



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

EASTER 6
27 April 2008

A warm welcome to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Eucharist Fr John celebrates and preaches and Pat Beach leads the intercessions. A crèche is available.

Hymns: 258, 391, 368 and 315

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 is Evensong in the Lady Chapel at 6.30pm.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: The Church in Japan. Nathaniel Uematsu, Archbishop of Hokkaido.
The Christian Education Movement.

Preparations for the Lambeth Conference of 600 Bishops in July.

The World: Peace in Iraq, Afghanistan and Sudan.

The people of Zimbabwe.

All those who work in the banking industry.

The Community and Parish: God's blessing on our Annual Meetings and on those to be elected to various offices.

The work of the Multi-Cultural Community Centre.

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, Jim Dibben, June Dickinson, Kate Dickinson, Jocelyn Harewood, Sarah Heath, Jenny Houghton, Mary Kearns, Lesley Kinch, Loretta Lynch, Maggie Maguire, Stella Meager, Gaynor Osbourne, Myrtle Powell, Bryony Purse, Ann Reed, Gladys Robertson, Elaine Robinson, Maureen Swann, June Tatnall, Bill Widdowson, Anne Wightman and Maureen Williams.

The Departed:

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 Acts 17.22–31

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

- ²² Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, ‘Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way.
- ²³ For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, “To an unknown god.” What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you.
- ²⁴ The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands,
- ²⁵ nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things.
- ²⁶ From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live,
- ²⁷ so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him – though indeed he is not far from each one of us.
- ²⁸ For “In him we live and move and have our being”; as even some of your own poets have said, “For we too are his offspring.”
- ²⁹ Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals.
- ³⁰ While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent,
- ³¹ because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.’

SECOND READING I Peter 3.13–22

A reading from the first letter of Peter.

- ¹³ Who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good?

¹⁴ But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated,
¹⁵ but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defence to anyone who demands from you an account of the hope that is in you;
¹⁶ yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame.
¹⁷ For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil.
¹⁸ For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit,
¹⁹ in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison,
²⁰ who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water.
²¹ And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you – not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,
²² who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

GOSPEL John 14.15–21

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

Jesus said to his disciples:

¹⁵ 'If you love me, you will keep my commandments.
¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you for ever.
¹⁷ This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.
¹⁸ I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you.
¹⁹ In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live.
²⁰ On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you.
²¹ They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.'

THIS WEEK

Mon	28	Apr	Toddlers' Group	10.00 – 11.30am
Wed	30	Apr	Coffee in Church	10.30am-12 noon
			ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING	7.45pm
			ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING	8.00pm
Thu	1	May	ASCENSION DAY (Polling Day)	
			Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
			Fairhaven	morning
			Kids' Club	3.30 – 5.00pm
			Choir Practice	7.00pm
			Sung Eucharist	8.00pm
Sat	3	May	Parish Walk	leave church at 10.00am
Sun	4	May	EASTER 7	
			Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	8.00am
			Sung Eucharist (crèche available)	9.30am
			Sunday School in Littlebury Hall	9.30am
			Baptism of Edward Dunn	12.30pm
			Baptism of Miyah and Corey Hutchinson	3.00pm
			United Evening Service (venue tba)	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 Wednesday, 30th April. Agendas are available for all members of the Electoral Roll. Please take your copy **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.

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

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

HUMAN FERTILISATION AND EMBRYOLOGY BILL: If you would like to know more about the issues, there is a meeting at Holy Rood Parish Centre at 8pm on Tuesday 29 April. Speaker: Professor David Jones.

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

SWORD SUBSCRIPTIONS for 2008 are now overdue. Please see Valerie Alvarez who has again kindly agreed to collect the subscriptions for this year, which remain the same as last year, £5.00 if you pay for the year instead of 50p per month.