



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

EASTER 5

22 May 2011

A warm welcome to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Eucharist Fr Geoff celebrates and we welcome Richard Chewter, Town Centre Chaplain as preacher. Graham Mordue leads the intercessions. There is Sunday School and a crèche is available.

Hymns: 443, 151, 395 and 140

Setting: Rawsthorne

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

Evening Prayer in the Lady Chapel is at 6.00pm.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: Bishops and people of the Diocese of Northern Argentina.
The work of the St Albans Diocesan Resource Centre.
The Eastern Region Ministry Course, and ordinands in training.

The World: The work of Shelter and all homeless people.
All those facing loss of income or economic hardship.
Persecuted Christians across the world.

The Community and Parish: The Watford Town Centre Chaplaincy
Retired Clergy and Lay Ministers in the Deanery of Watford
Preparations for Celebration 2011.

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, Faith Nkugwa, Dorcas Ochola, Gaynor Osbourne, Helen Perry, Myrtle Powell, Bryony Purse, June Tatnall, Eric and Anne Wightman.

The Departed:

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 7.55–60

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

- Standing before the high priest and the council,
- 55 Stephen, filled with the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God.
- 56 ‘Look,’ he said, ‘I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!’
- 57 But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him.
- 58 Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul.
- 59 While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, ‘Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.’
- 60 Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, ‘Lord, do not hold this sin against them.’ When he had said this, he died.

SECOND READING I Peter 2.2–10

A reading from the first letter of Peter.

- 2 Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation –
- 3 if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.
- 4 Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God’s sight.
- 5 Like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.
- 6 For it stands in scripture: ‘See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.’

- 7 To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe,
‘The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the
corner,’ and
8 ‘A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall.’ They
stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.
9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own
people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called
you out of darkness into his marvellous light.
10 Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had
not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

GOSPEL John 14.1–14

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

Jesus said to his disciples:

- 1 ‘Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me.
2 In my Father’s house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I
have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?
3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to
myself, so that where I am, there you may be also.
4 And you know the way to the place where I am going.’
5 Thomas said to him, ‘Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we
know the way?’
6 Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to
the Father except through me.
7 If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him
and have seen him.’
8 Philip said to him, ‘Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.’
9 Jesus said to him, ‘Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not
know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say,
“Show us the Father”?
10 Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words
that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me
does his works.
11 Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not,
then believe me because of the works themselves.
12 Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I
do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the
Father.
13 I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in
the Son.
14 If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.’

THIS WEEK

Mon	23	May	Toddlers' Group	10 – 11.30am
			Worship Committee	7.45pm
Wed	25	May	Coffee in Church	10.30am-12 noon
Thur	26	May	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
			Choir Practice	7.00 – 8.30pm
Sat	28	May	Wedding of Biodun Balogun and Vincentia Magora	1.00pm
Sun	29	May	<u>EASTER 6</u>	
			Holy Communion (Fr Geoff)	8.00am
			SUNG EUCHARIST: crèche and Sunday School	9.30am
			(Celebrant and preacher: Fr Geoff)	
			followed by Bring-&-Buy Sale	
			Evening Prayer	6.00pm

NOTICES

THE PCC needs a Secretary and a Treasurer urgently. Would anyone who could fill either of these very important positions please contact the clergy or churchwardens.

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 HAS COME THROUGH YOUR DOOR THIS WEEK, WOULD YOU PLEASE CONTINUE TO SUPPORT CHRISTIAN AID AND PLACE ONE OF THE ENVELOPES IN THE BOX AT THE BACK OF THE CHURCH. Thank you.

THE PLANT SALE last week raised £379.23 for our charitable giving. Many thanks to all who provided plants, helped on stalls and who came along to purchase.

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.

WATFORD AFRICAN CARIBBEAN ASSOCIATION: 35 year celebration at Holywell Community Centre at 7.30pm on 28 May. Please see Cynthia Dixon (Tel: 239814) for more information and tickets. Information also in May Sword.

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 today 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