



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

Lent 2

Sunday 4 March 2007

A warm welcome to everyone to our services today and a particular welcome to the Rev Will Hunter from Trinity Methodist Church who will celebrate and preach at the 9.30 Eucharist. John Adams leads the intercessions. A crèche is available.

Fr John will be at Trinity Methodist.

Hymns: 502, 100, 366 and 598

Setting: Oldroyd

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

There is a United Evening Service at West Watford Free Church at 6.30pm.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: The Episcopal Church of the USA – Bishop George Smith of Missouri.

The Parish of St Mary's, Rickmansworth, and those who will appoint a new Vicar.

The World: Peace in Iraq, Afghanistan and Somalia.

Those whose discussions affect the economic stability of this country.

For justice and understanding in the treatment of those wishing to make their home in this country.

The Community and Parish: Those who seek to further the cause of Fair Trade locally.

Our friends at Trinity Methodist Church.

The Ill and the Housebound: Especially Ray Angles, Alec Bennett, Ellen Benoy, Mel Browne, John Burn, Jennifer Coley, Bill Craddock-Jones, Jean Crouch, June Dickinson, Kate Dickinson, Maureen Elvery, Jocelyn Harewood, Jenny Houghton, Mary Kearns, Loretta Lynch, Maggie Maguire, Stella Meager, Morfa Pope, Myrtle Powell, Mary Pringle, Maureen Swann, June Tatnall, Marion Vidal, Bill Widdowson and Anne Wightman.

The Departed: Peter Jones (aged 91), River Court

Dorothy Woodward (aged 87), St James Road.

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 15.1–12, 17–18

A reading from the book of Genesis.

- 1 The word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, 'Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.'
- 2 But Abram said, 'O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?'
- 3 And Abram said, 'You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.'
- 4 But the word of the LORD came to him, 'This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.'
- 5 He brought him outside and said, 'Look towards heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.' Then he said to him, 'So shall your descendants be.'
- 6 And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.
- 7 Then he said to him, 'I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess.'
- 8 But he said, 'O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?'
- 9 He said to him, 'Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtle-dove, and a young pigeon.'
- 10 He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two.
- 11 And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.
- 12 As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.
- 17 When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire-pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces.

- ¹⁸ On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, 'To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates.'

SECOND READING Philippians 3.17 – 4.1

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.

- ¹⁷ Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us.
- ¹⁸ For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears.
- ¹⁹ Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things.
- ²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ.
- ²¹ He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself.
- ¹ Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

GOSPEL Luke 13.31–35

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

- ³¹ At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, 'Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.'
- ³² He said to them, 'Go and tell that fox for me, "Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work.
- ³³ Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed away from Jerusalem."
- ³⁴ Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing!
- ³⁵ See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, "Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord."

THIS WEEK

Mon	4	Mar	Toddlers' Group	10 – 11.30am
Wed	6	Mar	Coffee in Church	10.30-12 noon
			Bring-&-Share Lunch	12.30pm
			Pause (23 Whippendell Road)	7.30pm
			Youth and Education Committee	8.00pm
Thur	7	Mar	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
			St Anthony's	morning
			Kids' Club	3.30 – 5.00pm
			Choir Practice	7.00 – 8.30pm
Sat	10	Mar	RSCM Examinations in Choir Vestry	from 9.00am
			Bring-&-Buy Sale	11.30 – 1.30pm
			Lent Lunch (served by Brownies)	12.00 – 1.30pm
			Quiz Evening (contact Ashley Vos for further information)	
Sun	11	Mar	LENT 3	
			Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	8.00am
			SUNG EUCHARIST	9.30am
			Simple Eucharist	11.15am
			River Court	3.00pm
			Evensong in Lady Chapel	6.30pm

NOTICES

VERY MANY THANKS to Pam Hart and all the members of the Social Committee for last Sunday's Parish Lunch. Thank you also to all those who freely made dishes etc for what was a really good occasion. Fr John.

LAST SUNDAY'S BRING-&-BUY SALE raised £75 for church funds – thank you.

BRING-&-SHARE LUNCH: Please sign the list if you are able to come next Wednesday. “THE ORTHODOX TRADITION OF ICONS” Dr. Derek Bird who is a painter of icons will give an illustrated talk on the subject at The Friends' Meeting House, 150 Church Road, Watford, on Wednesday 7th March at 7.30pm. It should give us an insight not only into the artistry of icons but, more importantly, into their spirituality.. Organised by Watford Novgorod Friendship Society. All are welcome.

VISIT of YOUTH CHOIR from COPENHAGEN 27-30 April. Can you kindly offer accommodation? Please sign list at west end if you can.

LENT GROUPS: This year's theme is on relationships, called ‘Better Together?’. A list giving details of the venues and days of the groups meeting is available. Please see Martin Heath if you need further information.

The LENT LUNCH & BRING-&-BUY Sale is next Saturday, 10 March, from 11.30 – 1.30 pm. The lunch, from 12 noon, will be served by St Michael's Brownies. If you can help on the day, or by making soup, please see Pat Brown (232460).

WATFORD FAIRTRADE DECLARATION: If you would like to go to this occasion at Watford Museum on Monday, 5 March, at 5.30 for 6 pm please see Fr John for more information.