



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

EASTER 6

Sunday 14 May 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: 474 Immortal Invisible, 391 Blest are the pure in heart, 150 Love's redeeming work is done, 368 All my hope on God is founded

For your prayers this week:

The Church: The Parish of Barley in our Diocese.
The Church of the Province of West Africa.
The work of Christian Aid.

The World: People with food allergies and intolerances.
Awareness of people with mental health issues.
Foster carers.

The Community and Parish: Our PCC members.
Our Churchwardens.
Churches together in Watford.

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: Jack Tunmore (Martin's father).

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.

- ²² Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, ‘Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way.
- ²³ 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.
- ²⁴ 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,
- ²⁵ 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.
- ²⁶ 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,
- ²⁷ 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.
- ²⁸ 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.”
- ²⁹ 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.
- ³⁰ While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent,
- ³¹ 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.

- ¹³ Who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good?
¹⁴ 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,
¹⁵ 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;
¹⁶ 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.
¹⁷ For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil.
¹⁸ 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,
¹⁹ in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison,
²⁰ 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.
²¹ 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,
²² 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:

- ¹⁵ 'If you love me, you will keep my commandments.
¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you for ever.
¹⁷ 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.
¹⁸ I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you.
¹⁹ In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live.
²⁰ On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you.
²¹ 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.'

Our service today for Easter 6 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.

This coming Thursday, 18th May, is Ascension Day, and there will be a service in Church at 7.30pm, all welcome

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

Our Annual Meetings this year will be on Wednesday 24th May. There will be a Eucharist at 7.00pm, with the Annual Vestry Meeting at 7.30pm, followed by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

The Annual Report, minutes of last year’s meetings, and agendas will be circulated electronically to everyone on the electoral roll for whom we have an email address. If you would like a printed copy of the annual report, please sign the list at the back of Church. There are also nomination forms for Churchwardens, PCC members, and Deanery Synod Representatives

Quiz Night - Saturday 10th June 2023 at 7pm for 7.15pm start.

£7 per person. Come to exercise your grey matter and have an evening of fun. Tickets on sale from Valerie on 07858763594 or email to churchwardens@stmichaels-watford.org.uk. See website for further details.

Church Electoral Roll

The Electoral Roll is now closed and will re-open after the Annual Parochial Council Meeting on Wednesday 24th May.

The updated roll is posted on the Noticeboard in the North Aisle

Simon Fowle

(simon.fowle@ntlworld.com or 01923 229624)

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

Website: <http://www.stmichaels-watford.org.uk>

St Michael and All Angels PCC is a Registered Charity No 1132010