



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

PENTECOST

11 May 2008

A warm welcome to our services today.

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

Hymns: 180, 174 (t 577), 175 and 191

Setting: Rawsthorne

Tea and coffee will be served in church after the 9.30 service and this is followed by the 11.15 which is a Baptism Renewal Service – please stay on.

The monthly service at River Court is at 3.00 pm.

There is CHORAL EVENSONG at 6.30pm.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: The Church in South Africa. Bishop Peter Lee of the Diocese of Christ the King.

The Parish of Toddington and Chalgrave and Anne Crawford, Vicar.

The work of Christian Aid.

The World: Peace in Iraq and Afghanistan and Zimbabwe.

Those suffering as a result of the cyclone in Burma.

For a sense of gratitude for the many things we in our country are fortunate to enjoy.

The Community and Parish: We give thanks for the birth of Charlotte to Sarah and Ben Heath (in Somerset) – second grand-daughter for Gill and Martin.

All who will collect for Christian Aid locally – for sympathetic responses to the callers.

The Ill and the Homebound: Especially Ray Angles, Monica Batt, Ellen Benoy, Mel Browne, John Burn, Marjorie Carlisle, Jennifer Coley, Bill Craddock-Jones, Jean Crouch, Ifagani Desiderio, Jim Dibben, June Dickinson, Kate Dickinson, Bob Gerrard, Jocelyn Harewood, Sarah Heath, Margery Holt, 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: Irene Kitson (aged 78), Homemanor House, Cassio Road
Maureen Clark, formerly of Watford.

Collect

God, who as at this time taught the hearts of your faithful people by sending to them the light of your Holy Spirit:
grant us by the same Spirit to have a right judgement in all things and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort;
through the merits of Christ Jesus our Saviour, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING Acts 2.1–21

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

- ¹ When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place.
² And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting.
³ Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them.
⁴ All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.
⁵ Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem.
⁶ And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each.
⁷ Amazed and astonished, they asked, 'Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?
⁸ And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language?
⁹ Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia,
¹⁰ Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes,
¹¹ Cretans and Arabs – in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power.'
¹² All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, 'What does this mean?'
¹³ But others sneered and said, 'They are filled with new wine.'
¹⁴ But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, 'Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say.
¹⁵ Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning.
¹⁶ No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:
¹⁷ "In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams.
¹⁸ Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy.

- ¹⁹ And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist.
- ²⁰ The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day.
- ²¹ Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

SECOND READING I Corinthians 12.3b–13

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

- ³ No one can say 'Jesus is Lord' except by the Holy Spirit.
- ⁴ Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit;
- ⁵ and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord;
- ⁶ and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone.
- ⁷ To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.
- ⁸ To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit,
- ⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit,
- ¹⁰ to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.
- ¹¹ All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.
- ¹² For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.
- ¹³ For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body – Jews or Greeks, slaves or free – and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

GOSPEL John 20.19–23

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

- ¹⁹ It was evening on the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.'
- ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.
- ²¹ Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.'
- ²² When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit.
- ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

THIS WEEK

Mon	12	May	Toddlers' Group	10.00 – 11.30am
			Service at The Chase Care Home	3.00pm
Wed	14	May	Coffee in Church	10.30am-12 noon
			Service at Home Manor	3.00pm
			Bible Study – starting Book of Exodus (Choir Vestry)	8.00pm
Thu	15	May	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
			Kids' Club	3.30 – 5.00pm
			Choir Practice	7.00 – 8.30pm
Fri	16	May	Teenage Quiz Night in aid of Christian Aid	7.00 – 10.00pm
Sun	18	May	<u>TRINITY</u>	
			Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	8.00am
			Sung Eucharist (crèche available)	9.30am
			Sunday School in Littlebury Hall	9.30am
			Evensong in Lady Chapel	6.30pm

NOTICES

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK: This is from 11 – 17 May 2008. Volunteers needed for delivery of envelopes and collection please. Contact Valerie Blacklock on 251312 or sign the list at the back of Church on the sign-up table, please.

PLANT SALE: Thank you to everyone who supported this. There are still some items left and these will be available for sale after today's 9.30 service. All the proceeds from this sale go to our mission and charitable giving.

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

TEENAGE QUIZ NIGHT on Friday May 16 in church in aid of Christian Aid. Volunteers to make chocolate cakes please. See Jane Talbot for further information.

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.

ST ALBANS FESTIVAL PILGRIMAGE – 21 June 2008. Bishop Christopher will be the principal celebrant at the Eucharist and the preacher will be the Rev Angela Tilby. The Bishop of Reading, Stephen Cottrell, will preach at Evensong. This promises to be a very exciting day. Please sign the list at the back of the church if you hope to attend. Car parking spaces are available. If you would like one please indicate on the list or see Pat Beach. Let's make this a St Michael's day out.

CHURCH COMMITTEES: Any member of St Michael's is eligible for membership of one of the church committees. If you would like to join one (or more) please sign the list on the table at the back of the church. The first meeting of each committee is likely to be in the next few weeks.