



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

EASTER 4

3 May 2009

A warm welcome to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Eucharist, Fr George celebrates, Violet Allen-Smith preaches and Sylvia Moring leads the intercessions. A crèche is available. Sunday School is in Littlebury Hall.

Hymns: 467, 594, 318 and 555.

Setting: Aston

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

Baptism of Taylor Albert De Witt at 3.00 pm.

There is a United Evening Service at Trinity Methodist at 6.30 pm.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: Joel Pachao, Bishop of North Central Philippines.
Hitchin Team Ministry and Churches Together in Hitchin.
Celebrating Children at St Albans Abbey.

The World: Peace in all troubled places, especially Pakistan and Sri Lanka.
Those suffering or suspected of suffering from Swine Flu and the success of measures to limit its spread.

The Community and Parish: The work of the Watford Schools Trust, aiming to work in schools to give each child a clear understanding of the Christian faith.
Our newly-elected office-holders following our AGMs – especially Churchwardens, Sylvia and Paul.
Taylor Albert De Witt to be baptised today and his family.

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, Brian Rees, Gladys Robertson, Elaine Robinson, Pauline Surtees, Maureen Swann, June Tatnall, Matthew Tigwell, Anne Wightman, Eric Wightman and Maureen Williams.

The Departed:

Collect

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life: raise us, who trust in him, from the death of sin to the life of righteousness, that we may seek those things which are above, where he reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING Acts 4.5–12

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

- ⁵ The Jewish rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem,
⁶ with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family.
⁷ When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, ‘By what power or by what name did you do this?’
⁸ Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, ‘Rulers of the people and elders,
⁹ if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed,
¹⁰ let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead.
¹¹ This Jesus is “the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.”
¹² There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.’

SECOND READING I John 3.16–24

A reading from the first letter of John.

- ¹⁶ We know love by this, that the Son of God laid down his life for us – and we ought to lay down our lives for one another.
¹⁷ How does God’s love abide in anyone who has the world’s goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?
¹⁸ Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action.

- 19 And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him
- 20 whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything.
- 21 Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God;
- 22 and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases God.
- 23 And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us.
- 24 All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

GOSPEL John 10.11–18

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

Jesus said to the Pharisees:

- 11 'I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.
- 12 The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away – and the wolf snatches them and scatters them.
- 13 The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep.
- 14 I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me,
- 15 just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep.
- 16 I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.
- 17 For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again.
- 18 No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.'

THIS WEEK

Mon	4	May	<i>Bank Holiday</i> NO Toddlers' Group	
Tue	5	May	Guild of Servants of the Sanctuary	8.00pm
Wed	6	May	Coffee in Church	10.30am-12 noon
			Bring-&-Share Lunch	12.30pm
			Bible Study (Choir Vestry) – 1 Samuel Ch 26	8.00pm
Thur	7	May	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
			Fairhaven	morning
			Kids' Club	3.30-5.00pm
			Choir Practice	7.00-8.30pm
Fri	8	May	Publicity Committee (in Church)	9.45am
Sat	9	May	Year of the Child at St Albans Abbey	All day
			Parish Walk	Leave church at 9.45am
Sun	10	May	<u>EASTER 5</u> <i>Start of Christian Aid Week</i>	
			SUNG EUCHARIST:	9.30 am
			(crèche available). Sunday School in Littlebury Hall	
			Dedication of new PCC	
			Service of Praise and Thanksgiving (Baptism Renewal)	11.15am
			River Court Service	3.00pm
			Evening Prayers	6.30pm

NOTICES

TALENTS CHALLENGE: The present total is a magnificent £777.66 and there are still some envelopes outstanding. Well done everyone! If you wish to gift aid your own contribution will you please see Pat Beach. If you still have an envelope please may we have it returned.

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, raffle etc. If you are able to help with one of these please see Norma Twitchin or Sylvia Moring. Items to sell on any of the stalls will be gratefully received.

BRING-&-SHARE LUNCH: Please sign the list for Wednesday 6th May.

THE NEXT PARISH WALK will be on Saturday 9th May. Meet outside the West Door of St Michael's at **9.45 am**. Any queries check with Martin or Vicki Matthews on 01923 229408.

QUIZ NIGHT at Trinity Methodist Church Saturday May 9th! Proceeds to Christian Aid. Do try and support this event – further details are in The Sword and on the Poster in Church. If you are planning to come, please let me know. Thanks. Martin Heath.

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

LAST SUNDAY'S BRING-&-BUY SALE raised £57 and the sale of Easter cards raised £5. That makes £62 for church funds. Thank you.