



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

**THIRD SUNDAY BEFORE LENT
17 February 2019**

A warm welcome to our services today.

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

Hymns: 175, 618, 505 and 137

Setting: Thorne

Children's Church in Littlebury Hall.

Coffee and tea will be served in church after the 9.30 service – please stay on.

Evening Prayer at 6.00 pm.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: People who receive Holy Communion at Home.
The Parish of Potters Bar in our Diocese.
The Church of the Province of Central Africa, Albert Chama its Archbishop and all its people.

The World: USPG supported work in the Anglican Church of Ghana.
Church Army's Marylebone Project helping homeless women.
The work of Christian Aid partners in Syria.

The Community and Parish: All members of our Church Family.
The Watford Interfaith Association AGM this week
The members of Watford Deanery Synod.

The Ill and the Housebound: Especially Christopher Bilson, Fr John Brown, Juliette Cottam, Marion Craddock-Jones, Audrey Dixon, Cynthia Dixon, Claire Dunning, Fr Robert Featherstone, Jemima Hill, Peter Hinchey, Mary Kearns, Lesley Kinch, Loretta Lynch, Craig McKay, Lisa Mills, Sylvia Obeng, Dorcas Ochola, Martin Ranson, Christina Simon, Mark Simon, Malcolm Talbot, Baby Adelaide Tonkin, Peter White; and all who care for them.

The Departed:

Collect

Almighty God, who alone can bring order to the unruly wills and passions of sinful humanity:
give your people grace so to love what you command and to desire what you promise, that, among the many changes of this world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found;
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 Jeremiah 17.5–10

A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah.

⁵ Thus says the LORD: Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals and make mere flesh their strength, whose hearts turn away from the LORD.

⁶ They shall be like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see when relief comes. They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land.

⁷ Blessed are those who trust in the LORD, whose trust is the LORD.

⁸ They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit.

⁹ The heart is devious above all else; it is perverse – who can understand it?

¹⁰ I the LORD test the mind and search the heart, to give to all according to their ways, according to the fruit of their doings.

SECOND READING I Corinthians 15.12–20

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

¹² If Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead?

¹³ If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised;

- ¹⁴ and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain.
- ¹⁵ We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ – whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised.
- ¹⁶ For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised.
- ¹⁷ If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins.
- ¹⁸ Then those also who have died in Christ have perished.
- ¹⁹ If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.
- ²⁰ But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.

GOSPEL Luke 6.17–26

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

- ¹⁷ He came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon.
- ¹⁸ They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured.
- ¹⁹ And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.
- ²⁰ Then he looked up at his disciples and said: ‘Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.
- ²¹ Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled. Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh.
- ²² Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man.
- ²³ Rejoice on that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.
- ²⁴ But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation.
- ²⁵ Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry. Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep.
- ²⁶ Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.’

THIS WEEK

Mon	18	Feb	Toddlers' Group	10.00 – 11.30am
			Intercessory Prayer Group	2.30pm
Wed	20	Feb	Food Bank	10.00am – 12 noon
			Coffee in Church	10.30am – 12 noon
			Food Bank meeting	12 noon
Thur	21	Feb	Holy Communion	10.00am
			Followed by coffee in Choir Vestry	
Sun	24	Feb	<u>SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE LENT</u>	
			Holy Communion	8.00am
			SUNG EUCHARIST (Pres and preacher: Fr George)	9.30am
			Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church	1.00pm – 5.00pm
			NO Evening Prayer	

NOTICES

LENT GROUPS will take place on Mondays 11th, 18th, 25th March, 1st and 8th April, at 2.30 pm in the Choir Vestry. The subject is Prayer, the Bible and Daily Life. Please sign up on the list at the back of Church. If you would like there to be an evening group, let Fr Geoff know

SIMNEL CAKES: It is our custom to serve slices of simnel cake after the 9.30 am service on Mothering Sunday (31 March). If you are able to make one for this occasion please let Iola Bilson or Sylvia Moring know.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Ash Wednesday 6 March: Services at 10 am and 8 pm, both with Imposition of Ashes.

Lent Lunch 23 March: Sale at 11.am; Lunch of homemade soup and bread and cheese from 12 noon to 1.30 pm. Proceeds to mission. All welcome

Mothering Sunday 31 March: Service at 9.30 am.

Annual Meetings: Wednesday 24 April, 7 pm