



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

**THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT
4 March 2018**

A warm welcome to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Eucharist Fr Geoff celebrates and preaches. Mark Simon leads the intercessions.

Hymns: 468, leaflet, 170 and 2

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 St Peter de Merton with St Cuthbert, Bedford.
The Anglican Province of the Congo, Zacharie Masimango
Katanda, Archbishop, and all its people.
The Church of Ceylon (Anglican Church in Sri Lanka).

The World: The people of Eastern Ghouta in Syria.
Poor and vulnerable tea-pickers in Sri Lanka.
All those who are vulnerable to the cold weather.

The Community and Parish: Rough sleepers in Watford.
The new Amberside residential home in our Parish.
Residents and Staff at River Court and St Anthony's.

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:

Collect

Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified:
mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace;
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 Exodus 20.1–17

A reading from the book of Exodus.

¹ Then God spoke all these words:

² I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery;

³ you shall have no other gods before me.

⁴ You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.

⁵ You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me,

⁶ but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

⁷ You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

⁸ Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy.

⁹ Six days you shall labour and do all your work.

¹⁰ But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work – you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns.

¹¹ For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

¹² Honour your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

¹³ You shall not murder.

¹⁴ You shall not commit adultery.

¹⁵ You shall not steal.

¹⁶ You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.

¹⁷ You shall not covet your neighbour's house; you shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbour.

SECOND READING I Corinthians 1.18–25

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

- ¹⁸ The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.
- ¹⁹ For it is written, ‘I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.’
- ²⁰ Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?
- ²¹ For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe.
- ²² For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom,
- ²³ but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling-block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles,
- ²⁴ but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.
- ²⁵ For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.

GOSPEL John 2.13–22

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

- ¹³ The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.
- ¹⁴ In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money-changers seated at their tables.
- ¹⁵ Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables.
- ¹⁶ He told those who were selling the doves, ‘Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father’s house a market-place!’
- ¹⁷ His disciples remembered that it was written, ‘Zeal for your house will consume me.’
- ¹⁸ The Jews then said to him, ‘What sign can you show us for doing this?’
- ¹⁹ Jesus answered them, ‘Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.’
- ²⁰ They then said, ‘This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?’
- ²¹ But he was speaking of the temple of his body.
- ²² After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

THIS WEEK

Mon	5	Mar	Toddlers' Group	10 – 11.30am
			Lent Group (at Trinity Methodist Church)	2.30pm
			Meeting to discuss General Data Protection Regulation	7.30pm
Tue	6	Mar	Chater Infants School	9.00 – 10.30am
			Service at River Court	2.30pm
Wed	7	Mar	Food Bank	10.00am – 12 noon
			Coffee in Church	10.30am – 12 noon
Thur	8	Mar	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
			St Anthony's	11.00am
			Finance Committee (Choir Vestry)– postponed from last week	7.30pm
Sun	11	Mar	<u>MOTHERING SUNDAY</u>	
			Holy Communion (Pres: Fr Geoff)	8.00am
			SUNG EUCHARIST: President: Fr Geoff	9.30am
			(First Sunday booklet; All Age Presentation)	
			Followed by refreshments	
			(Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church	1.00pm – 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.

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.

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.

CHILDREN'S SOCIETY BOXES: We would like to collect these on Mothering Sunday (11 March) at the 9.30 Service. Please bring your box then. Thank you.

LENT LUNCH: The lunches, raffle and Norma's stall raised a total of £198.50 which will be included in our Missionary allocation at the end of the year. Thank you to all who supported it and to the Brownies who served it.

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).