



# THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

*St Michael and All Angels*

Watford

EASTER 5

6 May 2012

A warm welcome to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Eucharist, Fr Geoff celebrates and preaches and Graham Mordue leads the intercessions.

**Hymns: 143 (i), 296, 516 (i) and 442**

**Setting: Rawsthorne**

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

Evening Prayer is at 6 pm.

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

**The Church:** The Anglican Church of Korea, Most Revd Paul Kim, Primate of the Anglican Church of Korea and Bishop of Seoul.  
The Parish of Harpenden in our Diocese  
Work of USPG with the Anglican Church in Madagascar.

**The World:** This is “Pray for Schools Fortnight”:  
Please pray for all who learn, parents, all who teach, all who work in schools, and those who decide on how schools, and the education system, are to develop and progress.

**The Community and Parish:** Schools in our Parish: Chater Infants, Laurance Haines, St Anthony’s, Holywell, Westfield College, Watford Boys’ Grammar.  
The Watford Schools Trust.

**The Ill and the Housebound:** Especially Bruce Alexander, Billie Bainbridge (age 5), Christopher Bilson, Peter Coley, Bill and Marion Craddock-Jones, Jean Crouch, Darrell Dunning, Ben Heath, Jessie Hobby, Leena Hosie, Jenny Houghton, Audrey and Harvey Jaquest, Mary Kearns, Lesley Kinch, Loretta Lynch, Jacqui Lyons, Maggie Maguire, Stella Nicholas, Faith Nkugwa, Dorcas Ochola, Helen Perry, Myrtle Powell, Christina and David Simon, Rosie Waite, 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 8.26–40**

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

- <sup>26</sup> An angel of the Lord said to Philip, ‘Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.’ (This is a wilderness road.)
- <sup>27</sup> So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship
- <sup>28</sup> and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah.
- <sup>29</sup> Then the Spirit said to Philip, ‘Go over to this chariot and join it.’
- <sup>30</sup> So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, ‘Do you understand what you are reading?’
- <sup>31</sup> He replied, ‘How can I, unless someone guides me?’ And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him.
- <sup>32</sup> Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: ‘Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth.
- <sup>33</sup> In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.’
- <sup>34</sup> The eunuch asked Philip, ‘About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?’
- <sup>35</sup> Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus.
- <sup>36</sup> As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, ‘Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?’
- <sup>38</sup> He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him.
- <sup>39</sup> When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing.
- <sup>40</sup> But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

**SECOND READING I John 4.7–21**

A reading from the first letter of John.

7 Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is  
born of God and knows God.  
8 Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love.  
9 God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the  
world so that we might live through him.  
10 In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be  
the atoning sacrifice for our sins.  
11 Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another.  
12 No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is  
perfected in us.  
13 By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his  
Spirit.  
14 And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Saviour of  
the world.  
15 God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in  
God.  
16 So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those  
who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them.  
17 Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of  
judgement, because as he is, so are we in this world.  
18 There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with  
punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love.  
19 We love because he first loved us.  
20 Those who say, 'I love God,' and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those  
who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom  
they have not seen.  
21 The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their  
brothers and sisters also.

## **GOSPEL John 15.1–8**

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

Jesus said to his disciples:

1 'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower.  
2 He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit  
he prunes to make it bear more fruit.  
3 You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you.  
4 Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it  
abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me.  
5 I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear  
much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.  
6 Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such  
branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned.  
7 If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it  
will be done for you.  
8 My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.'

## THIS WEEK

Mon	7	May	BANK HOLIDAY NO Toddlers' Group	
Wed	9	May	Coffee in Church Service at Home Manor	10.30am-12 noon 3.00pm
Thur	10	May	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language) Choir Practice	10.00am 7.00 – 8.30pm
Sat	12	May	RSCM Examinations (Choir Vestry)	
Sun	13	May	<b><u>EASTER 6</u></b> Holy Communion (Pres: Fr Geoff) <b>SUNG EUCHARIST</b> (President and preacher: Fr George) Baptism Renewal Service Evening Prayer	8.00am 9.30pm 11.15am 6.00 pm

## **NOTICES**

**CHILDREN'S SOCIETY BOXES:** It is the time of year when these are emptied and the collection sent to the Society. If you have one please bring it in to Norma Twitchin to be emptied.

**BAPTISM RENEWAL SERVICE:** This is on 13 May 2012 at 11.15. Baptism families over the last two years have been invited but everyone who would like to come is welcome.

**MORNING PRAYER** in Lady Chapel will not be held between 9 and 26<sup>th</sup> May.

**PLANT SALE:** 19 May 2012 – 10.30 – 12 noon. Posters and handbills are available for display and circulation. Please help with this if you can. We hope to have a lot of plants to sell. In addition, we hope to raise money by selling other items – books, DVDs, gifts, provisions, jams, marmalade, cakes, bric-a-brac, toys – in fact anything that we are given to sell. Raffle prizes are also welcome. All the proceeds from this sale go to our mission and charitable giving. We would appreciate help with running the stalls so if you are able to help in this way please see one of us. Items for sale can be brought to church at any time from now. Cakes are very welcome on the day. Norma & Sylvia

**INSIDE STREET PARTY** – Sunday, 3 June. The Social Committee is planning this. There is a list at the back of the church. Please sign this to indicate the type of food you will be bringing. You do not need to specify the precise item(s) we just need an indication that we will have a balance of savoury and sweet dishes.

### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:**

Plant Sale – 19 May 2012 – on the grass triangle outside the church

Ascension Day – 17 May 2012 – Celebrations at 10 am and 8 pm.

Concert by Ullern Chamberchoir from Oslo at St Michael's – 26 May at 6 pm

Barbecue 8 July 2012 – at 8 Cassiobury Park Avenue

Sunday, 15 July 2012 at 6.30 pm. Archdeacon Jonathan Smith coming to Choral Evensong which will include the induction of Fr Geoffrey Calvert as our Vicar.