



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

EASTER 4

25 April 2010

A warm welcome to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Eucharist, Fr Geoff celebrates and preaches and Anne Eccleshall leads the intercessions. A crèche and Sunday School are available.

Hymns: 149 (Pt 1 & dox), see "Music Notes", 311 and 161

Rawsthorne

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

Evening Prayer in Lady Chapel at 6.30pm.

For your prayers this week:

The Church:

Vocations to ministry in the Church.

The Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East, and Mouneer Anis, its presiding bishop.

The work of USPG in the Anglican Church of Tanzania.

The World:

Wisdom and integrity for candidates and voters.

All involved in the airline and holiday industries.

Young people taking exams.

The Community and Parish:

Our Annual Meetings.

Our Ministry Team.

Wise choices for our local government and parliamentary representatives.

The Ill and the Housebound:

Especially Peter Coley, Bill and Marion Craddock-Jones, Jean Crouch, June Dickinson, Kate Dickinson, David and Janet Freeman, Jocelyn Harewood, Susetta Hartropp, Gladys Holloway, Jenny Houghton, Lionel Jones, Susan Jones, Mary Kearns, Kate Kirwan, Vera Levinson, Jacqui Lyons, Maggie Maguire, Dorcas Ochola, Gaynor Osbourne, Myrtle Powell, Bryony Purse, Elaine Robinson, Maureen Swann, June Tatnall, Eric and Anne Wightman.

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 9.36–43

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

- 36 In Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity.
- 37 At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs.
- 38 Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, 'Please come to us without delay.'
- 39 So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them.
- 40 Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, 'Tabitha, get up.' Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up.
- 41 He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive.
- 42 This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord.
- 43 Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

SECOND READING Revelation 7.9–17

A reading from the book of Revelation.

- 9 After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands.
- 10 They cried out in a loud voice, saying 'Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!'

- 11 And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshipped God,
- 12 singing, 'Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honour and power and might be to our God for ever and ever! Amen.'
- 13 Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, 'Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?'
- 14 I said to him, 'Sir, you are the one that knows.' Then he said to me, 'These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.
- 15 For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.
- 16 They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat;
- 17 for the Lamb at the centre of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.'

GOSPEL John 10.22–30

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

- 22 At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter,
- 23 and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon.
- 24 So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, 'How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly.'
- 25 Jesus answered, 'I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me;
- 26 but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep.
- 27 My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me.
- 28 I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand.
- 29 What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand.
- 30 The Father and I are one.'

THIS WEEK

Mon	26	Apr	Toddlers' Group (in Choir Vestry) BBC in church for a day of filming	10 – 11.30am
Wed	28	Apr	Coffee in Church Eucharist (Lady Chapel) ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING (Littlebury Hall) ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING	10.30am-12 noon 7.00pm 7.45pm 8.00pm
Thur	29	Apr	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language) Choir Practice	10.00am 7.00 – 8.30pm
Sun	2	May	<u>EASTER 5</u> Holy Communion (Pres: Fr George) SUNG EUCHARIST (including Baptism): with crèche and Sunday School (President and Preacher: Fr Geoff) Evening Prayer in the Lady Chapel	8.00am 9.30am 6.30pm

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 28th April.

AGMs: Don't forget the AGMs on 28th April. Agendas available for 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.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2009: Copies are available now please take yours (preferably one per family).

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY: **Pre-election forum** –26 April, 8 pm at St Thomas' URC. Question the candidates. **Trinity Methodist Quiz Night** in aid of Christian Aid - 8 May at 7 pm. **Plant Sale** – 15 May 10 am – 12 noon We hope your seedlings and cuttings are prospering and will be ready for this occasion. We also sell anything relating to plants and gardens and hope to have stalls with cakes and preserves, gifts, books, bric-a-brac and anything else that may sell. All gifts, raffle prizes, items for any other stall and help with the stalls gratefully accepted please see Sylvia (231917).

VISIT TO CAMBRIDGE: Please sign the list if you are interested in taking part on 21 May.

CHILDREN'S SOCIETY BOXES: Please give your box to Norma for emptying.

THE PEACE HOSPICE STARLIGHT WALK: Starting at midnight on Saturday, 22 May and volunteers are needed to marshal the route. If you can help please telephone Simon Fowle (01923 229624). There are forms at the back of the church for any women who wish to take part in the walk.

FINAL COPY DATE FOR THE MAY SWORD is MIDDAY TODAY Sunday, 25 April. Hard copy or floppy disc to Dennis Beach or email to dhbeach@sky.com.