



# THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

*St Michael and All Angels*

Watford

EASTER 7

Sunday after Ascension

24 May 2009

A warm welcome to our services today and especially to Rob Edmonds from the New Hope Trust who is our preacher.

At the 9.30 am Eucharist, Fr George celebrates, Rob Edmonds preaches and Paul Jenkins leads the intercessions. A crèche is available. Sunday School is in Littlebury Hall.

**Hymns: 627 (t227), 419, 167 and 165.**

**Setting: Aston**

Tea and coffee 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.

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

**The Church:** Anglican Communion Sunday.  
Anglican Methodist Covenant Relationships in the Diocese.  
Church Schools in the Deanery of Hitchin.  
The Most Reverend Vincent Gerard Nichols installed as the 11<sup>th</sup> Roman Catholic Archbishop of Westminster last Thursday.

**The World:** Peace in all troubled places especially in Sri Lanka.  
All who work in communications and the media.

**The Community and Parish:** The work of the New Hope Trust.  
The success of "Celebrations" tomorrow at the Colosseum – with all faiths and cultures taking part.  
Children's workshops taking place during half term 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, Maureen Swann, June Tatnall, Matthew Tigwell, Anne Wightman, Eric Wightman and Maureen Williams.

**The Departed:** Pauline Surtees, Lynbury Court.

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**Collect**

O God the king of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven:  
we beseech you, leave us not comfortless, but send your Holy Spirit to strengthen us and exalt us to the place where our Saviour Christ is gone before,  
who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**FIRST READING Acts 1.15–17, 21–26**

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

- <sup>15</sup> In those days Peter stood up among the believers (together the crowd numbered about one hundred and twenty people). He said,  
<sup>16</sup> ‘Friends, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus –  
<sup>17</sup> for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry.  
<sup>21</sup> So one of the men who have accompanied us throughout the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us,  
<sup>22</sup> beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us – one of these must become a witness with us to his resurrection.’  
<sup>23</sup> So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias.  
<sup>24</sup> Then they prayed and said, ‘Lord, you know everyone’s heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen  
<sup>25</sup> to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.’  
<sup>26</sup> And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

**SECOND READING I John 5.9–13**

A reading from the first letter of John.

- <sup>9</sup> If we receive human testimony, the testimony of God is greater; for this is the testimony of God that he has testified to his Son.  
<sup>10</sup> Those who believe in the Son of God have the testimony in their hearts. Those who do not believe in God have made him a liar by not believing in the testimony that God has given concerning his Son.

- 11 And this is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.  
12 Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.  
13 I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

## **GOSPEL John 17.6–19**

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

Jesus looked up to heaven and prayed:

- 6 ‘Father, I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word.  
7 Now they know that everything you have given me is from you;  
8 for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me.  
9 I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours.  
10 All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them.  
11 And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.  
12 While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled.  
13 But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves.  
14 I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world.  
15 I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one.  
16 They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world.  
17 Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.  
18 As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world.  
19 And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.’

## THIS WEEK

Mon	25	May	<i>Bank Holiday. Half Term week.</i> <i>NB No Toddlers' Group today</i>	
Wed	27	May	Coffee in Church	10.30am-12 noon
			Mothers' Union Garden Party (15 Lynbury Court) – all welcome	2pm
			Worship Committee (Choir Vestry)	8.00pm
Thur	28	May	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
			Choir Practice	7.00-8.30pm
Sun	31	May	<b><u>PENTECOST</u></b> <b><u>SUNG EUCHARIST:</u></b>	9.30 am
			(crèche available). Sunday School in Littlebury Hall followed by a Bring-&-Buy Sale	
			Evening Prayer	6.30pm

## NOTICES

**FROM THE CHURCHWARDENS:** It has been the custom for many years at Pentecost to invite you to contribute to the Curate's miscellaneous expenses. As you know Fr George is a non-stipendiary curate and this means that he does not receive any fees for the work he does for St Michael's. Envelopes for your contributions are available at the doors around the church and can be returned to us (in strictest confidence) or placed in the collection plate. We do encourage you to be generous. Many thanks – Paul Chandler and Sylvia Moring (Churchwardens).

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Martin and Gillian Heath on the safe arrival of Alexander Charles Heath.

**MOTHERS' UNION:** The MU Garden Party is on Wednesday, 27 May 2009, from 2 pm, at 15 Lynbury Court. There will be tea, cakes, and bring-and-buy. Everyone is very welcome to this social afternoon.

**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 signings table at the back of the church. The first meeting of each committee is likely to be in the next few weeks.

**CHRISTIAN AID:** Thank you to all who delivered and collected envelopes. The total at the moment including the Quiz Night is £955. Please try and return any more envelopes to Valerie Blacklock today. There are spare ones for your use at the back of the church.

**VOLUNTEERS** to keep the Vicarage garden tidy would be much appreciated. Please contact Paul Chandler (252926) if you can help.

**TOM'S WORLD CHALLENGE QUIZ NIGHT** is at 7.30pm on 13<sup>th</sup> June in church. Ploughman's Supper included, bring your own drinks and glasses. Tickets £8 adults, £5 under 18s. Contact Tom Vos (244898) or ashley.vos@tesco.net.

**FINAL COPY DATE FOR THE JUNE SWORD** is MIDDAY today Sunday, 24 May. Hard copy or floppy disc to Dennis Beach or email to [DENNIS.H.BEACH@sky.com](mailto:DENNIS.H.BEACH@sky.com).

**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.