



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

St David's Day

1 March 2015

We wish you a warm welcome to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Sung Eucharist, Fr Geoff celebrates and preaches. Vicki Matthews leads the intercessions. Sunday School.

Hymns: 6 (i), 582, 586 (omit *s) and 480

Setting: Missa Seraphica

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

United Service at St Michael's at 6.00 pm.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: The St Albans Diocesan Secretary and Diocesan Office.
The Diocese of Mbale in Uganda, Patrick Gidudu its Bishop and all its people.

The work of Us with the Anglican Church in Sri Lanka.

The World: The Assyrian Christians abducted by Islamic State in Syria.
Sufferers from ovarian and prostate cancer.
Book authors, publishers and sellers.

The Community and Parish: Our PCC members.
Residents and Staff at River Court and Fairhaven.
Our Lent Lunch.

The Ill and the Housebound: Especially Bruce Alexander, Sonia Anderson, 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, John Paisley, Helen Perry, Mark Pritchard, Christina Simon, Mark Simon, Karen Stride, Anne Wightman and Daniel Williamson (age 3).

The Departed:

Collect

Almighty God, you show to those who are in error the light of your truth, that they may return to the way of righteousness:
grant to all those who are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's religion, that they may reject those things that are contrary to their profession, and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same;
through our Lord Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING Genesis 17.1–7, 15–16

A reading from the book of Genesis.

¹ When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, 'I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless.

² And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous.'

³ Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him,

⁴ 'As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations.

⁵ No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations.

⁶ I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you.

⁷ I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.'

¹⁵ God said to Abraham, 'As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name.

¹⁶ I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.'

SECOND READING Romans 4.13–25

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

¹³ The promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith.

¹⁴ If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void.

¹⁵ For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

¹⁶ For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us,

¹⁷ as it is written, 'I have made you the father of many nations') – Abraham believed in the presence of the God who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

¹⁸ Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become 'the father of many nations,' according to what was said, 'So numerous shall your descendants be.'

¹⁹ He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb.

²⁰ No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God,

²¹ being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised.

²² Therefore his faith 'was reckoned to him as righteousness.'

²³ Now the words, 'it was reckoned to him,' were written not for his sake alone,

²⁴ but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead,

²⁵ who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

GOSPEL Mark 8.31–38

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

³¹ Jesus began to teach his disciples that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.

³² He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.

³³ But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, 'Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.'

³⁴ He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.

³⁵ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it.

³⁶ For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life?

³⁷ Indeed, what can they give in return for their life?

³⁸ Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.'

THIS WEEK

Mon	2	Mar	Toddlers' Group	10.00 – 11.30am
			Lent Group (Choir Vestry)	2.30pm
			Messy Church meeting	8.00pm
Tue	3	Mar	Service at River Court	3.00pm
			Lent Group (Choir Vestry)	7.30pm
Wed	4	Mar	Coffee in Church and Food Bank	10.30am-12 noon
			PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL	7.55pm
Thu	5	Mar	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
			Fairhaven	morning
			Choir Practice	7.00 – 8.30pm
Fri	6	Mar	(Women's World Day of Prayer Service at St Luke's	2.00pm)
Sat	7	Mar	LENT LUNCH and SALE (see Notices)	11.30 – 1.30pm
Sun	8	Mar	<u>THIRD SUNDAY in LENT</u>	
			Holy Communion (Pres: Fr George)	
			SUNG EUCHARIST:	9.30am
			Pres and Preacher: Fr George;	Sunday School
			(Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church	1.00 – 5.00pm)
			Evening Prayer	6.00pm

NOTICES

ELECTORAL ROLL REVISION: This year's revision commences on Sunday 15th March and finishes on Sunday 5th April. A copy of the current Roll is on the notice board at the back of the Church for you to check. If anyone would like their name added to the Roll, please get a form from Fr Geoff, a Churchwarden or Henry or Sylvia Moring. If you have changed your email address or telephone number could you also inform us please.

THERE ARE SIGN UP SHEETS at the back of Church for Lent Groups.

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

CONGRATULATIONS to Audrey Morgan (Iola's mother) who celebrated her 100th Birthday yesterday.

SUMMER OUTINGS: The Social Committee wonder if St Michael's people would be interested in going on a coach outing. 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.

MOTHERING SUNDAY: 15 March 2015. Please bring your Children's Society collecting box to the 9.30 service.

LENT LUNCH: is on 7 March 2015 at the west end of the church served by St Michael's Brownies. In addition there is a sales table arranged by Norma. Please support this if you can and invite your friends and neighbours. The sale starts at 11.30 and the lunch is served from 12 noon to 1.30 pm. All proceeds to mission.

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