



# THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

*St Michael and All Angels*

Watford

**FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT**

**22 February 2015**

We wish you a warm welcome to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Sung Eucharist, Fr Geoff celebrates and Jamie Wareham preaches. Phil Gough leads the intercessions. Sunday School.

**Hymns: 95, 385, 532 and 96 (t ii)**

**Setting: Wilson**

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

(The Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church 1.00 - 5.00pm)

Evening Prayer at 6.00 pm.

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

**The Church:** The Parish of All Saints, Bedford, in our Diocese.  
The Dioceses of Maseno North and Maseno South in Kenya,  
Simon Oketch and Francis Mwai Abiero their Bishops and their  
people.

The work of Us with the Anglican Church in Belize.

**The World:** People who are unemployed.

A lasting peace for the Ukraine.

The Fair Trade Movement.

**The Community and Parish:** A good keeping of Lent.

Community and Children's Centres in our Parish.

Young people in our area looking for employment.

**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:**

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## Collect

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days in the wilderness, and was tempted as we are, yet without sin:  
give us grace to discipline ourselves in obedience to your Spirit;  
and, as you know our weakness, so may we know your power to save;  
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 Genesis 9.8–17

A reading from the book of Genesis.

- <sup>8</sup> God said to Noah and to his sons with him,  
<sup>9</sup> ‘As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you,  
<sup>10</sup> and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark.  
<sup>11</sup> I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.’  
<sup>12</sup> God said, ‘This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations:  
<sup>13</sup> I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth.  
<sup>14</sup> When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds,  
<sup>15</sup> I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh.  
<sup>16</sup> When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.’  
<sup>17</sup> God said to Noah, ‘This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.’

## **SECOND READING I Peter 3.18–22**

A reading from the first letter of Peter.

- <sup>18</sup> 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 Mark 1.9–15**

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

- <sup>9</sup> In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan.
- <sup>10</sup> And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him.
- <sup>11</sup> And a voice came from heaven, ‘You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.’
- <sup>12</sup> And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness.
- <sup>13</sup> He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.
- <sup>14</sup> Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God,
- <sup>15</sup> and saying, ‘The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.’

## THIS WEEK

Mon	23	Feb	<i>Schools return from Half Term Week</i>	
			Toddlers' Group	10.00 – 11.30am
			Lent Group (Choir Vestry)	2.30pm
Tue	24	Feb	Lent Group (Choir Vestry)	7.30pm
Wed	25	Feb	Coffee in Church and Food Bank	10.30am-12 noon
Thu	26	Feb	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
			Choir Practice	7.00 – 8.30pm
Sun	1	Mar	<b><u>SECOND SUNDAY of LENT</u></b>	
			Holy Communion (Pres: Fr Geoff)	8.00am
			<b>SUNG EUCHARIST:</b>	9.30am
			Pres and Preacher: Fr Geoff;	Sunday School
			United Service at St Michael's	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, starting this week.

**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 list has now got to page 2.

**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 to be served after the 9.30 service with coffee.

**LENT LUNCH:** is on 7 March 2015 at the west end of the church. This is an occasion when St Michael's Brownies serve a simple lunch of homemade soup (several varieties to choose from), bread and cheese, and coffee, and invite donations for mission. In addition there is a sales table arranged by Norma. Please support this if you can and invite your friends and neighbours to come as well. The sale starts at 11.30 and the lunch is served from 12 noon to 1.30 pm.