



# THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

*St Michael and All Angels*

Watford

**SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE LENT**

**Sunday 19 February 2017**

A warm welcome to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Eucharist Fr George celebrates and preaches. Sarah Dunning leads the intercessions

**Hymns: 325 (ii), 507, 585 and 267**

**Setting: Thorne**

Children's Church in Littlebury Hall.

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

Evening Prayer at 6.00.

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

**The Church:** The Parish of Ridge in our Diocese.

The Diocese of Mahajanga (Indian Ocean), Claude Andrianjafimanana its Bishop and all its people.

The Anglican Church in the Gambia, and its priests (who are all non-stipendiary).

**The World:** The resolution of all threats to World Peace.

Christian Aid's work with the poorest in our world.

The Guiding Movement observing Thinking Day (22nd).

**The Community and Parish:** . Watford Interfaith Association.

The Churches of Watford Deanery,

Our Borough and County Councillors.

**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, you have created the heavens and the earth and made us in your own image:  
teach us to discern your hand in all your works and your likeness in all your children;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns supreme over all things, now and for ever.

**FIRST READING Genesis 1.1 – 2.3**

The story of the Creation.

**SECOND READING Romans 8.18–25**

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

- <sup>18</sup> I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us.
- <sup>19</sup> For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God;
- <sup>20</sup> for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it,
- <sup>21</sup> in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.
- <sup>22</sup> We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now;
- <sup>23</sup> and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.
- <sup>24</sup> For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen?
- <sup>25</sup> But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

## **GOSPEL Matthew 6.25–34**

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

Jesus taught his disciples, saying:

<sup>25</sup> ‘Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?’

<sup>26</sup> Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?’

<sup>27</sup> And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life?’

<sup>28</sup> And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin,

<sup>29</sup> yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these.

<sup>30</sup> But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you – you of little faith?’

<sup>31</sup> Therefore do not worry, saying, “What will we eat?” or “What will we drink?” or “What will we wear?”

<sup>32</sup> For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.

<sup>33</sup> But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

<sup>34</sup> So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today’s trouble is enough for today.’

## THIS WEEK

Mon	20	Feb	Toddlers' Group	10 – 11.30am
Wed	22	Feb	Food Bank	10.00am – 12 noon
			Coffee in Church	10.30am – 12 noon
Thur	23	Feb	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
			Choir Practice	7.00 – 8.30pm
Sun	26	Feb	<b>Sunday Next before LENT</b>	
			Holy Communion (Pres: Fr Geoff)	8.00am
			<b>SUNG EUCHARIST:</b> (President and preacher: Fr Geoff)	9.30am
			Children's Church in Littlebury Hall	
			Followed by a Bring-&-Buy Sale	
			(The Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church	1.00 – 5.00pm)
			Evening Prayer	6.00pm

## NOTICES

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

LENT GROUP: We are 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 at the back of the church.

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.

FINAL COPY DATE FOR THE MARCH SWORD is MIDDAY today Sunday, 21 February. Hard copy to Rob White or email to [robwhite.watford@googlemail.com](mailto:robwhite.watford@googlemail.com).

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!

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.

### DATES FOR THE DIARY:

- 1<sup>st</sup> March      Ash Wednesday. Services of Communion with Imposition of Ashes at 10 am and 8 pm.
- 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 to hear and meet the Bishop.