



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

EASTER 5
20 April 2008

A warm welcome to our services today, especially to the Rev Janet Ridgway from the Mothers' Union who is our preacher.

At the 9.30 am Eucharist Fr John celebrates, Rev Janet Ridgway preaches and Pat Brown leads the intercessions. A crèche is available.

Hymns: 606, 395, 628 and 140

Setting: Aston

Sunday School in Littlebury Hall is at 9.30am.

Tea and coffee will be served in church after the 9.30 service – please stay on.

There will be a discussion led by Sarah and Simon on “Send-An-Animal” Schemes.

There is Evensong in the Lady Chapel at 6.30pm.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: The Church of Ireland: Alan Harper, Archbishop of Armagh.
The Parish of Potton (Beds) and those who look after it during the vacancy.

The worldwide work of the Mothers' Union.

The World: Peace in Iraq, Afghanistan and Tibet.

The people of Zimbabwe.

Gap year young people on their travels: for their safety.

The Community and Parish: Clergy and Readers of the Deanery of Watford, and the local parishes awaiting a new incumbent.

Those planning and building hospital expansion locally.

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, Myrtle Powell, Bryony Purse, Ann Reed, Gladys Robertson, Elaine Robinson, Maureen Swann, June Tatnall, Bill Widdowson, Anne Wightman and Maureen Williams.

The Departed: Eva Portas (aged 88), The Roundway.

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 Acts 7.55–60

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

- Standing before the high priest and the council,
- 55 Stephen, filled with the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God.
- 56 ‘Look,’ he said, ‘I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!’
- 57 But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him.
- 58 Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul.
- 59 While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, ‘Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.’
- 60 Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, ‘Lord, do not hold this sin against them.’ When he had said this, he died.

SECOND READING I Peter 2.2–10

A reading from the first letter of Peter.

- 2 Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation –
- 3 if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.
- 4 Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God’s sight.
- 5 Like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.
- 6 For it stands in scripture: ‘See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.’

- 7 To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe,
‘The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the
corner,’ and
8 ‘A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall.’ They
stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.
9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own
people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called
you out of darkness into his marvellous light.
10 Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had
not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

GOSPEL John 14.1–14

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

Jesus said to his disciples:

- 1 ‘Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me.
2 In my Father’s house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I
have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?
3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to
myself, so that where I am, there you may be also.
4 And you know the way to the place where I am going.’
5 Thomas said to him, ‘Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we
know the way?’
6 Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to
the Father except through me.
7 If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him
and have seen him.’
8 Philip said to him, ‘Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.’
9 Jesus said to him, ‘Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not
know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say,
“Show us the Father”?
10 Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words
that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me
does his works.
11 Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not,
then believe me because of the works themselves.
12 Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I
do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the
Father.
13 I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in
the Son.
14 If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.’

THIS WEEK

Mon	21	Apr	Toddlers' Group	10.00 – 11.30am
			Radlett Choral Society rehearsal	6.00 – 10.00pm
Wed	23	Apr	Coffee in Church	10.30am-12 noon
			Bible Study (Acts 27)	8.00pm
Thu	24	Apr	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
			Kids' Club resumes	3.30 – 5.00pm
			Choir Practice	7.00 - 8.30pm
Sat	26	Apr	RADLETT CHORAL SOCIETY CONCERT	7.30pm
Sun	27	Apr	<u>EASTER 6</u>	
			Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	8.00am
			Sung Eucharist (crèche available)	9.30am
			followed by a Bring-&-Buy Sale	
			Sunday School in Littlebury Hall	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, DEANERY SYNOD AND CHURCHWARDENS:** Forms for nominations are at the back of the church. Please return them to the Vicar or churchwardens. Thank you.

"SEND-AN-ANIMAL" SCHEMES: Sarah and Simon invite you to join them today, 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 today Sunday, 20 April. Hard copy, floppy disc or email to DENNIS.H.BEACH@sky.com.

TEENAGE QUIZ NIGHT on Friday May 16. Volunteers to make chocolate cakes please. See Jane Talbot for further information.

PARISH WALK – Saturday 3 May: **BRING-&-SHARE LUNCH** Wednesday 7 May. Please sign up on the lists on the Sign-Up table at the back of the church.

RADLETT CHORAL SOCIETY give a concert in St Michael's next Saturday 26 April, 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.