



# THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

*St Michael and All Angels*

Watford

**SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT**

**21 February 2016**

We wish you a warm welcome to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Service Fr Geoff celebrates and preaches. Sarah Dunning leads the intercessions.

**Hymns: 268, Psalm 27, 560, 100 and 598 (i)**

**Setting: Oldroyd**

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

Messy Church is at 11.15 am.

There is a Baptism at 3.00 pm.

Evening Prayer at 6.00 pm.

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

### **The Church:**

The Parish of Totteridge in our Diocese.

The Anglican Church of Central America, Sturdie Downs its Primate, and all its people.

The work of US with the Church in Pakistan.

### **The World:**

All those seeking peace and reconciliation in Syria and the whole Middle East.

The work of Christian Aid in Israel and the Palestinian Territories.

Victims of the recent bombing in Ankara.

### **The Community and Parish:**

That our Lent Lunch may be fruitful for those who attend and the charities that benefit.

The families that attend Messy Church.

People preparing for Baptism and Marriage in our Church.

### **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, Simon Fowle, 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:**

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## 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 15.1–12, 17–18**

A reading from the book of Genesis.

- 1 The word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, 'Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.'
- 2 But Abram said, 'O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?'
- 3 And Abram said, 'You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.'
- 4 But the word of the LORD came to him, 'This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.'
- 5 He brought him outside and said, 'Look towards heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.' Then he said to him, 'So shall your descendants be.'
- 6 And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.
- 7 Then he said to him, 'I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess.'
- 8 But he said, 'O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?'
- 9 He said to him, 'Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtle-dove, and a young pigeon.'
- 10 He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two.
- 11 And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.
- 12 As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.
- 17 When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire-pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces.

- 18 On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, ‘To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates.’

## **SECOND READING Philippians 3.17 – 4.1**

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.

- 17 Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us.
- 18 For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears.
- 19 Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things.
- 20 But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ.
- 21 He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself.
- 1 Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

## **GOSPEL Luke 13.31–35**

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

- 31 At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, ‘Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.’
- 32 He said to them, ‘Go and tell that fox for me, “Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work.
- 33 Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed away from Jerusalem.”
- 34 Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing!
- 35 See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, “Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.””

## THIS WEEK

Mon	22	Feb	Toddlers' Group	10.00am – 11.30am
			Lent Study Group	2.30pm
Tue	23	Feb	Lent Study Group	7.30pm
Wed	24	Feb	Food Bank	10.00am – 12 noon
			Coffee in Church	10.30am – 12 noon
			Social Committee (Choir Vestry)	8.00pm
Thu	25	Feb	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
			Choir Practice	7.00 – 8.30pm
Sat	27	Feb	(RSCM examinations in Choir Vestry	9.30am – 1.20pm)
			Coffee morning and Bring-& Buy Sale	11.00am
			Lent Lunch - Frugal lunch served by St Michael's Brownies	12 - 1.30pm
Sun	28	Feb	<b><u>THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT</u></b>	
			Holy Communion (Pres: Fr George)	8.00am
			<b>SUNG EUCHARIST (Pres and Preacher: Fr Geoff)</b>	<b>9.30am</b>
			(The Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church	1.00 – 5.00pm)
			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.

**SIMNEL CAKES:** Following tradition we would like to serve simnel cake on Mothering Sunday. Anyone who would like to provide one please see Sylvia Moring .

**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**

6 March                      Mothering Sunday  
 20 March                     Palm Sunday (reading of the Passion according to St Luke)  
 24 March                     Maundy Thursday  
 24-25 March                Watch in the Lady Chapel - please sign list by the Mildred Ave door  
    if you wish to take part

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