



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

EASTER 4

15 May 2011

A warm welcome to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Eucharist Fr Geoff celebrates, Violet Allen-Smith preaches and Pat Beach leads the intercessions. There is Sunday School and a crèche is available. The dedication of the new PCC will take place during this service.

Hymns: 467, 517, 453 and 594

Setting: Rawsthorne

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

The 6 O’Clock Series this evening is a special service “Stations of the Resurrection”.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: Michael Curry, Bishop of North Carolina, USA; James Gloster, Mark Lawrence, Suffragan Bishops of North and South Carolina.
Christian Aid Week which starts today.

Those who work with and minister to the blind and partially sighted.

The World: All who are made homeless and destitute through natural disasters.

Those affected by the earthquake in Spain.

Support for marriage and family life.

The Community and Parish: Our young people taking exams.

Christian staff in our schools, health and emergency services.

Members of our local Mothers’ Union.

The Ill and the Housebound: Especially Christopher Bilson, Mary Calvert, Peter Coley, Bill and Marion Craddock-Jones, Jean Crouch, Kate Dickinson, Darrell Dunning, David and Janet Freeman, Jocelyn Harewood, Susetta Hartropp, Ben Heath, Gladys Holloway, Leena Hosie, Jenny Houghton, Mary Kearns, Dorothy Kiddle, Lesley Kinch, Vera Levinson, Loretta Lynch, Jacqui Lyons, Maggie Maguire, Stella Nicholas, Dorcas Ochola, Gaynor Osbourne, Helen Perry, Myrtle Powell, Bryony Purse, 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 2.42–47

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Many were baptized and were added to the community.

⁴² They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

⁴³ Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles.

⁴⁴ All who believed were together and had all things in common;
⁴⁵ they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need.

⁴⁶ Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts,

⁴⁷ praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

SECOND READING I Peter 2.19–25

A reading from the first letter of Peter.

Brothers and sisters:

¹⁹ It is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly.

²⁰ If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval.

- 21 For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.
- 22 'He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.'
- 23 When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly.
- 24 He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.
- 25 For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

GOSPEL John 10.1–10

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

Jesus said to the Pharisees:

- 1 'Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit.
- 2 The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep.
- 3 The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.
- 4 When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice.
- 5 They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.'
- 6 Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.
- 7 So again Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep.
- 8 All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them.
- 9 I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture.
- 10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.'

THIS WEEK

Mon	16	May	Toddlers' Group	10 – 11.30am
Tue	17	May	Service at The Chase Care Home	2.30pm
Wed	18	May	Coffee in Church	10.30am-12 noon
Thur	19	May	Mothers' Union Corporate Communion	10.00am
			Estates Committee	6.00pm
			Choir Practice	7.00 – 8.30pm
Sun	22	May	<u>EASTER 5</u>	
			Holy Communion (Fr George)	8.00am
			SUNG EUCHARIST: crèche and Sunday School	9.30am
			(Celebrant: Fr Geoff	
			Preacher: Richard Chewter, Town Centre Chaplain)	
			Evening Prayer	6.00pm

NOTICES

STATIONS OF THE RESURRECTION: A devotion for congregation and choir based on the Resurrection appearances of Christ made up of music, readings and art. A service in the 6 O'Clock series - TONIGHT - Sunday, 15 May, at 6 pm followed by refreshments. Please come if you can.

MUSICAL SOIREE On Friday, 6 May we had a lovely evening of music from opera, operetta and musical theatre performed by Lise Christensen and Michael Bracegirdle accompanied by Andy Benoy. We thank them very much and all who supported this evening which raised £775 for the church masonry fund.

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. Using different methods of fund-raising in 2010 we sent just over £900 to Christian Aid. **IF YOU NORMALLY PUT SOMETHING IN AN ENVELOPE AND NO C.A. ENVELOPE COMES THROUGH YOUR DOOR THIS WEEK, WOULD YOU PLEASE CONTINUE TO SUPPORT CHRISTIAN AID AND PLACE YOUR ENVELOPE IN THE BOX AT THE BACK OF THE CHURCH.**

CELEBRATION! 2011 Due to the refurbishment of the Colosseum this annual fun day will be held at the Multi Cultural Community Centre, Littlebury Hall and St Michael & All Angels Church on Bank Holiday Monday, 30 May from 11 am-5 pm. Tea and coffee will be served in St Michael's throughout the day and Gill Heath would like to hear from people who could volunteer to serve it on a rota basis.

PENDLEY SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL: Please sign the list if you are interested in going to this. There is more information in the May Sword.

FINAL COPY DATE FOR THE JUNE SWORD is MIDDAY next Sunday, 22 May. Hard copy or floppy disc to Dennis Beach or email to dhbeach@sky.com.

CHILDREN'S SOCIETY BOXES: The time has come for these to be emptied and the proceeds sent to the Children's Society. Please let Norma have your box soon.

St Michael and All Angels PCC is a Registered Charity No 1132010