



# THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

*St Michael and All Angels*

Watford

**EASTER 5**

2 May 2010

A warm welcome to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Sung Eucharist, Fr Geoff celebrates and preaches and Pat Beach leads the intercessions. The baptism of Ewan Antony Challis will take place during the service. A crèche and Sunday School are available.

**Hymns: 225 (omit \*s), 135, 468 and 443**

**Aston**

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

Evening Prayer in Lady Chapel is at 6.30pm.

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

**The Church:** The Anglican Church of Kenya and Eliud Wabukala its Archbishop  
Christians working in Communications and the Media  
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Anglicans (Australia)

**The World:** Voters, Candidates and Election workers.  
Wildlife and Communities threatened by oil slicks in Louisiana  
People anxious about public spending cuts

**The Community and Parish:** Ewan Antony Challis being baptised this morning, his  
parents Antony and Claire and his godparents.

All those elected and appointed to serve God in our Church at the  
AGMs

All those preparing for baptism and marriage

West Watford Free Church and Trinity Methodist Church

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

**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 11.1–18**

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

- 1 The apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God.
- 2 So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him,
- 3 saying, "Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?"
- 4 Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying,
- 5 'I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me.
- 6 As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air.
- 7 I also heard a voice saying to me, "Get up, Peter; kill and eat."
- 8 But I replied, "By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth."
- 9 But a second time the voice answered from heaven, "What God has made clean, you must not call profane."
- 10 This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven.
- 11 At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were.
- 12 The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house.
- 13 He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, "Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter;
- 14 he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved."
- 15 And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning.
- 16 And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, "John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

- <sup>17</sup> If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?’
- <sup>18</sup> When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, ‘Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life.’

## **SECOND READING Revelation 21.1–6**

A reading from the book of Revelation.

- <sup>1</sup> I, John, saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.
- <sup>2</sup> And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.
- <sup>3</sup> And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, ‘See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them;
- <sup>4</sup> he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.’
- <sup>5</sup> And the one who was seated on the throne said, ‘See, I am making all things new.’ Also he said, ‘Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.’
- <sup>6</sup> Then he said to me, ‘It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.’

## **GOSPEL John 13.31–35**

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

- <sup>31</sup> During the supper, when Judas had gone out, Jesus said, ‘Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him.
- <sup>32</sup> If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once.
- <sup>33</sup> Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, “Where I am going, you cannot come.”
- <sup>34</sup> I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.
- <sup>35</sup> By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.’

## THIS WEEK

Mon	3	May	<i>Bank Holiday</i> NO Toddlers' Group Celebration! 2010 at the Colosseum	11.00am – 6.00pm
Wed	5	May	Coffee in Church Bring-&-Share Lunch (MRCC Meeting in Choir Vestry)	10.30am-12 noon 12.30pm 7.30pm)
Thur	6	May	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language) Fairhaven Choir Practice	10.00am morning 7.00 – 8.30pm
Sat	8	May	RSCM Examinations in Choir Vestry Quiz Night in aid of Christian Aid at Trinity Methodist	9.30am – 12.30pm 7.00pm
Sun	9	May	<b><u>EASTER 6</u></b> Holy Communion (Pres: Fr George) <b>SUNG EUCHARIST:</b> with crèche and Sunday School (President: Fr Geoff; Preacher: Violet Allen-Smith) Service of Thanksgiving and Praise – BAPTISM RENEWAL Youth Group Lunch with Quiz in aid of Christian Aid Evening Prayer in the Lady Chapel	8.00am <b>9.30am</b> 11.15 12 noon 6.30pm

## **NOTICES**

**TRINITY METHODIST QUIZ NIGHT** in aid of Christian Aid - 8 May at 7 pm. Cost £5 per person payable at the door. The event will include a Faith Supper - everyone is asked to take food to share with others.

**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). All proceeds are for our mission and charitable giving.

**BRING-AND-SHARE LUNCH:** Wednesday, 5 May, at 12.30 pm. Please sign the list if you are intending to come.

**THANK YOU** to everyone who contributed to the coffee morning and sale last Saturday when £164.48 was raised. The March Bring-&-Buy raised £48 and the April Bring-&-Buy raised £38. All this will go towards Church expenses.

**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.