



# THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

*St Michael and All Angels*

Watford

**THIRD SUNDAY BEFORE LENT**

**Sunday 12 February 2017**

A warm welcome to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Eucharist Fr Geoff celebrates. Our preacher is the Revd Canon Richard Bartlett, USPG's Director of Mission Engagement. Martin Heath leads the intercessions

**Hymns: 424, 391, 512 and 591**

**Setting: Thorne**

Children's Church in Littlebury Hall.

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

(Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church 1.00pm – 5.00pm)

Evening Prayer at 6.00.

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

**The Church:** The Parish of East Barnet in our Diocese.

The Diocese of Lusaka (Central Africa), David Njovu its Bishop and all its People.

Church Army's "Xplore" groups of young evangelists.

**The World:** The work of USPG.

The poor people who suffer most through climate change.

People who have poor access to healthcare.

**The Community and Parish:** Our Mothers' Union Members.

Givers and receivers of pastoral care in our Church.

All who receive help from the Foodbank.

**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:**

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## Collect

Almighty God, who alone can bring order to the unruly wills and passions of sinful humanity:

give your people grace so to love what you command and to desire what you promise, that, among the many changes of this world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found;

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 30.15–20

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy.

<sup>15</sup> See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity.

<sup>16</sup> If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the LORD your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess.

<sup>17</sup> But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them,

<sup>18</sup> I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess.

<sup>19</sup> I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live,

<sup>20</sup> loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the LORD swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

## SECOND READING I Corinthians 3.1–9

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

<sup>1</sup> Brothers and sisters, I could not speak to you as spiritual people, but rather as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ.

<sup>2</sup> I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for solid food. Even now you are still not ready,

<sup>3</sup> for you are still of the flesh. For as long as there is jealousy and quarrelling among you, are you not of the flesh, and behaving according to human inclinations?

<sup>4</sup> For when one says, 'I belong to Paul,' and another, 'I belong to Apollos,' are you not merely human?

<sup>5</sup> What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you came to believe, as the Lord assigned to each.

6 I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth.  
7 So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God  
who gives the growth.  
8 The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose, and each  
will receive wages according to the labour of each.  
9 For we are God's servants, working together; you are God's field, God's building.

## **GOSPEL Matthew 5.21–37**

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

21 On the mountain, Jesus gathered his disciples around him and taught them, saying:  
‘You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, “You shall not murder”;  
and “whoever murders shall be liable to judgement.”  
22 But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to  
judgement; and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council;  
and if you say, “You fool,” you will be liable to the hell of fire.  
23 So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother  
or sister has something against you,  
24 leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or  
sister, and then come and offer your gift.  
25 Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are on the way to court with  
him, or your accuser may hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard,  
and you will be thrown into prison.  
26 Truly I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.  
27 You have heard that it was said, “You shall not commit adultery.”  
28 But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already  
committed adultery with her in his heart.  
29 If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; it is better for  
you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to be thrown into hell.  
30 And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; it is better  
for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to go into hell.  
31 It was also said, “Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of  
divorce.”  
32 But I say to you that anyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of  
unchastity, causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman  
commits adultery.  
33 Again, you have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, “You shall not  
swear falsely, but carry out the vows you have made to the Lord.”  
34 But I say to you, Do not swear at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God,  
35 or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great  
King.  
36 And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black.  
37 Let your word be “Yes, Yes” or “No, No”; anything more than this comes from  
the evil one.’

## THIS WEEK

Mon	13	Feb	<i>Half Term Week</i>	
			Toddlers' Group	10 – 11.30am
Wed	15	Feb	Food Bank	10.00am – 12 noon
			Coffee in Church	10.30am – 12 noon
Thur	16	Feb	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
			Followed by coffee for all in Choir Vestry	
			NO Choir Practice	
Sun	19	Feb	<b><u>Second Sunday before LENT</u></b>	
			Holy Communion (Pres: Fr George)	8.00am
			<b>SUNG EUCHARIST:</b> (President and preacher: Fr George)	9.30am
			Children's Church in Littlebury Hall)	
			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, 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> 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<sup>st</sup> March            Ash Wednesday
- 11<sup>th</sup> March        Table-Top Sale 10.30-12 noon. To book a table (price £10) telephone 01923 251312
- 15<sup>th</sup> March        Meeting of Parochial Church Council at 7.25 pm
- 18<sup>th</sup> March        Lent Lunch - Sale and frugal lunch of soup, bread & cheese served by St Michael's Brownies. All proceeds to mission.
- 19<sup>th</sup> March        The Bishop of Hertford will be with us for the 9.30 Sung Eucharist. Please come along and hear and meet the Bishop.