



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE LENT
15 February 2015

We wish you a warm welcome to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Sung Eucharist, Fr Geoff celebrates and Violet Allen-Smith preaches. Graham Mordue leads the intercessions. Sunday School.

Hymns: 612, 248, 295 and 513

Setting: Wilson

Coffee and tea will be served in church after the 9.30 service – please stay on.

Messy Church is at 11.15 am.

Evening Prayer at 6.00 pm.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: The Parish of Holy Trinity Lyonsdown, in our Diocese.
The Diocese of Mandalay (Myanmar): Nyi Nyi Naing its Bishop
and all its People.

The work of Us with the Church in Melanesia.

The World: A peaceful settlement in the Ukraine.
Migrants risking their lives to cross the Mediterranean.
The fostering and support of marriage in our society.

The Community and Parish: Our Mothers' Union Members.

The health and well-being of university students known to us.

Harmony between people of different faiths in our community.

The Ill and the Housebound: Especially Bruce Alexander, Tina Bennett, Janet Bridge, Jean and Robert Caton, Peter Coley, Marion Craddock-Jones, Pamela Cutler, Audrey Dixon, Claire Dunning, Sandra Fullerton, Jenny Houghton, Audrey Jaquest, Mary Kearns, Lesley Kinch, Loretta Lynch, Audrey Morgan, Dorcas Ochola, Brian O'Riordan, Helen Perry, Mark Pritchard, Christina Simon, Mark Simon, Karen Stride, Anne Wightman and Daniel Williamson (age 3).

The Departed:

Collect

Almighty Father, whose Son was revealed in majesty before he suffered death upon the cross:

give us grace to perceive his glory, that we may be strengthened to suffer with him and be changed into his likeness, from glory to glory; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING 2 Kings 2.1–12

A reading from the second book of Kings.

- 1 When the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal.
- 2 Elijah said to Elisha, ‘Stay here; for the LORD has sent me as far as Bethel.’ But Elisha said, ‘As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.’ So they went down to Bethel.
- 3 The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, ‘Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?’ And he said, ‘Yes, I know; keep silent.’
- 4 Elijah said to him, ‘Elisha, stay here; for the LORD has sent me to Jericho.’ But he said, ‘As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.’ So they came to Jericho.
- 5 The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, ‘Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?’ And he answered, ‘Yes, I know; be silent.’
- 6 Then Elijah said to him, ‘Stay here; for the LORD has sent me to the Jordan.’ But he said, ‘As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.’ So the two of them went on.
- 7 Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan.
- 8 Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.
- 9 When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, ‘Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you.’ Elisha said, ‘Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit.’
- 10 He responded, ‘You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not.’

- 11 As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven.
- 12 Elisha kept watching and crying out, 'Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!' But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

SECOND READING 2 Corinthians 4.3–6

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

- 3 Even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing.
- 4 In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.
- 5 For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake.
- 6 For it is the God who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

GOSPEL Mark 9.2–9

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

- 2 Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them.
- 3 And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus.
- 4 Then Peter said to Jesus, 'Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.'
- 5 He did not know what to say, for they were terrified.
- 6 Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!'
- 7 Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.
- 8 As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

THIS WEEK

Mon	16	Feb	<i>Half Term Week</i> Toddlers' Group	10.00 – 11.30am
Tue	17	Feb	Intercessory Prayer Group (choir Vestry)	2.30pm
Wed	18	Feb	ASH WEDNESDAY Holy Communion with Imposition of Ashes	10.00 am
			Coffee in Church and Food Bank	10.30am-12 noon
			Holy Communion with Imposition of Ashes	7.30pm
Thu	19	Feb	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language) attended by Mothers' Union followed by coffee for all in Choir Vestry	10.00am 10.30am
			Choir Practice	7.00 – 8.30pm
Sun	22	Feb	<u>FIRST SUNDAY of LENT</u> Holy Communion (Pres: Fr Geoff)	8.00am
			SUNG EUCHARIST:	9.30am
			Pres: Fr Geoff; Preacher: Jamie Wareham; (The Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church	Sunday School 1.00 - 5.00pm)
			Evening Prayer	6.00pm

NOTICES

THERE ARE SIGN UP SHEETS at the back of Church for Lent Groups using the course "Puzzling Questions" on Monday afternoons and Tuesday evenings in Lent.

THE COFFEE MORNING AND MINI MARKET on 7th Feb raised a total of £212.75 for church funds. Many thanks to all who helped and came along to the event.

LENT COLLECTING BOXES for the Church Army are available at the back of church. Please take one. These will be collected on Easter Day.

SUMMER OUTINGS: The Social Committee wonder if St Michael's people would be interested in going on a coach outing. We thought one of the following places might be of interest - Chichester, Bedford (with Bunyan associations), Gloucester, or can you suggest anywhere else? It goes without saying that friends and family would be welcome to join in. Please add your name(s) to the list at the back of the church.

THE AGM OF WATFORD INTERFAITH ASSOCIATION takes place on Tuesday 17th February, 7.30pm at the Friends' Meeting House. Speaker is the Revd Bonnie Evans-Hills, Interfaith Advisor to the Bishop of St Albans

SWORD SUBSCRIPTIONS for 2015 are now due. Valerie Alvarez has kindly agreed to collect subscriptions for the coming year. The cost of Sword is 60p per month. If you pay for the year in advance an annual subscription for 12 issues will be £6.00, thus giving you 12 issues for the price of 10!

MOTHERING SUNDAY: 15 March 2015. Please see Sylvia Moring if you would like to make a simnel cake for this occasion.

Lent Lunch, in aid of mission, served by St Michael's Brownies is on 7 March 2015.

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