



# THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

*St Michael and All Angels*

Watford

**SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE LENT  
11 February 2018**

A warm welcome to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Eucharist Fr George celebrates and preaches. Phil Gough leads the intercessions.

Hymns: 2, 396, 392 and 444

Setting: Thorne

Children's Church in Littlebury Hall.

Refreshments will be served in church after the 9.30 service – please stay on.

(Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church 1.00 – 8.00pm.)

Evening Prayer at 6.00pm.

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

**The Church:** The Parish of Chipping Barnet in our Diocese.  
The Anglican Church of Canada; Frederick Hiltz, Primate, and all the people.  
The work of the Church of North India with disadvantaged communities.

**The World:** Victims of stalking, bullying and other abuse.  
People suffering from tinnitus.  
Young people with mental health issues.

**The Community and Parish:** Our keeping of Lent.  
Deepening of our spiritual lives.  
Our Lent Groups.

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

**The Departed:**

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**Collect**

Almighty Father, whose Son was revealed in majesty before he suffered death upon the cross:

give us grace to perceive his glory, that we may be strengthened to suffer with him and be changed into his likeness, from glory to glory;  
who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God,  
now and for ever.

**FIRST READING 2 Kings 2.1–12**

A reading from the second book of Kings.

- 1 When the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal.
- 2 Elijah said to Elisha, ‘Stay here; for the LORD has sent me as far as Bethel.’ But Elisha said, ‘As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.’ So they went down to Bethel.
- 3 The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, ‘Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?’ And he said, ‘Yes, I know; keep silent.’
- 4 Elijah said to him, ‘Elisha, stay here; for the LORD has sent me to Jericho.’ But he said, ‘As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.’ So they came to Jericho.
- 5 The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, ‘Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?’ And he answered, ‘Yes, I know; be silent.’
- 6 Then Elijah said to him, ‘Stay here; for the LORD has sent me to the Jordan.’ But he said, ‘As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.’ So the two of them went on.
- 7 Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan.
- 8 Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.
- 9 When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, ‘Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you.’ Elisha said, ‘Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit.’
- 10 He responded, ‘You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not.’

- 11 As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven.
- 12 Elisha kept watching and crying out, 'Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!' But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

## **SECOND READING 2 Corinthians 4.3–6**

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

- 3 Even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing.
- 4 In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.
- 5 For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake.
- 6 For it is the God who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

## **GOSPEL Mark 9.2–9**

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

- 2 Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them,
- 3 and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them.
- 4 And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus.
- 5 Then Peter said to Jesus, 'Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.'
- 6 He did not know what to say, for they were terrified.
- 7 Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!'
- 8 Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.
- 9 As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

## **THIS WEEK**

Mon	12	Feb	Toddlers' Group	10 – 11.30am
Wed	14	Feb	<i>ASH WEDNESDAY</i>	
			Holy Communion with Imposition of Ashes	10.00am
			Food Bank	10.00am – 12 noon
			Coffee in Church	10.30am – 12 noon
			Home Manor	2.30pm
			Sung Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes	7.30pm
Thur	15	Feb	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
			Followed by coffee in Choir Vestry	
Sun	18	Feb	<b><u>LENT 1</u></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. The first Group will be at 2.30 pm on Monday, 19 February. An evening group can take place if enough people request one.

**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, thus giving you 12 issues for the price of 10!

**LENT COLLECTING BOXES FOR MISSION:** Pat Beach has made some collecting boxes for Church members to use during Lent. Please help yourself to one from the back of the church. The boxes will be collected on Easter Day (1st April).

**LENT LUNCH, SATURDAY, 24 FEBRUARY IN CHURCH:** Sale from 11.30 am and frugal lunch of homemade soup, bread and cheese served by St Michael's Brownies from 12 noon to 1.30 pm. Please come if you can and encourage your friends and neighbours to come as well. All proceeds will be used for mission both at home and abroad.