



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

SUNDAY after ASCENSION

16 May 2010

A warm welcome to our services today.

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

Hymns: 380 (i), 401, 304 and 165

Aston

Tea and coffee will be served in church after the 9.30 service – please stay on.

There is **CHORAL EVENSONG** at 6.00 pm in our **6 o'Clock Series**.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: The Bishop of Hertford as he prepares for his new ministry
The unity and peace of the Anglican Communion
The Anglican Church in Bolivia

The World: Our new MPs, government, prime minister and deputy prime minister
Workers in the public sector
Members of our Armed Forces serving in Afghanistan

The Community and Parish: Our young people taking exams
Our Mayor and Local Councillors
Christian staff in our schools, health and emergency services

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, Margaret Taylor, Eric and Anne Wightman.

The Departed:

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 16.16–34

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

- ¹⁶ One day, as we were going to the place of prayer, we met a slave-girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners a great deal of money by fortune-telling.
- ¹⁷ While she followed Paul and us, she would cry out, 'These men are slaves of the Most High God, who proclaim to you a way of salvation.'
- ¹⁸ She kept doing this for many days. But Paul, very much annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, 'I order you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.' And it came out that very hour.
- ¹⁹ But when her owners saw that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the market-place before the authorities.
- ²⁰ When they had brought them before the magistrates, they said, 'These men are disturbing our city; they are Jews and are advocating customs that are not lawful for us as Romans to adopt or observe.'
- ²¹ The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates had them stripped of their clothing and ordered them to be beaten with rods.
- ²² After they had given them a severe flogging, they threw them into prison and ordered the jailer to keep them securely.
- ²³ Following these instructions, he put them in the innermost cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.
- ²⁴ About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them.
- ²⁵ Suddenly there was an earthquake, so violent that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were unfastened.
- ²⁶ When the jailer woke up and saw the prison doors wide open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, since he supposed that the prisoners had escaped.
- ²⁷ But Paul shouted in a loud voice, 'Do not harm yourself, for we are all here.'
- ²⁸ The jailer called for lights, and rushing in, he fell down trembling before Paul and Silas.
- ²⁹ Then he brought them outside and said, 'Sirs, what must I do to be saved?'
- ³⁰ They answered, 'Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.'
- ³¹ He spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house.
- ³²

- 33 At the same hour of the night he took them and washed their wounds; then he and his entire family were baptized without delay.
- 34 He brought them up into the house and set food before them; and he and his entire household rejoiced that he had become a believer in God.

SECOND READING Revelation 22.12–14, 16–17, 20–21

A reading from the book of Revelation.

- I, John, heard a voice saying to me:
- 12 ‘See, I am coming soon; my reward is with me, to repay according to everyone’s work.
- 13 I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.’
- 14 Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they will have the right to the tree of life and may enter the city by the gates.
- 16 ‘It is I, Jesus, who sent my angel to you with this testimony for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star.’
- 17 The Spirit and the bride say, ‘Come.’ And let everyone who hears say, ‘Come.’ And let everyone who is thirsty come. Let anyone who wishes take the water of life as a gift.
- 20 The one who testifies to these things says, ‘Surely I am coming soon.’ Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!
- 21 The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all the saints. Amen.

GOSPEL John 17.20–26

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

- Jesus looked up to heaven and prayed: ‘Holy Father,
- 20 I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word,
- 21 that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.
- 22 The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one,
- 23 I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.
- 24 Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.
- 25 Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you; and these know that you have sent me.
- 26 I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.’

THIS WEEK

Mon	17	May	Toddlers' Group	10 – 11.30am
Tue	18	May	Service at the Chase Care Home Pause (134 Mildred Avenue)	3.00pm 7.30pm
Wed	19	May	Coffee in Church PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL	10.30am-12 noon 7.45 for 7.55pm
Thur	20	May	Mothers' Union Corporate Communion followed by meeting in Choir Vestry Choir Practice	10.00am 7.00 – 8.30pm
Sun	23	May	<u>PENTECOST</u> Holy Communion (Pres: Fr George) SUNG EUCHARIST: with crèche and Sunday School (President and Preacher: Fr George) Evening Prayer	8.00am 9.30am 6.30pm

NOTICES

PLANT SALE: Thank you to everyone who supported this. As usual, any items left will be sold after the 9.30 service today. All the proceeds from this sale go towards our missionary and charitable giving.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK – For many years St Michael's has taken part in the street collection in Watford. Unfortunately, it has been getting more difficult to find people willing to go out and knock on doors for donations and several of us feel that we can no longer organise this method of fund-raising. St Michael's has usually raised just over £1000; we need to think of alternative methods of fund-raising. Can you think of any? **IF YOU NORMALLY PUT SOMETHING IN AN ENVELOPE WOULD YOU PLEASE CONTINUE TO SUPPORT CHRISTIAN AID AND PLACE YOUR ENVELOPE IN THE BOX AT THE BACK OF THE CHURCH.**

VISIT TO CAMBRIDGE: unfortunately this has had to be cancelled..

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

MOTHERS' UNION BIBLE SEARCH QUIZ: Copies of this (price £1) are available at the back of the church. The quiz has Bible references given for all the questions and we hope that answering the questions will be an enjoyable and informative experience. All the proceeds from the sale of the quiz will go towards the MU project to buy bicycles for MU leaders in Mozambique (see *May Sword*).

ST MARY'S PRE-SCHOOL IN WATFORD are looking for a Co-Leader to join the team at this Christian Pre-School from September 2010. 20 hours a week, mornings only. For more information contact Gill Watson on 01923 240368 or gwatson65@ntlworld.com

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.