



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

LENT 2

Sunday 12 March 2017

A warm welcome to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Eucharist Fr Geoff celebrates and preaches. Pat Beach leads the intercessions

Hymns: 547, 277, 586 (omit *s) and 123

Setting: Missa Seraphica

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.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: The Parish of Kempston in our Diocese.

The Dioceses of Maseno North (Kenya) Francis Abiero its Bishop
(the Diocese of Maseno North is Fr George's home diocese in Kenya)

and Maseno West, Joseph Wasonga its Bishop and all their people.

The World: The USPG supported development programme in Lesotho.

Church Army's work with children and young families.

Christian Aid's work with refugees from the fighting in Syria.

The Community and Parish: Thanksgiving for all who organised and helped with our table top sale.

The brownies who made their promise last week.

All who will attend and help with our Lent Lunch.

The Ill and the Housebound: Especially Bruce Alexander, 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, John Ramsey, Pat Ricketts, Michele Rodford, Christina Simon, Mark Simon, and all who care for them.

The Departed: Michael Harverson, dear friend of Pam Hart and her family.

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 12.1–4a

A reading from the book of Genesis.

- ¹ The LORD said to Abram, 'Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you.
² I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.
³ I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.'
⁴ So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him.

SECOND READING Romans 4.1–5, 13–17

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

- ¹ What are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh?
² For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God.
³ For what does the scripture say? 'Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.'
⁴ Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due.
⁵ But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.
¹³ For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith.
¹⁴ If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void.
¹⁵ For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.
¹⁶ For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us,
¹⁷ as it is written, 'I have made you the father of many nations') – Abraham believed in the presence of the God who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

GOSPEL John 3.1–17

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

¹ There was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews.

² He came to Jesus by night and said to him, 'Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.'

³ Jesus answered him, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.'

⁴ Nicodemus said to him, 'How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?'

⁵ Jesus answered, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit.

⁶ What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit.

⁷ Do not be astonished that I said to you, "You must be born from above."

⁸ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.'

⁹ Nicodemus said to him, 'How can these things be?'

¹⁰ Jesus answered him, 'Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?'

¹¹ Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony.

¹² If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things?'

¹³ No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man.

¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up,

¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶ For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷ Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.'

Mon	13	Mar	Toddlers' Group	10 – 11.30am
			Lent Group at 72 Harwoods Road	2.30pm
			Lent Group at 18 Lynbury Court	7.30pm
Tue	14	Mar	Intercessory Prayer Group	2.30pm
Wed	15	Mar	Food Bank	10.00am – 12 noon
			Coffee in Church	10.30am – 12 noon
			PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL	7.25pm
Thur	16	Mar	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
			Followed by coffee for all in choir vestry	
			NO Choir Practice	
Fri	17	Mar	St Anthony's School Retreat Day	10.00am – 2.30pm
Sat	18	Mar	LENT LUNCH	11.00am – 1.30pm
			With Bring-&-Buy Sale	
Sun	19	Mar	LENT 3	
			Holy Communion (Pres: Fr George)	8.00am
			SUNG EUCHARIST:	9.30am
			(President and preacher: Bishop Michael, the Bishop of Hertford)	
			Children's Church in Littlebury Hall	
			Followed by refreshments	
			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 GROUPS: There are two Lent Groups, one on Monday afternoons at 2.30 pm at 72 Harwoods Road, and one on Monday nights at 7.30 pm at 18 Lynbury Court. There is a sign-up list at the back of Church. They started on Monday 6th March.

ELECTORAL ROLL REVISION: This year's revision commences today, Sunday 12th March and finishes on Sunday 2nd April. A copy of the current Roll is on the notice board at the back of the Church for you to check. If anyone would like their name added to the Roll, please get a form from Fr Geoff or Henry or Sylvia Moring. Please inform us if you have changed your email address or telephone number.

MOTHERING SUNDAY: 26 March. It is St Michael's custom to make simnel cakes which are served after the 9.30 Eucharist. If you are able to make a simnel cake, please tell Sylvia Moring.

DATE FOR THE DIARY:

18th March Lent Lunch - Sale, and frugal lunch of soup, bread & cheese served by St Michael's Brownies. All proceeds to mission.