



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

St PETER 29 June 2008

A warm welcome to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Eucharist Father John celebrates and preaches and Jamie Wareham leads the intercessions. A crèche is available.

Hymns: 376, 423, 582 and 430

Setting: Rawsthorne

Sunday School in Littlebury Hall at 9.30 am.

Tea and coffee will be served in church after the 9.30 service and there will be a Bring-&-Buy Sale – please stay on.

There is Evensong in the Lady Chapel at 6.30pm.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: The Church of North India: Moderator, Joel Mal, Bishop of Chandigarh. For a spirit of tolerance between Christians of differing opinions. The Bishop of the Anglican Communion as they prepare for the Lambeth Conference.

The World: The people of Zimbabwe. Peace in Iraq, Afghanistan and those of our forces on duty there. For a responsible use of computerised data – and all who work in information technology.

The Community and Parish: Churches dedicated to St Peter – especially St Peter's, Bushey Mill Lane and Chris Cottee, Vicar and its outreach with young people – Soul Survivor. David Stevenson (on placement here a year ago) who was ordained Deacon at Norwich Cathedral yesterday.

The Ill and the Housebound: 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, Marjorie 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, Anne Wightman, Maureen Williams and Sue Winterbotham.

The Departed: Frances Farrier (aged 93), River Court.

Collect

Almighty God,
who inspired your apostle Saint Peter
to confess Jesus as Christ and Son of the living God:
build up your Church upon this rock,
that in unity and peace it may proclaim one truth
and follow one Lord, your Son our Saviour Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING Ezekiel 3.22–27

A reading from the book of the prophet Ezekiel.

- ²² The hand of the LORD was upon me there; and he said to me, Rise up, go out into the valley, and there I will speak with you.
- ²³ So I rose up and went out into the valley; and the glory of the LORD stood there, like the glory that I had seen by the river Chebar; and I fell on my face.
- ²⁴ The spirit entered into me, and set me on my feet; and he spoke with me and said to me: Go, shut yourself inside your house.
- ²⁵ As for you, mortal, cords shall be placed on you, and you shall be bound with them, so that you cannot go out among the people;
- ²⁶ and I will make your tongue cling to the roof of your mouth, so that you shall be speechless and unable to reprove them; for they are a rebellious house.
- ²⁷ But when I speak with you, I will open your mouth, and you shall say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD'; let those who will hear, hear; and let those who refuse to hear, refuse; for they are a rebellious house.

SECOND READING Acts 12.1–11

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

About that time

- ¹ King Herod laid violent hands upon some who belonged to the church.
- ² He had James, the brother of John, killed with the sword.
- ³ After he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter also.
(This was during the festival of Unleavened Bread.)

- 4 When he had seized him, he put him in prison and handed him over to four squads of soldiers to guard him, intending to bring him out to the people after the Passover.
- 5 While Peter was kept in prison, the church prayed fervently to God for him.
- 6 The very night before Herod was going to bring him out, Peter, bound with two chains, was sleeping between two soldiers, while guards in front of the door were keeping watch over the prison.
- 7 Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared and a light shone in the cell. He tapped Peter on the side and woke him, saying, 'Get up quickly.' And the chains fell off his wrists.
- 8 The angel said to him, 'Fasten your belt and put on your sandals.' He did so. Then he said to him, 'Wrap your cloak around you and follow me.'
- 9 Peter went out and followed him; he did not realize that what was happening with the angel's help was real; he thought he was seeing a vision.
- 10 After they had passed the first and the second guard, they came before the iron gate leading into the city. It opened for them of its own accord, and they went outside and walked along a lane, when suddenly the angel left him.
- 11 Then Peter came to himself and said, 'Now I am sure that the Lord has sent his angel and rescued me from the hands of Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting.'

GOSPEL Matthew 16.13–19

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

- 13 When Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that the Son of Man is?'
- 14 And they said, 'Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.'
- 15 He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?'
- 16 Simon Peter answered, 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.'
- 17 And Jesus answered him, 'Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven.
- 18 And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it.
- 19 I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.'

THIS WEEK

Mon	30	June	Toddlers' Group	10.00 – 11.30am
Wed	2	July	Coffee in Church	10.30am-12 noon
			Bring-&-Share Lunch	12.30pm
			Pause (23 Whippendell Road)	7.30 pm
Thu	3	July	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
			Fairhaven (during morning)	
			Kids' Club	3.30 – 5.00pm
			Choir Practice	7.00 – 8.30pm
Sat	5	July	Parish Walk	start from church at 10.00am
Sun	6	July	<u>TRINITY 7</u>	
			Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	8.00am
			Sung Eucharist (crèche available)	9.30am
			Sunday School in Littlebury Hall	9.30am
			Service of Thanksgiving for Creation and Animal Blessing	3.00pm
			United Evening Service (venue tba)	6.30pm

NOTICES

NEXT SUNDAY, 6th July at 3.00pm, there will be a Service of Thanksgiving for Creation and Animal Blessing – preacher Bishop Richard Llewelin. See handbills in church.

NEXT BIBLE STUDY will be on Wednesday 9th July at 8.00 pm – Exodus 12.43.

BRING-&-SHARE LUNCH Wednesday 2 July. PARISH WALK – Saturday 5 July: Please sign the lists on the Sign-Up table at the back of the church.

MILTON 400th ANNIVERSARY: John Milton, the author of “Paradise Lost”, was born 400 years ago. There are special exhibitions about him at Cambridge, where he attended Christ’s College from 1625 to 1632. If there is enough interest, a visit (partially private) will be arranged on Friday 4th July. Please speak to Graham Mordue (01923 244180).

175th ANNIVERSARY: The revival of music and ritual in the Church of England began with a sermon by John Keble in 1833. This will be remembered in an hour of silent prayer from 12 noon to 1.00 pm in the Lady Chapel on Monday 14th July.

HOLIDAY CLUB: This will be held for a week beginning on Monday, 4 August. The sessions are held in the mornings from 9.30 am. If you are able to help at one or more of the sessions please get in touch with Jane Talbot as soon as possible 01923 226276 or halfsentence@yahoo.co.uk

THE ANNUAL BARBECUE will be held after the 11.15 service on Sunday 13 July, at the west end of the church and also on the triangle. Tickets available now - £3.50.