



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

**FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT
18 February 2018**

A warm welcome to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Eucharist Fr Geoff celebrates and preaches. Paul Chandler leads the intercessions.

Hymns: 95, 515, 385 and 380

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 6.00pm.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: The Parish of King Charles the Martyr, Potters Bar, in our Diocese. The Church of the Province of Central Africa, Albert Chama its archbishop and all its people.

The work of the Diocese of Zululand bringing food security to vulnerable communities.

The World: That the good work of Oxfam may be preserved and disentangled from any wrongdoing.

All the aid charities and the desperate needs they address.

Internally displaced people across the world.

The Community and Parish: Our Lent Lunch and the charities we support.

Trinity Methodist Church and all its people.

Watford Interfaith Association.

The Ill and the Housebound: Especially Christopher Bilson, Peter Coley, Marion Craddock-Jones, Kate Dickinson, Audrey Dixon, Cynthia Dixon, Sister Dominic, Claire Dunning, Jemima Hill, Peter Hinchey, Blossom Hutchinson, Mary Kearns, Lesley Kinch, Loretta Lynch, Dorcas Ochola, Brian O’Riordan, Michele Rodford, Rick Sear, Christina Simon, Mark Simon, Peter White; and all who care for them.

The Departed:

Collect

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days in the wilderness, and was tempted as we are, yet without sin: give us grace to discipline ourselves in obedience to your Spirit; and, as you know our weakness, so may we know your power to save; 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 Genesis 9.8–17

A reading from the book of Genesis.

- ⁸ God said to Noah and to his sons with him,
⁹ ‘As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you,
¹⁰ and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark.
¹¹ I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.’
¹² God said, ‘This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations:
¹³ I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth.
¹⁴ When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds,
¹⁵ I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh.
¹⁶ When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.’
¹⁷ God said to Noah, ‘This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.’

SECOND READING I Peter 3.18–22

A reading from the first letter of Peter.

- ¹⁸ Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit,
- ¹⁹ in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison,
- ²⁰ who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water.
- ²¹ And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you – not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,
- ²² who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

GOSPEL Mark 1.9–15

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

- ⁹ In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan.
- ¹⁰ And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him.
- ¹¹ And a voice came from heaven, ‘You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.’
- ¹² And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness.
- ¹³ He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.
- ¹⁴ Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God,
- ¹⁵ and saying, ‘The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.’

THIS WEEK

Mon	19	Feb	Toddlers' Group	10 – 11.30am
			Lent Group (at Trinity Methodist Church)	2.30pm
Tue	20	Feb	Estates Committee (Choir Vestry)	2.30pm
Wed	21	Feb	Food Bank	10.00am – 12 noon
			Coffee in Church	10.30am – 12 noon
Thur	22	Feb	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
Sat	24	Feb	LENT LUNCH (see Notices below)	
Sun	25	Feb	<u>LENT 2</u>	
			Holy Communion (Pres: Fr George)	8.00am
			SUNG EUCHARIST (Pres & Preacher: Fr Geoff)	9.30am
			Children's Church in Littlebury Hall	
			Followed by a Bring-&-Buy Sale	
			(Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church)	1.00 – 5.00pm)
			Evening Prayer	6.00pm

NOTICES

THERE WILL BE LENT GROUPS on Monday afternoons in Lent at 2.30 pm, jointly led by Fr Geoff and the Revd Ruth Reynolds-Tyson, using the course “On the Third Day”, by Bishop John Pritchard (York Courses), and taking place at Trinity Methodist Church. There is a sign-up list at the back of Church. The first Group will be at 2.30 pm on Monday, 19 February. An evening group can take place if enough people request one.

ELECTORAL ROLL REVISION: This year’s revision commences on Sunday 11th March and finishes on Sunday 1st 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, a Churchwarden or Henry or Sylvia Moring. If you have changed your email address or telephone number could you also inform us please.

FINAL COPY DATE FOR THE MARCH SWORD is MIDDAY Sunday, 25 February. Hard copy to Rob White or email to swordparishmagazine@googlemail.com.

SWORD SUBSCRIPTIONS for 2018 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.

LENT COLLECTING BOXES FOR MISSION: Collecting boxes for Church members to use during Lent are at the back of the church. The boxes will be collected on Easter Day (1st April).

LENT LUNCH, SATURDAY, 24 FEBRUARY IN CHURCH: Sale from 11.30 am and frugal lunch of homemade soup, bread and cheese served by St Michael's Brownies from 12 noon to 1.30 pm. All proceeds will be used for mission both at home and abroad.