



# THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

*St Michael and All Angels*

Watford

EASTER 5

10 May 2009

A warm welcome to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Eucharist, Fr George celebrates and preaches and John Adams leads the intercessions. The service will include the dedication of the new PCC. A crèche is available. Sunday School is in Littlebury Hall.

**Hymns: 516 (ii), 483, 10 and 442 (t278).**

**Setting: Aston**

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

The monthly service at River Court is at 3.00 pm.

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

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## **For your prayers this week:**

**The Church:** William Ray, Bishop of North Queensland, Australia; Saibo Mabo and James Leftwich, Suffragan Bishops of North Queensland.  
The Letchworth Group Ministry.

Christian Aid Week and all who are collecting for it.

**The World:** Peace in all troubled places. The fight against the Taliban in Pakistan.  
Those suffering or suspected of suffering from Swine Flu and the success of measures to limit its spread.

**The Community and Parish:** The success of youth activities in Watford during this week.

Members of the Parochial Church Council and its meeting this week.

**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:**

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**Collect**

Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ have overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life:  
grant that, as by your grace going before us you put into our minds good desires, so by your continual help we may bring them to good effect;  
through Jesus Christ our risen Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**FIRST READING Acts 8.26–40**

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

- 26 An angel of the Lord said to Philip, ‘Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.’ (This is a wilderness road.)
- 27 So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship
- 28 and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah.
- 29 Then the Spirit said to Philip, ‘Go over to this chariot and join it.’
- 30 So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, ‘Do you understand what you are reading?’
- 31 He replied, ‘How can I, unless someone guides me?’ And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him.
- 32 Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: ‘Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth.
- 33 In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.’
- 34 The eunuch asked Philip, ‘About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?’
- 35 Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus.
- 36 As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, ‘Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?’
- 38 He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him.
- 39 When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing.
- 40 But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

## SECOND READING I John 4.7–21

A reading from the first letter of John.

- 7 Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.
- 8 Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love.
- 9 God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him.
- 10 In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins.
- 11 Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another.
- 12 No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.
- 13 By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit.
- 14 And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Saviour of the world.
- 15 God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God.
- 16 So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them.
- 17 Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgement, because as he is, so are we in this world.
- 18 There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love.
- 19 We love because he first loved us.
- 20 Those who say, 'I love God,' and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen.
- 21 The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

## GOSPEL John 15.1–8

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

Jesus said to his disciples:

- 1 'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower.
- 2 He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit.
- 3 You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you.
- 4 Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me.
- 5 I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.
- 6 Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned.
- 7 If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.
- 8 My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.'

## THIS WEEK

Mon	11	May	<i>Christian Aid Week</i> Toddlers' Group	10.00 – 11.30am
Wed	13	May	Coffee in Church Service at Home Manor	10.30am-12 noon 3.00pm
			<b>PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL</b>	7.45 for 7.55pm
Thur	14	May	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language) St Anthony's	10.00am morning
			Kids' Club	3.30-5.00pm
			Choir Practice	7.00-8.30pm
Fri	15	May	Set-up for Plant Sale	
Sat	16	May	Plant Sale	10.30am – 12 noon
			Teenage Quiz Night in aid of Christian Aid	7.00pm
Sun	17	May	<b><u>EASTER 6</u></b> <b>SUNG EUCHARIST:</b> (President & Preacher – Rev David Tuck)	9.30 am
			(crèche available). Sunday School in Littlebury Hall	
			Evening Prayer	6.30pm

## **NOTICES**

**TALENTS CHALLENGE:** The present total is a magnificent £785.46 and there are still 21 envelopes outstanding. Please return these even if they contain only the original £1 coin.

**THE PLANT SALE** will take place next 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. Set up can be during the afternoon or early evening by arrangement with Sylvia Moring.

**CHRISTIAN AID WEEK:** (10-16 May 2009) There are still a few gaps on the list for delivering and/or collecting envelopes. Please give some time this week if you possible can.

**TEENAGE QUIZ NIGHT:** Following the success of a similar event during Christian Aid week last year, our Youth Group is arranging another Quiz Night (Saturday, 16 May 2009) and inviting members of other Christian youth groups in Watford to attend. They will arrange their own refreshments but last year several church members made chocolate cakes for the occasion and these were much appreciated. Can you make one? Chocolate cakes can be brought to the church during the Plant Sale (clearly labelled Quiz Night) otherwise by arrangement with Jane Talbot (226278).

**ST ALBANS FESTIVAL PILGRIMAGE** – 20 June 2009. Details are around the church – a very worthwhile day out. Speak to Pat Beach for further information and/or for a free parking voucher.