



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

LENT 2

8 March 2020

A warm welcome to our services.

At the 9.30 am Sung Eucharist Fr Geoff celebrates and we welcome Krista Ewart, a speaker from the Children's Society. Pat Beach leads the intercessions.

Hymns: 582, 385, 475 and 606.

Children's Church in Littlebury Hall.

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

(Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church 1.00pm – 5.00pm)

Evening Prayer at 6.00pm.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: The Parish of Elstow in our Diocese.

The Anglican Church of the Congo, Zacharie Masimango Katanda its Archbishop, and all its people.

The work of Anglican Churches for the health, education, and protection of girls and women.

The work of the Children's Society.

The World: Victims of the Coronavirus and those working to prevent its spread.

Syrian refugees in Turkey and Greece.

Victims of flooding.

The Community and Parish: People in our community vulnerable to the Coronavirus.

Leaders of Faith Groups in Watford.

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, 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 12.1–4a

A reading from the book of Genesis.

- ¹ The LORD said to Abram, 'Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you.
² I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.
³ I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.'
⁴ So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him.

SECOND READING Romans 4.1–5, 13–17

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

- ¹ What are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh?
² For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God.
³ For what does the scripture say? 'Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.'
⁴ Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due.
⁵ But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.
¹³ For 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.
¹⁴ If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void.
¹⁵ For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.
¹⁶ 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,
¹⁷ 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.

GOSPEL John 3.1-17

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

¹ There was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews.

² He came to Jesus by night and said to him, 'Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.'

³ Jesus answered him, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.'

⁴ Nicodemus said to him, 'How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?'

⁵ Jesus answered, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit.

⁶ What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit.

⁷ Do not be astonished that I said to you, "You must be born from above."

⁸ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.'

⁹ Nicodemus said to him, 'How can these things be?'

¹⁰ Jesus answered him, 'Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?'

¹¹ Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony.

¹² If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things?'

¹³ No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man.

¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up,

¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶ For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷ Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.'

THIS WEEK

Mon	9	Mar	Toddlers' Church	10 – 11.30am
			Lent Group	3.00 – 4.30pm
			Lent Group	7.30 – 9.00pm
Wed	11	Mar	Food Bank and Coffee in Church	10.00am – 12 noon
Thu	12	Mar	Holy Communion	10.00am
			(U3A (Choir Vestry)	10.30am – 12 noon)
			Holy Communion at St Anthony's	morning
			Social Committee	2.30pm
Sat	14	Mar	Lent Lunch	11.30am – 1.30pm
Sun	15	Mar	<u>LENT 3</u>	
			Holy Communion	8.00am
			SUNG EUCHARIST (Pres and preacher: Fr Geoff)	9.30am
			Evening Prayer	6.00pm

NOTICES

ELECTORAL ROLL REVISION: This year's revision commenced 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.

SIMNEL CAKES: It is our custom to serve slices of simnel cake after the 9.30 am service on Mothering Sunday (22 March). If you are able to make a simnel cake for this occasion please let Sylvia Moring or Valerie Blacklock know.

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:

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.