue	15	Apr	Intercessory Prayer Group (15 Lynbury Court)	2.30pm
Wed	16	Apr	Coffee in Church	10.30am-12 noon
			Service at Home Manor (Violet)	3.00pm
Thu	17	Apr	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
			Mission & Stewardship Committee (Clergy Vestry)	10.30am
			Rehearsal for the BBC Concert Orchestra	1.30 -8.30pm
			NO Choir Practice	
Sat	19	Apr	BBC CONCERT ORCHESTRA – Wind & Brass Concert	11.00am
			Admission Free	
Sun	20	Apr	EASTER 5	
			Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	8.00am
			Sung Eucharist (crèche available)	9.30am
			Evensong in the Lady Chapel	6.30pm

NOTICES

ELECTORAL ROLL: The revised 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 on 30th April.

AGM: Don't forget the AGM on 30th April. Agendas will be sent to all members of the Electoral Roll. NOMINATIONS ARE NEEDED FOR THE PCC: Forms for nominations are at the back of the church. Please return them to the Vicar or churchwardens. Thank you.

NEXT SUNDAY our preacher is Janet Ridgeway on the work of the Mothers' Union – at home and overseas.

“SEND-AN-ANIMAL” SCHEMES: Sarah and Simon invite you to join them on 20th April after the 9.30 service, to understand better the adverse implications of these schemes.

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.

FINAL COPY DATE FOR THE MAY SWORD is MIDDAY next Sunday, 20 April. Hard copy, floppy disc or email to DENNIS.H.BEACH@sky.com.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

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.