



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

EASTER 2 19 April 2009

A warm welcome to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Eucharist, Martin Heath preaches and Pat Beach leads the intercessions. A crèche is available.

Hymns: 149 (iii + dox.), 162, 138 and 609 **Setting: Rawsthorne**

Coffee and tea will be served in church after the 9.30 service – please stay on.

There is Evening Prayer in the Lady Chapel at 6.30 pm.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: Mark Sisk, Bishop of New York, USA.
 Churches Together in Hemel Hempstead.
 George the Martyr – Patron Saint of England – St George's Day, 23 April.

The World: Peace in all troubled places.
 Those who suffer because of their Christian Faith.
 Multi-national organisations – for a sense of justice and fairness in world trading. Claire Ward, our MP

The Community and Parish: The work of the Samaritans, counselling those who are suicidal.
 All school children as they return to school for the Summer Term.

The Ill and the Housebound: Especially Ray Angles, Ellen Benoy, Gunter Bouché, Christopher Browne, Mel Browne, John Burn, Marjorie Carlisle, Jennifer Coley, Bill Craddock-Jones, Jean Crouch, June Dickinson, Kate Dickinson, Simon Fowle, Jocelyn Harewood, Gladys Holloway, Jenny Houghton, Lionel Jones, Mary Kearns, Kate Kirwan, Loretta Lynch, Maggie Maguire, Stella Meager, Dorcas Ochola, Gaynor Osbourne, Myrtle Powell, Bryony Purse, Ann Reed, Gladys Robertson, Elaine Robinson, Pauline Surtees, Maureen Swann, June Tatnall, Matthew Tigwell, Anne Wightman, Eric Wightman and Maureen Williams.

The Departed:

Collect

Almighty Father, you have given your only Son to die for our sins and to rise again for our justification:

grant us so to put away the leaven of malice and wickedness that we may always serve you in pureness of living and truth;

through the merits of your Son Jesus Christ 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 4.32–35

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

- 32 The whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common.
- 33 With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all.
- 34 There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold.
- 35 They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

SECOND READING I John 1.1 – 2.2

A reading from the first letter of John.

- 1 We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life –
- 2 this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us –
- 3 we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.
- 4 We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.
- 5 This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all.
- 6 If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true;
- 7 but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
9 If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.
1 My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous;
2 and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

GOSPEL John 20.19–31

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.'
24 But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came.
25 So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.'
26 A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.'
27 Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.'
28 Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!'
29 Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.'
30 Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book.
31 But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

THIS WEEK

Mon	20	Apr	<i>Schools return this week</i>	
			Toddlers' Group	10.00 – 11.30am
Tue	21	Apr	Service at Chase Care Home	3.00pm
Wed	22	Apr	Coffee in Church	10.30am-12 noon
Thur	23	Apr	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
Sun	26	Apr	<u>EASTER 3</u>	
			SUNG EUCHARIST:	9.30 am
			(crèche available). Sunday School in Littlebury Hall followed by a Bring-&-Buy Sale	
			NO Evening Prayer	
			Rehearsal for evening concert	from 3.00pm
			Concert in church arranged by Octagon Music Society	7.45pm
			(see Notices below and leaflets in church)	

NOTICES

ELECTORAL ROLL: The revised Electoral Roll is displayed on the notice board. Please check your entry for any errors or omissions and inform Henry Moring or a churchwarden if there are any inaccuracies. Additional names can be added any time after the Annual Meetings on 29th April.

AGM: Don't forget the AGM on 29th April. Agendas will be sent to all members of the Electoral Roll. **NOMINATIONS ARE NEEDED FOR THE PCC AND CHURCHWARDENS:** Forms for nominations are at the back of the church. Please return them to Vicki Matthews or the churchwardens. Thank you.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

The Plant Sale will take place on Saturday, 16 May, from 10.30-12 noon. In addition to plants we have a variety of other stalls – books, preserves, coffee, gifts, cakes, etc. If you are able to help with one of these please see Norma Twitchin or Sylvia Moring. Concert in Church on Sunday, 26 April, at 7.45 pm arranged by the Octagon Music Society. Alec Frank-Gemmill (French horn) and Geoffrey Paterson (piano). Tickets (£11) from Valerie O'Riordan and Henry Moring.

CHILDREN'S SOCIETY BOXES Please bring your box in either to Pat Beach or Norma Twitchin so that it can be emptied.

ACCOMMODATION NEEDED: We have received a request for bed and breakfast from 2 – 10 May. The request has come from a 49-year old man who is coming to work at the Haven Day Centre, New Hope Trust, as a volunteer for this period. If you are able to offer accommodation please ring him direct – 01304 821839 or 07789355138. He can supply references.

EASTER FLOWERS: The Easter season continues until mid May so if you wish to contribute to the Easter flowers please give your donation to Fay. If you are able to Gift Aid your donation it should go into a white envelope and be marked 'Flower Fund'. Thank you.