

February
2009

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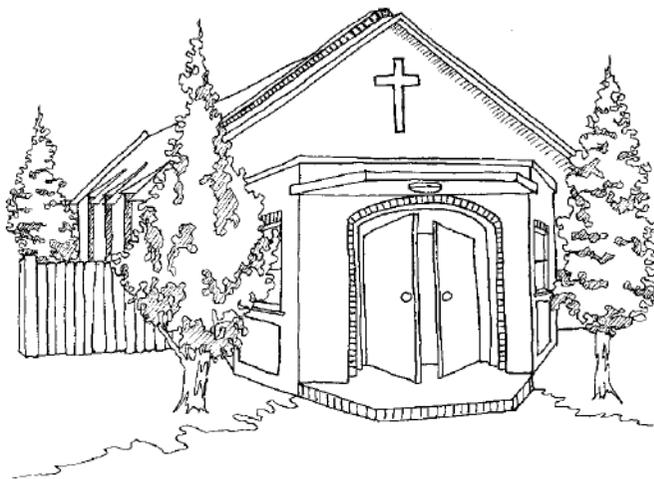
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**ST MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS
CHURCH (Anglican)**
Mildred Ave. / Durban Rd.
Watford



WEST WATFORD FREE CHURCH
(Baptist)
'Church by the Zebra Crossing'
Tolpits Lane, Watford

A Pastoral Letter.....

Dear Friends,

Christmas probably feels now like a distant memory, and Epiphany too has come and gone but hopefully not the expectation of peace and light as signs of Christ's presence. As I write, on a grey and damp day, the weather seems to mirror the mood of the world, of 'fightings within and fears without' in the (traditional) words of last Sunday's hymn, pointing up how events outside and even far away can directly affect our peace and equilibrium. But I believe that the reverse is also true, that if we can be at peace with ourselves and with those whom we meet day by day, this has an effect on the wider world far beyond our immediate spheres of influence.

This should give us encouragement, especially if, when praying for peace, we feel (as I often do) that we could be doing something more –that our prayers for peace are somehow inadequate and, to be frank, with no high expectation that they will make much difference. But still we pray. The nearest I got recently to doing something more was to take up the invitation in the Sword at Christmas to send an email message to a family in Bethlehem—and maybe you did the same. Not much I know, but something –just moving a bit closer to the actual lives of real people. I once asked a Sri Lankan priest what we could do in the Church here to help bring about peace in his country, and he said the best response would be for us to align ourselves with victims of injustice in our own society and work with them to bring about change here.

This way of looking at the world's physical as well as spiritual connectedness means that peace-making is the same activity wherever it happens. It means that by being peace-makers locally we make a difference globally –even though we are never likely to know how. I believe it is very important that we make those connections and understand how in our small (or large) acts of kindness and generosity to those among whom we live we are contributing to the wider work of peace-making and reconciliation. It is in such seemingly mundane ways that we can both affirm life and live out the Christmas and Epiphany messages of universal hope.

With love and prayers,



Funerals

12th. December 2008

NANCY ROOK was a much loved lady – wife, mother, grandmother and great grandmother, a lady for whom her family was the centre of her life. She had been a member of the W.A.A.F. during the war and it was during this time that she met Arthur who was in the R.A.F. They were married in 1943 and on their 65th Wedding Anniversary they received congratulations from H.M. the Queen. Nancy loved watching sport on T.V. and she was also a keen and active supporter of Watford Football Club and went to Vicarage Road whenever she could. For many years, until her retirement, she worked for John Lewis and Arthur joined her there after Universal Asbestos closed. Nancy was a generous and friendly lady who faced her last illness with quiet courage. She will be greatly missed by many, and we send our sympathy to her family and friends.

Violet



A NEW course
for LENT 2009
or any season

A five session course with booklet, CD/audiotape and transcript featuring on CD and audiotape:

- Dr David Hope
- Bishop Tom Wright
- Anne Atkins
- The Abbot of Worth
- Professor Frances Young

These three... Faith, Hope and Love
YORK COURSES
A course in five parts
Written by John Young
Accompanying CD/tape and transcript available

LENT COURSE 2009

David Clemas is well on the way to organising groups for the ecumenical Lent Course this year which will use a York Course entitled “These Three – Faith, Hope and Love”, based on 1 Corinthians chapter 13. This is a 5 session course with booklet CD/audiotape and transcript and the contributors are: Dr David Hope, Bishop Tom Wright, Anne Atkins, The Abbot of Worth and Prof. Frances Young.

These courses are always an excellent way to meet together and discuss with other Christians locally. There is a sheet on the Sign-Up table at the back of church so that you can mark the days and times when it would be possible for you to attend. Hopefully when David has a programme of venues, times and dates that the leaders and hosts have agreed, you will find one that is convenient for you.

Please would you sign up by Sunday 15th February. Many thanks.

Martin Matthews

CHRISTMAS BOWLING WITH THE CHOIR CHILDREN



The weather was bright, there was excitement in the air, Christmas was just round the corner; what better way to burn off all that energy than going bowling with a group of excitable children?! After an eventful couple of months, setting up a children's section of the choir plus getting the Sunday School up and running again, possibly the last thing Janet Chandler and I wanted to do was join the throng at the *Hollywood Bowl* for a Christmas outing with all "our" children from church!

Nevertheless, on Sunday 14 December, after the Christingle service, this is where we found ourselves and a jolly time we had, too. It had been quite a task finding a date when these busy children could all make it; in the end we managed to include all the children in the choir plus two brothers, making it a total of 8 children. Michelle, Martina's mother, joined us as an extra helper. It was lovely seeing the children enjoying each other's company as not all of them know each other so well. As for the game, Arielle Binns was in the lead from early on, due to a couple of lucky strikes, but in the end Manjula Simon was declared winner. The picture was taken with my mobile phone; you can just make out Rachel, Nathan (Arielle's brother), Martina and Arielle in the front; Tina, Manjula, Anusha and Alex Ochola behind.



Afterwards, everyone had tea at my house where Molly the dog was very popular; the children did a tour of the house and declared it "cool" – I'm glad to have passed the test!



CHOIR MEMBERSHIP, February 8, 2009



Now, after all the Christmas festivities, Arielle and Martina have taken stock and have decided not to carry on with choir. They will still be coming to church when they can, and Semeta, Arielle's mum, will be helping out with Sunday School. This means that we have four girls left in the choir; Rachel MacDonald, Tina Otieno, Anusha and Manjula Simon (daughters of Mark Simon). They are all enjoying singing with the choir, and continue their training on Thursdays with me.

To mark the occasion of their formal membership of the choir, they will be wearing their blue robes for the first time (officially) for the 9.30 service on February 8. There will be a short ceremony during the service when they will receive a membership certificate and the choir will welcome them with a prayer. Please support them in their membership and pray for them.

Kristine Jenkins



THANK YOU!

I would like to thank all my friends at St Michael's. You have all shown me such kindness and generosity. When Jane put an article about myself and DRUM (Disability Recreation Unity Movement) in the SWORD it was met with such a show of love and support.

You kindly gave me over £150 to enable me to join and attend DRUM. DRUM is a day centre for the disabled, I attend on Fridays and enjoy ceramics or textiles in the morning and Yoga in the afternoons.

I have never done ceramics before and at the moment we are trying Asian art, I have attempted to make an Asian lady in profile, at first looked rather like a bearded lady but now it is finished it is less like that. Last week I did some textile painting, which was fun.

It has been nice to get out of my flat and make new friends, being at home on ones own had got me down rather but DRUM has definitely made me so much better.

I am just about to start off on the limb fitting experience again, the hope is to start making my prosthetic leg over the next few weeks and then learn to walk again, I can't wait to walk up to Communion again.

I am so blessed by the love, support and care I receive from you all at St Michael's and just to say "thank you all" seems so inadequate for all you have done and continue to do for me.

Thank you and God bless you all,
Lots of love,

Lesley Kinch

AN EVENING OF ENTERTAINMENT
SATURDAY 21st FEBRUARY

Elsewhere in this edition of Sword you will see a copy of our poster for this social evening.

As the last few weeks have been full of bad news, gloom and despondency, and challenging weather conditions we thought a social evening combining entertainment and shared food would help to bring a ray of sunshine. In addition we hope to raise a reasonable sum of money to help with this winter's church heating bills.

From the handbills and posters in church we have already had an encouraging early response so here's some detail – we would love to hear from you for those of you who would :-

1) Be able to offer a maximum of 5 minutes entertainment – singing, music, poetry, story, dancing?, juggling?, magic? – whatever talent you may have been hiding!

2) Would be prepared to help with setting up/clearing away.

3) Buy a ticket –£4 - we need an audience!

Food – a pot luck supper - just make something or buy something and be prepared to add it to the supper table for all to share.

Drink – bring your own – we may be able to provide tea/coffee if we can find 2 willing volunteers!

Come and share some relaxing and enjoyable time together – all talk of credit crunch and bad weather is banned!

Pat Beach and Kristine Jenkins – 01923 247982/463263



ST MICHAEL'S MOTHERS' UNION DIARY



Women's World Day of Prayer

Friday 6th February

2.00pm Bible Study at Beechen Grove Baptist Church. This is being led by Mrs Ann Peat, reader, from St Andrew's Church, everyone is invited and it is highly recommended.

Thursday 12th February

10.30am Communion followed by AGM.

The Mothers' Union is a world-wide campaigning organisation established over 100 years ago to support women striving to bring up their families in difficult times and places. The aim of the MU is to help those who want to uphold Christian Family life both here and overseas. For some families this is almost impossible - your children die at any moment from disease, war or famine, so it is difficult to believe in a loving, generous and merciful God - all your energy is directed simply to survive.

So the Mothers' Union continues to work to support family life by fund raising, education, voluntary work, prayer and fellowship.

Pat Gandy



FINAL COPY DATE FOR MARCH SWORD:-

Midday on Sunday 22nd February 2009

Please submit copy before this date if possible -

hard copy, floppy disc or e-mail to

DENNIS.H.BEACH@sky.com

FILLING THE VACANCY

The final date for submitting material for the February Sword for progress on filling the vacancy at St Michael's for a priest-in-charge (even though kindly extended by the editor) does not enable us to give you a very precise picture.

The Bishop of Hertford and the Archdeacon of St Albans came to meet the PCC at the beginning of October and we had a useful session when we were told about the procedures that we would have to follow to fill the vacancy and given the opportunity of talking about St Michael's and the way ahead as we saw it.

Since then a profile of the church and parish has been put together and published on our website (www.stmichaels-watford.org.uk) ; an advertisement has been approved and published in the *Church Times*. Details of the vacancy have also been published in various other places. The final date for the receipt of applications is Thursday, 29 January, short-listing will take place at the beginning of February. As at 26 January we do know that some applications have been received. These are all handled by the Archdeacon's office.

Short-listed candidates will be invited to see the church, parish and vicarage on Tuesday, 10 February, and interviews will take place on Wednesday, 11 February. A programme will be worked out for the time to be spent in the parish. You will notice that this includes a look at the vicarage. Just before Christmas the re-wiring work was finished and the vicarage now looks very dusty. The whole house needs a clean to make it look more presentable; we are arranging a working party to do this on Saturday, 7 February, probably during the morning. It should not take too long if there are several of us to work together. Please see Sylvia if you are able to help.

By the time the next Sword is published, we hope to have some positive news for you about the vacancy for a priest-in-charge.

Paul Chandler and Sylvia Moring

FEBRUARY

1st	SUN	CANDLEMAS Holy Communion (Pres: Fr George) 8.00 am SUNG EUCHARIST (President & Preacher: The Archdeacon of St Albans, The Ven Jonathan Smith) 9.30 am Crèche available; Sunday School in Littlebury Hall United Evening Service at Trinity Methodist Church 6.30 pm
2nd	Mon	Worship Committee (Clergy Vestry) 7.30 pm
4th	Wed	Bring-&-Share Lunch 12.30 pm
5th	Thu	Fairhaven (during morning) Kids' Club 3.30 – 5 pm Choir Practice 7 – 8.30 pm
8th	SUN	THIRD BEFORE LENT SUNG EUCHARIST (Preacher: Martin Heath) 9.30 am Crèche available; Sunday School in Littlebury Hall 11.15 Service of Thanksgiving & Praise 11.15 am Service at River Court 3.00 pm Evening Prayers (Off: Martin Heath) 3.30 pm
9th	Mon	Service at The Chase Care Home 3.00 pm
10th	Tue	Chater School in Church 1.15 – 3.00 pm
11th	Wed	Service at Home Manor (Violet) 3.00 pm PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL 7.55 pm
12th	Thu	St Anthony's (during morning) Kids' Club 3.30 – 5 pm Choir Practice 7 - 8.30 pm
14th	Sat	Parish Walk leave Church at 10 00 am
15th	SUN	SECOND BEFORE LENT SUNG EUCHARIST (Pres and Preacher: The Rev Ian Pankhurst) 9.30 am Crèche available; Sunday School in Littlebury Hall <i>Evening Prayer (Off: Graham Mordue)</i> 3.30 pm
16th	Mon	<i>Half Term week</i>
18th	Wed	Bible Study (Choir Vestry) 8.00 pm
19th	Thu	Mothers' Union meet after 10 am Communion Choir Practice 7 – 8.30 pm
21st	Sat	EVENING OF ENTERTAINMENT and Pot Luck 7.00 pm Supper (in Church)

FOR FEBRUARY

22nd	SUN	NEXT BEFORE LENT SUNG EUCHARIST (Preacher: Fr George) Crèche available; Sunday School in Littlebury Hall followed by Bring-and-Buy Sale Evening Prayer (Off: Fay Storey)	9.30 am 3.30 pm
23rd	Mon	(Church in use by Potter's House for Service 6.30 – 9.30 pm)	
24th	Tue	Intercessory Prayer Group (Choir Vestry) (Church in use by Potter's House for Service 6.30 – 9.30 pm)	3.00 pm
25th	Wed	ASH WEDNESDAY Holy Communion & Imposition of Ashes Sung Eucharist & Imposition of Ashes (Preacher: Mark Simon)	10.00 am 8.00 pm
26th	Thu	Kids' Club Choir Practice	3.30 – 5 pm 7 – 8.30 pm

MARCH

Lent Groups will be held during March

1st	Sun	LENT 1 Holy Communion SUNG EUCHARIST (Preacher: Sue Pankhurst) Crèche available; Sunday School in Littlebury Hall United Service at St Michael's (Martin Heath)	8.00 am 9.30 am 6.30 pm
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Morning Prayer is said daily in the Lady Chapel (Monday to Friday) at 9.00 am.

A service of Holy Communion is held every Thursday at 10.00 am. Both this and the monthly 8 am on Sunday morning are Order One in Traditional Language.

The Toddlers' Group meets in Church or Choir Vestry every Monday from 10.00 – 11.30 am

Tea, Coffee & Squash are served in Church every Wednesday from 10.30 until noon. On the first Wednesday of the month this is followed by a bring-and-share lunch.

Details of all special services and discussion groups to be held during Lent will be available on noticeboards in Church towards the end of this month.

9.30 am SUNG EUCHARIST DUTY LIST (FEBRUARY)

Sunday 1st February

Deacons	J Wareham, V Allen-Smith
Chalices	P Gough, B Hutchinson
Intercessor	S Moring
Lesson Readers	H Moring, P Jenkins
Sidespeople	N Hart, J Alexander, P Hart
Crèche	M Jenkins, A Makin
Sunday School	P Beach, J Chandler

Sunday 8th February

Deacons	V Allen-Smith, J Wareham
Chalices	A Kiddle, V Allen-Smith
Intercessor	J Adams
Lesson Readers	K Jenkins, M Matthews
Sidespeople	V Blacklock, D Beach, H Moring
Crèche	L Kinch, M Jenkins
Sunday School	N Brighton, J Talbot

Sunday 15th February

Deacons	V Alvarez, A Eccleshall
Chalices	M Simon, S Moring
Intercessor	V Alvarez
Lesson Readers	M Watkin, E Watkin
Sidespeople	P Coley, I Bilson, A Coley
Crèche	N Roche, A Mc Donald
Sunday School	E Watkin, K Jenkins

Sunday 22nd February

Deacons	A Eccleshall, M Simon
Chalices	V Alvarez, B Hutchinson
Intercessor	N Hart
Lesson Readers	J Mordue, G Mordue
Sidespeople	P Allen- Smith J Otieno V Wardman
Crèche	A Makin, L Kinch
Sunday School	G Heath, S Binns

Sunday 1st March

Deacons	V Alvarez, V Allen-Smith
Chalices	M Simon, S Moring
Intercessor	V Wildman
Lesson Readers	F Storey, P Gandy
Sidespeople	C Dixon, P Ricketts, A Makin
Crèche	M Jenkins, N Roche
Sunday School	P Beach, J Chandler



**The
Children's
Society**

CHRISTINGLE

I would like to thank everyone who supported the Christingle service in any way. The sum raised was £246.04, up £22 on last year, this money goes to the Children's Society to help with their work.

Thank you to Anne, Fay and Pat for helping to make up the Christingles. Thanks also to Kristine for organising and presenting the lovely service, to Sophie for doing two readings (am I allowed to thank her, being my granddaughter ?) and for the St Michael's Group for the, as usual, good music.

When we stood down each side aisle with our lit Christingles it was magical.

Thank you again,
Yours most sincerely,

Norma Twitchin



SPONSORED BIKE 'N HIKE FOR THE BEDS & HERTS HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST

This took place on a sunny Saturday 13th September when a party led by the Vicar John Brown walked from our church to St Peters' Bushey, visiting about 10 churches of several persuasions en route. Lunch was in the Three Crowns and the occasion turned out to be a most pleasant outing. This was the penultimate parish occasion for John Brown, as it was the day before his final celebration of the Eucharist, and of course the splendid send-off lunch we gave.

The busy preparations made it not easy to contact all the supporters of this event in time, but even so an excellent level of sponsorship was achieved with a total of £187 sent off to the event Treasurer. As most of you are aware now, half will come back to us for our funds. Thanks once more to all who took part and all who sponsored the event.

Phil Gough

PRIEST KIDNAPPED

A priest of the Diocese of Peshawar, Pakistan, Rev. Tanzeel Zafar, has been kidnapped on his way home from the Diocesan Centre, Peshawar.

Rev. Tanzeel Zafar is the Priest In-charge of Charsadda and Shabqadar parish and is also Assistant in Mardan Parish, N.W.F.P. He left St. John's Cathedral for his home in Swati Gate, on Friday afternoon (9th January). However, he did not reach there. It is believed that unknown people might have kidnapped him.

The Bishop and the Officers of the Diocese of Peshawar held meetings with the top city police Officers.

So far no trace or clue has yet been found about his missing and/or kidnapping; neither have the kidnappers contacted his family or the Church authorities.

In the past, there has been no report of any serious threat or warning given to him by any group of extremists or militants. So it is still a mystery who could have been involved in his kidnapping, as nobody has yet claimed the responsibility.

Bishop Mano of Peshawar Diocese strongly condemned the incident and demanded government officials to recover Tanzeel and provide protection to the Christians and their institutions.

In NWFP, uncertainty and insecurity has been prevailing everywhere for the last couple of years and cannot find a person who is not scared of everyday bomb blasts, suicide attacks, rocket barrages and kidnapping for ransom.

Kidnapping for ransom has confined people to their homes after sunset while carrying weapons has become a must. The suburban towns wear a deserted look after the sunset following manifold increase in the crime rate. Desertions in police and security forces speak volumes for threats to those supposed to improve the law and order.

The situation has disappointed people to the extent that they have started demanding of the rulers to step down due to their failure to improve the situation.

Please pray for the swift and safe return of Tanzeel.

Martin Heath

INSPIRED CHOICES

The process of looking for a parish priest to succeed Canon John Brown has required the Parochial Church Council to review the whole life of this Parish of St. Michael and All Angels. The number and variety of church activities here is greater than most are probably aware of; many of them are only mentioned occasionally in 'SWORD' or the weekly 'Messenger'.

By its nature, one of the most retiring of these activities is Pause. This is a group of around half-a-dozen people who meet monthly, usually to listen to a devotional reading, introduced by a short litany and suitable music and followed by a period of silent meditation.

Christmas and Easter services in church are one of the few religious observances that attract people who otherwise only attend for 'hatching, matching and despatching'. Thus the church can speak to many who feel a commitment to God although organised religion does not normally minister to it. Jesus compared his Kingdom to the yeast in bread: a small and almost undetectable ingredient that is yet essential to the character of the whole. The church offers this ingredient at Christmas, and in a different way, throughout the year, so does Pause.

Further evidence of this hidden commitment is the flow of modern devotional books from religious publishers. Such books would not appear without a sufficient demand to make them profitable. They are often used by Pause. But few if any devotional books in English can have been used as long or as widely as *A Serious Call to a Devout and Holy Life*, written by William Law (1686 - 1761), first published in 1728 - many inexpensive editions are available. This book was the basis of a recent Pause meeting.

The chapters of the *Serious Call* are really short essays urging Christian believers to a simple and pious way of life. It greatly influenced John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, who said, 'It will hardly be excelled... either for beauty of expression or for justice and depth of thought'. Wesley's ideas were taken up in the evangelical revival in the Church of England, in which John Newman was nurtured. Through him Law fed the Catholic revival of the nineteenth century which contributed so much to the way we understand the spiritual life, and whose influence is all around us at St. Michael's.

When Law was born, written English was just settling into what we still regard as normal usage today. His style is admired for its simplicity and clarity. He often presents his ideas in brief character sketches. As a sample, appropriate for us, here are extracts from a chapter on intercessory prayer. Law is describing the ideal parish priest, to whom he gives the imaginary name of Ouranium:

'If his whole life is one continual exercise of great zeal and labour, hardly ever satisfied with any degrees of care and watchfulness, it is because he has learned the great value of souls, by so often appearing before God as an intercessor for them.'

He goes about his parish, and visits everybody in it; but visits in the same spirit of piety that he preaches to them: he visits them to encourage their virtues, to assist them with his advice and counsel, to discover their manner of life, and to know the state of their souls, that he may intercede with God for them, according to their particular necessities.

The rudeness, ill-nature or perverse behaviour of any of his flock, used at first to betray him into impatience; but it now raises no other passion in him, than a desire of being upon his knees in prayer to God for them. Thus have his prayers for others altered and amended the state of his own heart.

All these noble thoughts and Devine sentiments are the effects of his great devotion; he presents everyone so often before God in his prayers, that he never thinks he can esteem, reverence, or serve those enough, for whom he implores so many mercies from God.

Ouranium is mightily affected with this passage of holy Scripture, 'The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much'.

Law was also much engaged in religious controversy. At the Glorious Revolution of 1688, a number of bishops, clergy and their followers believed that their oaths of allegiance to the exiled King James II prevented them from taking the oath to serve under William III and Mary II. The same difficulty arose when George I succeeded Queen Anne in 1714. These people are known as the Non-Jurors, and they lost their positions in Church and State, as Law did his Fellowship at Cambridge. He became a private tutor.

Perhaps there was a providence in this, as it gave Law time to write not only the *Serious Call* but other devotional and theological works. The great dispute of his day was between believers in traditional Christianity and the Deists, who, even if they were bishops, rejected the idea of divine revelation and the supernatural doctrines of Christianity, such as the Incarnation and Resurrection. The best known of Law's contributions to the dispute is probably *Three Letters to the Bishop of Bangor*. This bishop's sermon on one of the issues that led to the suspension of Convocation - the system of democratic representation in the Church for some 150 years.

For example, Law insisted on the continuity of the Church's teaching and ministry from the time of the Apostles. Important differences of opinion today revive the same arguments. Surveys show that many clergy (and doubtless lay people) are now really Deists. The Church's difficulties today would be much reduced if clergy were more committed to the piety exemplified by Ouranium.

Graham Mordue.

WEST WATFORD FREE CHURCH (BAPTIST)

NEWSLETTER

Tolpits Lane, Holywell, Watford

Pastor: Garth Woodhead

Services during February:

EVERY Sunday morning there is an Act of Worship at 10.30am for ALL ages to which everyone is welcome. The children present have their own session from about 11.00am. Holy Communion is celebrated on the 4th Sunday morning of each month.

Refreshments are served in the Church hall immediately after the Service and you are invited to stay for a time of fellowship.

Excerpts from the Prayer diaries - all three of the diaries are now to hand and it is hoped that the weekly subjects both local, national and international help give focus to your prayers.

From the Herts Baptist Forum's Prayer Link:

1st Leavesden Road Baptist Church - Rev Andrew Keith

8th Croxley Green & Sarratt - Revs Steve Moody, Maureen Rider & Jon Bishop

15th Walsworth Road, Hitchin - Rev Andrew Henton-Pusey

22nd Tilehouse Street, Hitchin - Rev John Matthews

From the Baptist Union's Prayer Guide:

Lent - A difficult time of the year, Lord - drizzly, sleety depressing - we long for sunshine and warmth. It's a time for hardship for our souls too - going with you into the wilderness to find purpose, meaning, and hope. Lord, may we this Lent, journey deeply and creatively into the wilderness of our lives. Then may we at Easter discover a new dawn, a new birth, a new rising of hope and joy. AMEN.

1st Central Baptist Association of which we are a member.

8th The General Secretariat and General Secretary of the BU - Jonathan Edwards.

15th West of England Baptist Association

22nd Baptist Union Retreat Group

From the Baptist Missionary Society's Prayer:

1st - 7th Guinea. The training of Guinean pastors and national mission workers is a priority of the ministerial team based in the town of Kissidougou in the western rain forest region. BMS worker, Simon Wood has the responsibility of co-ordinating the training. Many Guinean missionaries, with their families, will suffer abuse and even persecution when they move into a town to plant a church.

8th - 14th Belgium. Mention Belgium in Britain and people tend to think of Brussels and the European Union. For most Belgians, however, the EU is just as removed from their everyday lives as it is for British citizens. Of greater concern is the ongoing struggle for national unity and identity and a maintaining a government as well as immigration and financial instability. The challenge to the Church is to show love and impartiality.

15th - 21st Tunisia.

22nd - 28th Kosova. One year on from independence in Kosova there is still fear for the future and a hunger for a better life. Unemployment runs at about 60%A. and the economy continues to be propped up by international aid and expatriate presence. This is in the context in which young Kosovan churches are seeking to love God and their neighbours.

Church & Family News and Views

As these notes are being prepared, Lissie W oodhead is having very painful dental problems. Please pray that her dentist can find an effective remedial treatment. Julie Skinner's knee is causing her problems. Do keep your prayer diary up to date with the needs of members of our congregation.

Helen wants it be known that the next Bazaar to raise funds for Pastor Benjamin in India is planned for March and as usual donations of good quality items are required. They can be brought to Church for storage or handed to Helen. Watch out the announcement of the actual date.

Although back in December, the offering taken at the Carol Service amounted to £81.55 and this sum has already be sent to the MacMillan Nursing Service. We have also sent a donation of £500 to Mission Aviation Fellowship towards the appeal for fuel for their aircraft operating in Central Africa where it is only available in medium sized drums and thus very expensive. £88.68 has been donated in response to the appeal from the RNLI.

The Ecumenical House groups during Lent will be held again this year using a the York Course on Faith. Please sign up on the sheet on the publications table with your preference for day and afternoon or evening. Please do this as soon as possible.

We entered a team - West Watford Wanderers - in the latest Supper Quiz organized by West Watford Christian Fellowship on January 24th and we won mainly because we saved our 'Joker' until the last round on 'Cinema and TV' and scored 100% which was doubled to give us a narrow victory. We were presented with an engraved plaque and a large box of 'Thorntons' chocolates which were enjoyed the following morning at tea after Church.

In the coming weeks we can look forward to visits from teams from London School of Theology who will be taking the entire service. DO try and be at Church on these occasions.

Birthdays:

8th Kathleen Steffens

21st Chris Skinner, Alan Cockram

22nd Thomas Walton 28th Kerry O'Sullivan

Alan Cockram

St Michael & All Angels Church

Tel:- (01923)247090

Web site:- www.stmichaels-watford.org.uk

E-mail:- stmichaels@talktalk.net

Vicar

Hon. Asst. Curate	* Revd. George Ochola BTh	157 Vicarage Road	239567
Readers	* Mrs V Allen-Smith	40 Park Avenue	249921
	* Dr M Heath	72 Harwoods Road	249168
Churchwardens	Mr P Chandler	115 Kensington Avenue	252926
	Mrs S Moring	6 Cassiobury Park Avenue	231917
PCC Secretary	Mrs Sue Winterbotham	12 Westmount Apts, Met Station Approach	237673
PCC Treasurer	Mrs C J Deeley	5 Greenbury Close, Chorleywood	282001
Hall Secretary	Mr P Jenkins	86 Mildred Avenue	463263
Sacristan	Mr J Wareham	26 Belgrave Avenue	221216
Organist & Choirmaster	Mr A Benoy	Flat 1, Prince Michael of Kents Lodge, Stratford Road	239524
SWORD Magazine	Mr D Beach	18 The Gardens	247982
Gift Aid Secretary	Mr R Ward	67 The Chase	242494
Electoral Roll Secretary	Mr H Moring	6 Cassiobury Park Avenue	231917
The Children's Soc. Secretary	Mrs N Twitchin	78 Princes Avenue	249327
Brownie Guides	Mrs S Mulligan		351840
Creche	Mrs A Makin	37 St James Road	236067
Sunday School	Mrs K Jenkins	86 Mildred Avenue	463263
Kids Club & Youth Group	Mrs J Talbot	35 Kings Avenue	226276
Young Children & Grown-Ups	Lesley Kinch	Flat 21, Ashridge House, Chenies Way	234788
Mothers' Union	Mrs P Gandy	15 Lynbury Court	224215
Wednesday Coffee Morning	Mrs J Dickinson	23 Whippendell Road	228441
Social Committee	Mrs P Hart	127 Parkside Drive	220884

The names of members of the Parochial Church Council and their membership of the various committees will be found on the Church Notice Board.

* Members of the Pastoral Team.

For the Month's Diary of events and details of all Church Services please turn to the centre pages of this magazine.

West Watford Free Church (Baptist)

Pastor	Mr Garth Woodhead	184 Hagden Lane	466509
Church Secretary	Mr A Cockram	139 Briar Road, Kingswood	677372