



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

EASTER 7

SUNDAY after ASCENSION DAY

12 May 2013

A warm welcome to our services today.

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

Hymns: 166, 170, 167 and 563

Setting: Rawsthorne

Coffee and tea will be served in church after the 9.30 service. The 11.15 service is a Baptism renewal Service – please stay on.

(Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church 1.00 – 5.00pm)

Evening Prayer is at 6.00pm.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: The parish of Hemel Hempstead, Grovehill and Woodhall Farm in our Diocese.

The Diocese of Niger West (Niger, Nigeria) Anthony Nkwoka its Bishop and all its people.

The Anglican Church in Zimbabwe.

The work of Christian Aid.

The World: The work of Cancer prevention.

Sufferers from arthritis.

The people and nation of Pakistan after recent elections.

The Community and Parish: Our Mothers Union members.

Residents and Staff at River Court.

The Ill and the Housebound: Especially Bruce Alexander, Janet Bridge, Jean and Robert Caton. Peter Coley, Bill and Marion Craddock-Jones, Jean Crouch, Pamela Cutler, Ben Heath, Jessie Hobby, Jenny Houghton, Audrey Jaquest, Mary Kearns, Lesley Kinch, Loretta Lynch, Jacqui Lyons, Maggie Maguire, Audrey Morgan, Dorcas Ochola, Mark Pritchard, Brian O’Riordan, Helen Perry, Myrtle Powell, Christina and David Simon, Douglas Taylor, Anne Wightman and Andrew Williams.

The Departed: Freda Taylor.

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
- ²¹ that are not lawful for us as Romans to adopt or observe.'
- ²² The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates had them stripped of their clothing and ordered them to be beaten with rods.
- ²³ After they had given them a severe flogging, they threw them into prison and ordered the jailer to keep them securely.
- ²⁴ Following these instructions, he put them in the innermost cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.
- ²⁵ About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them.
- ²⁶ 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.
- ²⁷ 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.
- ²⁸ But Paul shouted in a loud voice, 'Do not harm yourself, for we are all here.'
- ²⁹ The jailer called for lights, and rushing in, he fell down trembling before Paul and Silas.
- ³⁰ Then he brought them outside and said, 'Sirs, what must I do to be saved?'
- ³¹ They answered, 'Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.'

³² They spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house.
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	13	May	Toddlers' Group	10.00 – 11.30am
			Service at River Court	3.00pm
			Estates Committee (Vicarage)	7.30pm
Tue	14	May	Social Committee (Vicarage)	7.30pm
Wed	15	May	Coffee in Church	10.30am-12 noon
Thur	16	May	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
			attended by Mothers' Union and followed by a meeting in Choir Vestry.	
			Choir Practice	7.00 – 8.30pm
Sun	19	May	PENTECOST	
			Holy Communion (Pres: Fr George)	8.00am
			SUNG EUCHARIST (President and Preacher: Fr George)	9.30am
			Six O'Clock Series	6.00pm

NOTICES

CENTENARY CONCERT to be given by Lise Christensen and Michael Bracegirdle on 31 May 2013 in St Michael's. Music from opera and musical theatre. Finger buffet served after the music. Tickets £10. Get them from Sylvia Moring (01923 231917), Iola Bilson or Father Geoff.

Please note that there will be NO MORNING SERVICE between 15 May and 6 June.

VOLUNTEERS needed to serve tea, coffee and biscuits for Deanery Synod at St Michael's on 22 May from 7.30 – 8 pm.

THE WATFORD AFRICAN CARIBBEAN ASSOCIATION will be celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Independence of Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago with a special service on 26th May at 10.30am followed by refreshments. There will not be a 9.30am service on that day.

THE BIG LUNCH: 2 June 2013 in St Michael's. Do you remember our Inside Street Party held last year when over 100 people from West Watford enjoyed a bring-and-share-lunch in church to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee? Nationally there has been an activity called The Big Lunch for several years, when people are invited to get together in their communities, and enjoy a picnic-type lunch and get to know one another. After the success of last year, St Michael's is inviting friends and neighbours to join in such an occasion again (inside the church building so the weather won't matter!). Note the date and watch this space for more details.

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.

FOOD BANK: There is a list of the items of food that can be included in the food parcels that are given out and if you would like to donate any of these items please bring them to church and put them in the box at the west end.