



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

EASTER 4

Sunday 30 April 2023

We are now able to receive the wine at communion. There will be a chalice on your left for those who wish to receive by drinking, and on your right for those who wish to receive by dipping their wafer in the wine. You are also welcome to just receive the bread.

Hymns are: 453 Great is thy faithfulness, 469 I heard the voice of Jesus say, 589 The King of Love, 598 (t.1) There's a wideness in God's mercy

For your prayers this week:

The Church: The Parish of Sacombe in our Diocese.
The Episcopal Church (USA).
King Charles in his role as Supreme Governor of the Church of England.

The World: The people of Sudan.
The people of Ukraine.
All who serve as street angels.

The Community and Parish: Everyone planning street parties and other coronation celebrations.
Our children and young people.
Those who lead our groups for children and young people.

The Ill and the Housebound: Especially Jean Alexander, Violet Allen-Smith, Julie Alvarez, Janet Chandler, Jemima Hill, Kristine Jenkins, Lisa Mills, Josephine Stadden, Catherine Stone, Fay Storey, Adelaide Tonkin, Andrew Watford, and all who care for them.

The Departed:

Collect

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life: raise us, who trust in him, from the death of sin to the life of righteousness, that we may seek those things which are above, where he reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING Acts 2.42–47

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Many were baptized and were added to the community.

42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

43 Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles.

44 All who believed were together and had all things in common;

45 they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need.

46 Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts,

47 praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

SECOND READING 1 Peter 2.19–25

A reading from the first letter of Peter. Brothers and sisters:

19 It is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly.

20 If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval.

21 For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

22 'He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.'

23 When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly.

- 24 He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.
- 25 For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

GOSPEL John 10.1–10

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

Jesus said to the Pharisees:

- 1 'Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit.
- 2 The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep.
- 3 The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.
- 4 When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice.
- 5 They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.'
- 6 Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.
- 7 So again Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep.
- 8 All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them.
- 9 I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture.
- 10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.'

Our service today for Easter 4 is available to attend in person or via livestream on our YouTube channel

“St Michael’s Church Watford”

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC8GTX0MfiICGmcDUkXTGFSw>

The 10.00am Eucharist on Thursdays is also available to attend in person, and livestreamed.

The Church will be open for tea and coffee on Wednesday mornings from 10.00am – 12.00 noon.

Norma will be having a Bring-and-Buy Sale after the 9.30 service today, Sunday, 30th April. Please support.

On Saturday 6th May we will be showing the Coronation in Church, and there will be a children’s workshop on that day as well. Bring your own lunch. On Sunday 7th April, there will be Coronation Cake and Fizz after Church. Also after Church on the 7th, the Vicar invites you to a “Coronation Quiche Tasting”. The Royal Family’s “Coronation Quiche” recipe is available at <https://www.royal.uk/the-coronation-quiche> but I will also be sending it out. Prepare your own “take” on the recipe – gluten free, dairy free, vegan etc, and bring it along, or just come along and share what people have made. On Saturday 6th May, the television will be on in Church from 9.30am onwards, with the Coronation Service in Westminster Abbey scheduled to start at 11.00am. Tea and coffee will be served!

Church Electoral Roll

The Electoral Roll is now open for revision and remains so until 9th May when it will close until the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on 24th May.

If you are currently on the Roll but any of your contact details have changed, please let Fr Geoff, Valerie, Elizabeth or me know.

If you are a regular at St Michael’s but are not yet on the Roll please complete one of the application forms which can be found near to the Serving Hatch by the main entrance.

Simon Fowle

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Children’s Society Boxes: if you have one, please bring back to church over the next few weeks. – Thank you, Valerie.