



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

ST MARY MAGDALENE

Sunday 23 July 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.

A very warm welcome to the Rev David Tuck who is our Celebrant and Preacher at today's service

Hymns are: 1 – Awake my soul (Pt.1 and doxology), 507 Lord of all hopefulness, 515 Lord, thy word abideth, 267 Thou whose almighty word.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: The Parish of Hunsdon in our Diocese.
The Church of the Province of Central Africa.
People training for Anglican ministry.

The World: The work of the Samaritans.
People suffering from Schizophrenia.
The protection of sea life.

The Community and Parish: Our Mission as a Church.
Our Food Bank clients.

Our Local police and police community support officers.

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

The Departed:

Collect

Almighty God,
whose Son restored Mary Magdalene to health of mind and body
and called her to be a witness to his resurrection:
forgive our sins and heal us by your grace,
that we may serve you in the power of his risen life;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING Song of Solomon 3.1–4

A reading from the book of the Song of Solomon.

- ¹ Upon my bed at night I sought him whom my soul loves; I sought him, but found him not; I called him, but he gave no answer.
- ² 'I will rise now and go about the city, in the streets and in the squares; I will seek him whom my soul loves.' I sought him, but found him not.
- ³ The sentinels found me, as they went about in the city. 'Have you seen him whom my soul loves?'
- ⁴ Scarcely had I passed them, when I found him whom my soul loves. I held him, and would not let him go until I brought him into my mother's house, and into the chamber of her that conceived me.

SECOND READING 2 Corinthians 5.14–17

A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

- ¹⁴ The love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died.
- ¹⁵ And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them.
- ¹⁶ From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way.
- ¹⁷ So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

GOSPEL John 20.1–2, 11–18

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

- ¹ Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb.
- ² So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, ‘They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.’
- ¹¹ But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb;
- ¹² and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet.
- ¹³ They said to her, ‘Woman, why are you weeping?’ She said to them, ‘They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.’
- ¹⁴ When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus.
- ¹⁵ Jesus said to her, ‘Woman, why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?’ Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, ‘Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.’
- ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, ‘Mary!’ She turned and said to him in Hebrew, ‘Rabbouni!’ (which means Teacher).
- ¹⁷ Jesus said to her, ‘Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, “I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.”’
- ¹⁸ Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, ‘I have seen the Lord’; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

Our service today 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.

The long-awaited 2nd St Michael and All Angels family fun sports day will be held in Cassiobury Park on 6th August, 2 - 5pm. Bring along friends, family and a picnic.

The Children’s Society Box collection raised £418.02. Due to Covid this was a 3-year total. With the demise of cash we will no longer participate in the home box scheme but will continue to support The Children’s Society in different ways. For the record since 2006 a total of £7317.58 has been collected. That is a lot of money to take to the bank in small change so a special thank you to Norma who started the scheme and organised it for 13 years.