



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

FOURTH SUNDAY BEFORE LENT

Sunday 5 February 2017

A warm welcome to our services today.

At 9.30 am there is our First Sunday of the Month Eucharist; Fr Geoff celebrates and the children lead the intercessions. There is an all-age presentation.

Hymns: Leaflet

Setting: Thorne

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

Evening Prayer at 6.00 pm.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: The Parish of Steppingley in our Diocese.

The Diocese of Lomega in Sudan, Paul Yugusuk its Bishop, and all its people.

The work of the Diocese of the Amazon, training popular educators.

The World: The work of Church Army in the poorest areas of our Country.

Christian Aid's work in protecting vulnerable children.

All sufferers from cancer.

The Community and Parish: Residents and Staff at River Court, Home Manor and St Anthony's.

Our planning for special events during 2017.

All the groups who use our Church and Halls.

The Ill and the Housebound: Especially Bruce Alexander, Sonia Anderson, Gavin Ashenden, Christopher Bilson, Janet Bridge, Robert Caton, Peter Coley, Marion Craddock-Jones, Judith Degen, Audrey Dixon, Claire Dunning, Peter Hinchey, Kristine Jenkins, Mary Kearns, Lesley Kinch, Loretta Lynch, Dorcas Ochola, Brian O'Riordan, Helen Perry, Michele Rodford, Christina Simon, Mark Simon, and all who care for them.

The Departed: Michael Wright.

Collect

O God, you know us to be set in the midst of so many and great dangers, that by reason of the frailty of our nature we cannot always stand upright: grant to us such strength and protection as may support us in all dangers and carry us through all temptations; 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

A reading from the Book of Acts.

One day at three o'clock in the afternoon, Peter and John were on their way into the Temple for prayer. At the same time, there was a man crippled from birth being carried up. Every day he was set down at the Temple gate, the one named Beautiful, to beg from those going into the Temple. When he saw Peter and John about to enter the Temple, he asked for a handout. Peter, with John at his side, looked him straight in the eye and said, "Look here." He looked up, expecting to get something from them.

Peter said, "I don't have a penny to my name, but what I do have, I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk!" He grabbed him by the right hand and pulled him up. In an instant his feet and ankles became firm. He jumped to his feet and walked.

The man went into the Temple with them, walking back and forth, dancing and praising God. Everybody there saw him walking around and praising God. They recognized him as the one who sat begging at the Temple's Beautiful Gate and rubbed their eyes, astonished, scarcely believing what they were seeing.

This is the word of the Lord.

GOSPEL Matthew 5.13–20

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

Jesus went up the mountain and was joined by his disciples. Then he began to teach them:

¹³ ‘You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

¹⁴ You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden.

¹⁵ No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house.

¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

¹⁷ Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfil.

¹⁸ For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished.

¹⁹ Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

²⁰ For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.’

THIS WEEK

Mon	6	Feb	Toddlers' Group	10 – 11.30am
			Discovering the Bible (Choir vestry)	2.30pm
Tue	7	Feb	Chater Infants School visit to church	9.15 – 10.00am
			Social Committee (Choir vestry)	10.30am – 12 noon
			Service at River Court	2.30pm
Wed	8	Feb	Food Bank	10.00am – 12 noon
			Coffee in Church	10.30am – 12 noon
			Service at Home Manor	2.30pm
Thur	9	Feb	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
			St Anthony's	morning
			Funeral of Susan Honour at St Peter's, Bushey Heath	12 noon
			Choir Practice	7.00 – 8.30pm
Sun	12	Feb	<u>Third Sunday before LENT</u>	
			Holy Communion (Pres: Fr Geoff)	8.00am
			SUNG EUCHARIST: (President: Fr Geoff)	9.30am
			Our preacher is the Revd Canon Richard Bartlett, USPG's Director of Mission Engagement.	
			Children's Church in Littlebury Hall	
			(Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church)	1.00 – 5.00pm
			Evening Prayer	6.00pm

NOTICES

PCC SECRETARY: We are looking for people to take the various roles of the PCC Secretary. If you feel you could help in this way, please let us know.

LENT GROUP: We are also looking for people who would be willing to host a Lent Group this year. Please let us know if you could, and we will discuss dates and times. If you wish to attend a Lent Group, please also sign the list.

PASTORAL CARE COURSE taking place at St Luke's on five Thursday Evenings, 23rd February, 2nd, 9th, 16th and 23rd March, 7.45pm – 10.00pm, which is open to members of local Churches. Please let Fr Geoff know if you would like to take part.

SWORD SUBSCRIPTIONS for 2017 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!

DATES FOR THE DIARY:

1 st March	Ash Wednesday
11 th March	Table-Top Sale (more details in February Sword)
18 th March	Lent Lunch
19 th March	The Bishop of Hertford will be with us for the 9.30 Sung Eucharist