



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

LENT 1

1 March 2020

St David's Day

Welcome to our services today.

There is our monthly "First Sunday of the Month Service" at 9.30 am. Fr Geoff celebrates and there will be an All-age Presentation.

Hymns: 360, 95, "Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God" (inside) and 538.

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: Staff at the St Albans Diocesan Office.

The Anglican Church of Chile, Hector Zavala's Munoz, its Primate and all its people/

Bishop Gaul Anglican Theological College in Central Africa.

The World: All efforts to limit the spread of the coronavirus causing COVID-19.

All those whose lives have been affected by the virus.

Victims of flooding in the UK.

The Community and Parish: Our Lent Groups.

Residents and Staff at River Court and Amberside homes.

Our home communicants.

The Ill and the Housebound: Especially Christopher Bilson, Janet Chandler, Marion Craddock-Jones, Audrey Dixon, Cynthia Dixon, Claire Dunning, Fr Robert Featherstone, Jemima Hill, Peter Hinchey, Mary Kearns, Keith Levinson, Loretta Lynch, Craig McKay, Lisa Mills, Sylvia Obeng, Dorcas Ochola, Brian Rees, Michelle Rodford, Christina Simon, Adelaide Tonkin, 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 2: 15 – 17, 3: 1-6

A Reading from the Book of Genesis

Then the Lord God placed the man in the Garden of Eden to cultivate it and guard it.

He told him, "You may eat the fruit of any tree in the garden, except the tree that gives knowledge of what is good and what is bad. You must not eat the fruit of that tree; if you do, you will die the same day."

Now the snake was the most cunning animal that the Lord God had made. The snake asked the woman, "Did God really tell you not to eat fruit from any tree in the garden?" "We may eat the fruit of any tree in the garden," the woman answered, "except the tree in the middle of it. God told us not to eat the fruit of that tree or even touch it; if we do, we will die."

The snake replied, "That's not true; you will not die. God said that because he knows that when you eat it, you will be like God and know what is good and what is bad."

The woman saw how beautiful the tree was and how good its fruit would be to eat, and she thought how wonderful it would be to become wise. So she took some of the fruit and ate it. Then she gave some to her husband, and he also ate it.

This is the word of the Lord

HYMN 3

Seek ye first the kingdom of God
and his righteousness,
and all these things shall be added unto you,
hallelu, hallelujah!

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
Hallelujah! Hallelu, hallelujah!

Man shall not live by bread alone,
but by every word
that proceeds from the mouth of God,
hallelu, hallelujah!

Ask and it shall be given unto you,
seek and ye shall find.
Knock and it shall be opened unto you,
hallelu, hallelujah!

GOSPEL Matthew 4.1-11

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

- 1 Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.
- 2 He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished.
- 3 The tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.'
- 4 But he answered, 'It is written, "One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."'
- 5 Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him,
- 6 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, "He will command his angels concerning you," and "On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone."'
- 7 Jesus said to him, 'Again it is written, "Do not put the Lord your God to the test."'
- 8 Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour;
- 9 and he said to him, 'All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.'
- 10 Jesus said to him, 'Away with you, Satan! for it is written, "Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him."'
- 11 Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

THIS WEEK

Mon	2	Mar	Toddlers' Church	10 – 11.30am
			Lent Group	3.00 – 4.30pm
			Lent Group	7.30 – 9.00pm
Tue	3	Mar	Service at River Court	2.30pm
Wed	4	Mar	Food Bank and Coffee in Church	10.00am – 12 noon
Thu	5	Mar	Holy Communion	10.00am
			(U3A (Choir Vestry)	10.30am – 12 noon)
Sat	7	Mar	(One Voice Choir Quiz Evening	7.30 – 10.00pm)
Sun	8	Mar	<u>LENT 2</u>	
			Holy Communion	8.00am
			SUNG EUCHARIST (Pres: Fr Geoff)	9.30am
			Speaker: Krista Ewart from the Children's Society	
			(Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church	1.00-5.00pm
			Evening Prayer	6.00pm

NOTICES

ELECTORAL ROLL REVISION: This year's revision commences on Sunday 1st March and finishes on 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 or Simon Fowle. If you have changed your email address or telephone number could you also inform us by email at simon.fowle@ntlworld.com or phone on 01923 229624 please.

LAST SUNDAY'S BRING-&-BUY SALE raised £29.50 for Church funds. Many thanks.

LENT COLLECTING BOXES for mission are available at the back of church. Please take one. These will be collected on Easter Day.

DEMENTIA FRIENDS – we have two introductory sessions arranged, one on Wednesday March 18th 2.30pm – 3.30pm, and one on 1st April 7.30pm – 8.30pm. There is a sign-up list at the back of Church.

LENT GROUPS – there is a sign-up list for Lent Groups at the back of Church. The book for study is “The Wind, the Fountain and the Fire” by Mark Barrett, and sample copies are available at the back of Church. (Times above on Monday)

SPRING-CLEANING of the church is set for 18th April and for Littlebury Hall on 25th April. Please sign the lists at the back of church if you can help.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Saturday, 14 March 11.30am to 1.30pm – Lent Lunch

Wednesday, 18 March, 7.25pm. PCC.

Sunday 22 March. Mothering Sunday.

Saturday, 28 March, 7.30pm. Concert by Audentior Symphony Orchestra.

Tuesday, 31 March, 7.30pm. Agape meal.

St Michael and All Angels PCC is a Registered Charity No 1132010