



# THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

*St Michael and All Angels*

Watford

**SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT**  
**25 February 2018**

A warm welcome to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Eucharist Fr Geoff celebrates and preaches. Graham Mordue leads the intercessions.

Hymns: 6, 386, 442 and 398

Setting: Thorne

Children's Church in Littlebury Hall.

Refreshments will be served in church after the 9.30 service and there will be a Bring-&-Buy Sale – please stay on.

(Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church 1.00 – 5.00pm)

Evening Prayer at 6.00pm.

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

### **The Church:**

The Parish of St John and St Leonard, Bedford.

The Anglican Church of Central America, Sturdie Downs its Primate and all its people.

All who receive Holy Communion at Home.

### **The World:**

The people of Parkland, Florida, and all affected by the school shooting there.

The work of the Anglican Church of Tanzania in providing healthcare.

The Fair Trade movement.

### **The Community and Parish:** Watford Deanery Synod meeting this week.

All who look after our Church finances.

A deepening of prayer lives in our Church.

### **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, Christina Simon, Mark Simon, Peter White; and all who care for them.

### **The Departed:**

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**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 17.1–7, 15–16**

A reading from the book of Genesis.

- <sup>1</sup> When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, 'I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless.  
<sup>2</sup> And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous.'  
<sup>3</sup> Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him,  
<sup>4</sup> 'As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations.  
<sup>5</sup> No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations.  
<sup>6</sup> I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you.  
<sup>7</sup> I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.'  
<sup>15</sup> God said to Abraham, 'As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name.  
<sup>16</sup> I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.'

**SECOND READING Romans 4.13–25**

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

- <sup>13</sup> 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.  
<sup>14</sup> If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void.  
<sup>15</sup> For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.  
<sup>16</sup> 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,

<sup>17</sup> 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.

<sup>18</sup> Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become 'the father of many nations,' according to what was said, 'So numerous shall your descendants be.'

<sup>19</sup> He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb.

<sup>20</sup> No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God,

<sup>21</sup> being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised.

<sup>22</sup> Therefore his faith 'was reckoned to him as righteousness.'

<sup>23</sup> Now the words, 'it was reckoned to him,' were written not for his sake alone,

<sup>24</sup> but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead,

<sup>25</sup> who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

## **GOSPEL Mark 8.31–38**

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

<sup>31</sup> Jesus began to teach his disciples that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.

<sup>32</sup> He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.

<sup>33</sup> But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, 'Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.'

<sup>34</sup> He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.

<sup>35</sup> For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it.

<sup>36</sup> For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life?

<sup>37</sup> Indeed, what can they give in return for their life?

<sup>38</sup> Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.'

## THIS WEEK

Mon	26	Feb	Toddlers' Group	10 – 11.30am
			Lent Group (at Trinity Methodist Church)	2.30pm
Tue	27	Feb	Intercessory Prayer group (Choir Vestry)	2.30pm
Wed	28	Feb	Food Bank	10.00am – 12 noon
			Coffee in Church	10.30am – 12 noon
Thur	1	Mar	<i>St David's Day</i>	
			Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
			Finance Committee	7.30pm
Sat	3	Mar	Little Grove Quiz Night	
Sun	4	Mar	<b>LENT 3</b>	
			Holy Communion (Pres: Fr Geoff)	8.00am
			<b>SUNG EUCHARIST</b> (Pres & Preacher: Fr Geoff)	9.30am
			Children's Church in Littlebury Hall	
			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.

ELECTORAL ROLL REVISION: This year’s revision commences on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> March and finishes on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

MOTHERING SUNDAY: 11 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.

FINAL COPY DATE FOR THE MARCH SWORD is MIDDAY today, Sunday, 25 February. Hard copy to Rob White or email to [swordparishmagazine@googlemail.com](mailto: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).