



# THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

*St Michael and All Angels*

Watford

**EASTER 6**  
**25 May 2014**

A warm welcome to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Eucharist Fr Geoff celebrates and preaches and Valerie Alvarez leads the intercessions.

**Hymns: 143 (ii), 391, 540 (omit \*s) and 315**

**Setting: Rawsthorne**

Coffee and tea will be served in church after the 9.30 service and there is a Bring-&-Buy Sale – please stay on.

(Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church

1.00pm – 5.00pm)

Evening Prayer is at 6.00pm.

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

**The Church:** The Parish of Newnham in our Diocese.

The work of the Anglican Centre in Rome.

The Theological College of Lanka, in Sri Lanka.

**The World:** Peace in Nigeria, South Sudan, Syria, Ukraine, and other troubled areas.

People trying to recover from natural disaster, accident and conflict.

Foster carers and the young people they care for.

**The Community and Parish:** . All members of PCC Committees.

Pupils, staff and families of our local schools.

Our newly elected representatives.

**The Ill and the Housebound:** Especially Bruce Alexander, Janet Bridge, Jean and

Robert Caton, Peter Coley, Marion Craddock-Jones, 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 Simon, Mark

Simon, Pauline White and Anne Wightman.

**The Departed:**

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**Collect**

God our redeemer, you have delivered us from the power of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of your Son:  
grant, that as by his death he has recalled us to life, so by his continual presence in us he may raise us to eternal joy;  
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 Acts 17.22–31**

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

- <sup>22</sup> Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, ‘Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way.
- <sup>23</sup> For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, “To an unknown god.” What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you.
- <sup>24</sup> The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands,
- <sup>25</sup> nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things.
- <sup>26</sup> From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live,
- <sup>27</sup> so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him – though indeed he is not far from each one of us.
- <sup>28</sup> For “In him we live and move and have our being”; as even some of your own poets have said, “For we too are his offspring.”
- <sup>29</sup> Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals.
- <sup>30</sup> While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent,
- <sup>31</sup> because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.’

**SECOND READING I Peter 3.13–22**

A reading from the first letter of Peter.

<sup>13</sup> Who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good?  
<sup>14</sup> But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated,  
<sup>15</sup> but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defence to anyone who demands from you an account of the hope that is in you;  
<sup>16</sup> yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame.  
<sup>17</sup> For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil.  
<sup>18</sup> For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit,  
<sup>19</sup> in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison,  
<sup>20</sup> who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water.  
<sup>21</sup> And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you – not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,  
<sup>22</sup> who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

## **GOSPEL John 14.15–21**

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

Jesus said to his disciples:

<sup>15</sup> 'If you love me, you will keep my commandments.  
<sup>16</sup> And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you for ever.  
<sup>17</sup> This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.  
<sup>18</sup> I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you.  
<sup>19</sup> In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live.  
<sup>20</sup> On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you.  
<sup>21</sup> They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.'

## THIS WEEK

Mon	26	May	<i>Bank Holiday</i> NO Toddlers' Group	
Tue	27	May	Intercessory Prayer Group (Choir Vestry)	2.30pm
Wed	28	May	Coffee in Church and Food Bank	10.30-12 noon
Thur	29	May	<i>Ascension Day</i> Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language) Choir Practice Eucharist	10.00am 7.00 – 8.00pm 8.00pm
Sun	1	June	<b><u>SUNDAY after ASCENSION / EASTER 7</u></b> Holy Communion (Pres: Fr George) <b>SUNG EUCHARIST</b> (President and Preacher: Fr George) Baptism ANIMAL BLESSING SERVICE Evening Prayer (no United Service)	<b>9.30am</b> 1.00pm 3.00pm 6.00pm

## NOTICES

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK has now finished but there are still envelopes at the back of the church for any further donations. Please return any envelopes with contributions as soon as possible. Thank you.

PCC COMMITTEES: there are handouts available to explain the various PCC Committees. There are sign-up lists at the back of Church for people to sign to join any of these committees.

LENT COLLECTING BOXES: Thank you to those who made a donation to the Church Army via the Lent Collecting boxes. If you still have a box at home any further donations would be gratefully received.

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: Don't forget that we are still collecting food as well as acting as a distribution centre. There is a list at the back of church of the items of food that can be included in the parcels. 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.

ANIMAL BLESSING SERVICE: This is in St Michael's next Sunday (1 June) at 3 pm. All animals welcome (or their photograph) together with their owners.