



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

PASSION SUNDAY

6 April 2014

We wish you a warm welcome to our services today.

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

Hymns: 499 (omit *s), 174, 557 (i) and 127

Setting: Missa Seraphica

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

(The Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church 12.30-5.30pm)

Joint Service at Trinity Methodist at 6.30pm.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: The Parish of Eaton Socon in our Diocese.
The Nippon Sei Ko Kai (The Anglican Communion in Japan):
Nathaniel Makoto Uematsu - Primate of The Nippon Sei Ko Kai &
Bishop of Hokkaido.

The Church of Pakistan.

The World: Sufferers from Parkinson's Disease.

All refugees and stateless people.

Sufferers from Bowel Cancer.

The Community and Parish: Our friends at Trinity Methodist Church.

Residents and Staff at Home Manor and St Anthony's.

Parents and children on holiday.

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, Audrey Dixon, Sandra Fullerton, Jenny Houghton, Owen Hutchinson, Audrey Jaquest, Mary Kearns, Lesley Kinch, Loretta Lynch, Jacqui Lyons, Audrey Morgan, Dorcas Ochola, Brian O'Riordan, Helen Perry, Mark Pritchard, Christina and David Simon, Mark Simon, Pauline White and Anne Wightman.

The Departed:

Collect

Most merciful God, who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ delivered and saved the world:
grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross we may triumph in the power of his victory;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING Ezekiel 37.1–14

A reading from the book of the prophet Ezekiel.

- ¹ The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones.
- ² He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry.
- ³ He said to me, ‘Mortal, can these bones live?’ I answered, ‘O Lord GOD, you know.’
- ⁴ Then he said to me, ‘Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD.
- ⁵ Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live.
- ⁶ I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD.’
- ⁷ So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone.
- ⁸ I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them.
- ⁹ Then he said to me, ‘Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.’
- ¹⁰ I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.
- ¹¹ Then he said to me, ‘Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, “Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.”
- ¹² Therefore prophecy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel.
- ¹³ And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people.
- ¹⁴ I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act, says the LORD.’

SECOND READING Romans 8.6–11

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

- 6 To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.
- 7 For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law – indeed it cannot,
- 8 and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.
- 9 But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.
- 10 But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness.
- 11 If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

GOSPEL John 11.17-27, 38-45

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

- 17 When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days.
- 18 Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away,
- 19 and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother.
- 20 When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home.
- 21 Martha said to Jesus, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.
- 22 But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.'
- 23 Jesus said to her, 'Your brother will rise again.'
- 24 Martha said to him, 'I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.'
- 25 Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live,
- 26 and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?'
- 27 She said to him, 'Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.'
- 38 Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it.
- 39 Jesus said, 'Take away the stone.' Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, 'Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days.'
- 40 Jesus said to her, 'Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?'
- 41 So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upwards and said, 'Father, I thank you for having heard me.
- 42 I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.'
- 43 When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out!'
- 44 The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, and let him go.'
- 45 Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

THIS WEEK

Mon	7	Apr	Toddlers' Group	10.00 – 11.30am
			Lent Group (Choir Vestry)	2.30 – 4.00pm
			Pastoral Care Group (Vicarage)	7.30pm
Tue	8	Apr	Lent Group (Vicarage)	8.00 – 9.30pm
Wed	9	Apr	Coffee in Church and Food Bank	10.30am-12 noon
			Service at Home Manor	3.00pm
Thu	10	Apr	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
			St Anthony's	morning
			Choir Practice	7.00 – 8.30pm
Sat	12	Apr	(The Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church	5.00 - 10pm)
Sun	13	Apr	<u>PALM SUNDAY</u>	
			Holy Communion (Pres: Fr Geoff)	8.00am
			SUNG EUCHARIST: Passion Narrative according to Matthew	
			President: Fr Geoff	9.30am
			Simple Eucharist	11.15am
			STAINER'S "CRUCIFIXION"	6.00pm

NOTICES

ELECTORAL ROLL: The revised Electoral Roll is displayed on the notice board. Please check your entry for any errors or omissions and inform Fr Geoff or a churchwarden if there are any inaccuracies. Additional names can be added any time after the Annual Meetings on 29th April.

LAST SUNDAY'S BRING-&-BUY raised £54.50. Many thanks.

VOLUNTEERS needed for Palm Sunday dramatized Gospel, Maundy Thursday Footwashing & Watch, Holy Saturday readings at Service of Light.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS: please note the annual report and accounts will be distributed electronically. A list is available at the rear of the church which please sign if you do not have the facility to receive the report electronically and would like a hard copy – *Jean Alexander, PCC Secretary*

LENT COLLECTING BOXES for the Church Army are available at the back of church and by the Lady Chapel. These should be returned by Easter Sunday.

MAUNDY THURSDAY WATCH: As usual we hope to keep the watch in the Lady Chapel throughout the night on Maundy Thursday. Please sign the list on the table by the Mildred Avenue door if you are able to join the watch for part of the time.

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.

EASTER FLOWERS: It is our custom to invite people to make a donation towards the Easter flowers, perhaps in memory of a loved one. If you would like to do this, please give your donation to Fay Storey or Jean Alexander. If you are able to gift aid your donation it should go in one of the white gift aid envelopes.