



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

PENTECOST

31 May 2009

A warm welcome to our services today.

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

Hymns: 178, 189 (t ii), 175 (t i) and 191

Setting: Aston

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

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

For your prayers this week:

The Church: Matthew Osunade, Bishop of Ogbomoso, Nigeria.
Churches Together in Croxley Green.
The Parish of St Oswald, Croxley Green; Priest-in-Charge: Robert Riley-Brale.

The World: Peace in all troubled places especially in Sri Lanka.
Those who work with and minister to the blind and partially sighted.
All who work to improve international relationships.

The Community and Parish: Students who are taking public examinations at present.
The Town Centre Chaplaincy as it prepares its new premises in Charter Place for daytime counselling.
Candidates and workers preparing for the elections on 4 June.

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, Anne Wightman, Eric Wightman and Maureen Williams.

The Departed: Matthew Tigwell (aged 46), Hampshire.

Collect

God, who as at this time taught the hearts of your faithful people by sending to them the light of your Holy Spirit:
grant us by the same Spirit to have a right judgement in all things and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort;
through the merits of Christ Jesus our Saviour, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING Acts 2.1–21

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

- ¹ When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place.
² And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting.
³ Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them.
⁴ All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.
⁵ Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem.
⁶ And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in their native language.
⁷ Amazed and astonished, they asked, 'Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?
⁸ And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language?
⁹ Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia,
¹⁰ Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes,
¹¹ Cretans and Arabs – in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power.'
¹² All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, 'What does this mean?'
¹³ But others sneered and said, 'They are filled with new wine.'
¹⁴ But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, 'Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say.
¹⁵ Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning.
¹⁶ No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:
¹⁷ "In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams.
¹⁸ Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy.
¹⁹ And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist.

- 20 The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day.
- 21 Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

SECOND READING Romans 8.22–27

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

- 22 We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now;
- 23 and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.
- 24 For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen?
- 25 But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.
- 26 Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words.
- 27 And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

GOSPEL John 15.26–27, 16.4b–15

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

Jesus spoke to his disciples:

- 26 ‘When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father, he will testify on my behalf.
- 27 You also are to testify because you have been with me from the beginning.
- 4 I have said these things to you so that when their hour comes you may remember that I told you about them. I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you.
- 5 But now I am going to him who sent me; yet none of you asks me, “Where are you going?”
- 6 But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your hearts.
- 7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.
- 8 And when he comes, he will prove the world wrong about sin and righteousness and judgement:
- 9 about sin, because they do not believe in me;
- 10 about righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will see me no longer;
- 11 about judgement, because the ruler of this world has been condemned.
- 12 I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now.
- 13 When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.
- 14 He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you.
- 15 All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.’

THIS WEEK

Mon	1	June	Toddlers' Group	10.00 – 11.30am
Tue	2	June	Estates Committee (Clergy Vestry)	7.30pm
Wed	3	June	Coffee in Church	10.30am-12 noon
			Bring-and-Share Lunch	12.30pm
Thur	4	June	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
			Fairhaven	morning
			Kids' Club	3.30-5.00pm
			Choir Practice	7.00-8.30pm
Sat	6	June	Parish walk (start from church at 10.00 am)	
Sun	7	June	TRINITY SUNDAY	
			Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	8.00am
			SUNG EUCHARIST:	9.30 am
			(crèche available). Sunday School in Littlebury Hall	
			Baptism of Shanai Elizabeth Roberts	12.30pm
			UNITED CHORAL EVENSONG (here)	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).

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.

BRING-&-SHARE LUNCH: Please sign the list for Wednesday 3rd June.

THE NEXT PARISH WALK will be on Saturday 6th June. Meet outside the West Door of St Michael's at 10 am. Any queries check with Martin or Gillian Heath on 01923 249168.

CHORAL EVENSONG will be held at 6.30 pm on Sunday, 7 June. Tea and cakes will be served from 5.45 pm. Donations for our mission and charitable giving will be welcome. Please support this if you can.

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 13th 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.

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.