



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

14 February 2016

We wish you a warm welcome to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Service Fr Geoff celebrates and preaches. Phil Gough leads the intercessions.

Hymns: 95 (vv5,6 t517), Psalm 91, 485 Pt 1 (t305), 486 (t AMR 387i) and 96 (ii)

Setting: Oldroyd

Refreshments will be served in church after the 9.30 service - please stay on.

(Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church 1.00 – 5.00pm)

Evening Prayer at 6.00 pm.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: The Parish of Christchurch Little Heath in our Diocese.
The Church of the Province of Central Africa, Albert Chama its Archbishop and all its people.

The work of Us with the Anglican Church in Brazil.

The World: A good resolution to the Junior Doctors' dispute.

All efforts to bring peace in Syria.

The contribution of retired people in our communities.

The Community and Parish: That we may grow spiritually through our keeping of Lent.

The work of Watford Interfaith Association.

Our Mothers' Union members.

The Ill and the Housebound: Especially Bruce Alexander, Sonia Anderson, Tina Bennett, Christopher Bilson, Janet Bridge, Robert Caton, Peter Coley, Marion Craddock-Jones, Audrey Dixon, Claire Dunning, Sandra Fullerton, Jenny Houghton, Kristine Jenkins, Mary Kearns, Lesley Kinch, Loretta Lynch, Dorcas Ochola, Brian O'Riordan, Helen Perry, Christina Simon, Mark Simon, Karen Stride and Nicholas Weeks.

The Departed:

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 Deuteronomy 26.1-11

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy.

Moses spoke to the people, saying:

- ¹ When you have come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it,
- ² you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his name.
- ³ You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, 'Today I declare to the LORD your God that I have come into the land that the LORD swore to our ancestors to give us.'
- ⁴ When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the LORD your God,
- ⁵ you shall make this response before the LORD your God: 'A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous.
- ⁶ When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labour on us,
- ⁷ we cried to the LORD, the God of our ancestors; the LORD heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression.
- ⁸ The LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders;
- ⁹ and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey.
- ¹⁰ So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O LORD, have given me.' You shall set it down before the LORD your God and bow down before the LORD your God.
- ¹¹ Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the LORD your God has given to you and to your house.

SECOND READING Romans 10.8b–13

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

- ⁸ What does scripture say? ‘The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart’ (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim);
- ⁹ because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.
- ¹⁰ For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved.
- ¹¹ The scripture says, ‘No one who believes in him will be put to shame.’
- ¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him.
- ¹³ For, ‘Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.’

GOSPEL Luke 4.1–13

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

- ¹ Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness,
- ² where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished.
- ³ The devil said to him, ‘If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.’
- ⁴ Jesus answered him, ‘It is written, “One does not live by bread alone.”’
- ⁵ Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world.
- ⁶ And the devil said to him, ‘To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please.
- ⁷ If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.’
- ⁸ Jesus answered him, ‘It is written, “Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.”’
- ⁹ Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, ‘If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written, “He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you,” and “On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.”’
- ¹² Jesus answered him, ‘It is said, “Do not put the Lord your God to the test.”’
- ¹³ When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

THIS WEEK

Mon	15	Feb	<i>Half Term Week</i>	
			Toddlers' Group	10.00am – 11.30am
			Lent Study Group	1.30pm
			(Funeral of Jean Caton at West Herts Crematorium	3.40pm)
Tue	16	Feb	Lent Study Group	7.30pm
Wed	17	Feb	Food Bank	10.00am – 12 noon
			Coffee in Church	10.30am – 12 noon
Thu	18	Feb	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
			attended by Mothers' Union members	
			followed by coffee for all in Choir Vestry	
			NO Choir Practice	
Sat	20	Feb	Church open all day for a Vigil of Prayer for World Peace	
Sun	21	Feb	<u>SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT</u>	
			Holy Communion (Pres: Fr Geoff)	8.00am
			SUNG EUCHARIST (Pres and Preacher: Fr Geoff)	9.30am
			Messy Church	11.15am
			Holy Baptism	3.00pm
			Evening Prayer	6.00pm

NOTICES

LENT PRAYER DIARY: US(PG) has produced a (free) booklet on the theme of migration with stories, reflections and prayers from around the world. If you would like one please see Gillian Heath.

REMINDER - SWORD Please note that subscriptions for 2016 are now due. These should be paid to Valerie Alvarez. The cost is £6 for the year, ie 12 copies for the price of 10.

CHILDREN'S SOCIETY BOXES: We would like to collect these on Mothering Sunday (6 March) at the 9.30 Service. If you are unable to attend on 6 March please bring your box during the week before. Thank you.

PANCAKES AND PRAYERS: Thank you to all who came and thanks to all who made the very tasty fillings. Thank you also to Fr Geoff for his informative, illustrated talk about customs leading up to the beginning of Lent.

I WOULD LIKE TO RUN A SHORT TRAINING COURSE (one or possibly two sessions) for those who lead intercessions during the 9.30 Sunday Morning Service, both for people currently undertaking this role, and anyone who would like to take it on. I will be contacting everyone in due course, but if there is anyone who would like to lead intercessions and doesn't already, I would love to hear from you. Fr Geoff

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

27 February Lent Lunch: Coffee morning and Bring-& Buy Sale. Frugal lunch served by St Michael's Brownies. Proceeds for mission.

6 March Mothering Sunday

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