



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

Lent 3

Sunday 11 March 2007

A warm welcome to everyone to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Eucharist, Fr John preaches and celebrates and Neil Hart leads the intercessions. A crèche is available.

Hymns: 605 (tune 416 ii), 532, 455 and 252

Setting: Oldroyd

This is followed by the 11.15 Service which is a Simple Eucharist this month – please stay on.

The monthly service at River Court is at 3.00 pm.

There is Evensong in the Lady Chapel at 6.30pm.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: The Episcopal Church of Scotland, John Crook, Bishop of Moray, Ross and Caithness.

The work of the YMCA.

Richard Bolton, Chaplain of Merchant Taylors' School.

The World: Peace in Iraq, Afghanistan and Somalia.

The United Nations as a force for diplomacy.

Those unjustly accused and punished for crimes.

The Community and Parish: All who work for Watford Borough Council.

The Clergy and Readers of Watford Deanery.

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, Bill Thorne, Marion Vidal, Bill Widdowson and Anne Wightman.

The Departed:

Collect

Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified:
mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace;
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 Isaiah 55.1–9

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah. The LORD says this:

- ¹ Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.
- ² Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labour for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food.
- ³ Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David.
- ⁴ See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples.
- ⁵ See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.
- ⁶ Seek the LORD while he may be found, call upon him while he is near;
- ⁷ let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.
- ⁸ For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.
- ⁹ For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

SECOND READING I Corinthians 10.1–13

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

- ¹ I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea,
- ² and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea,

3 and all ate the same spiritual food,
4 and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock
that followed them, and the rock was Christ.
5 Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck
down in the wilderness.
6 Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire
evil as they did.
7 Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, ‘The people
sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play.’
8 We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-
three thousand fell in a single day.
9 We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were
destroyed by serpents.
10 And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the
destroyer.
11 These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were
written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come.
12 So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall.
13 No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is
faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the
testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

GOSPEL Luke 13.1–9

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

1 There were some present who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate
had mingled with their sacrifices.
2 He asked them ‘Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way
they were worse sinners than all other Galileans?
3 No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did.
4 Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them – do
you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem?
5 No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.’
6 Then he told this parable: ‘A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he
came looking for fruit on it and found none.
7 So he said to the gardener, “See here! For three years I have come looking for
fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting
the soil?”
8 He replied, “Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put
manure on it.
9 If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.”’

THIS WEEK

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|------|----|-----|--|---------------|
| Mon | 12 | Mar | Toddlers' Group | 10 – 11.30am |
| | | | Service at the Chase Care Home | 3.00pm |
| Tue | 13 | Mar | Intercessory Prayer Group (6 Lynbury Court) | 2.30pm |
| Wed | 14 | Mar | Coffee in Church | 10.30-12 noon |
| | | | Service at Home Manor during afternoon | |
| Thur | 15 | Mar | Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language) | 10.00am |
| | | | Kids' Club | 3.30 – 5.00pm |
| | | | Choir Practice | 7.00 – 8.30pm |
| Sun | 18 | Mar | <u>MOTHERING SUNDAY</u> | |
| | | | Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language) | 8.00am |
| | | | SUNG EUCHARIST with presentation of posies | 9.30am |
| | | | Lent Meditation led by the Pause Group | 6.30pm |

NOTICES

ELECTORAL ROLL: The date for the preparation of a NEW roll has been brought forward a year to 2007. **This will start next Sunday 18 March and the last date for receipt of forms and for inclusion before the AGM will be 1 April.** Church members on the current roll will be approached by members of the PCC with new forms to complete. If somehow you are not given a form, please ask Fr John or Henry or Sylvia Moring for one and ensure it is returned by 1 April please. Only persons on the electoral roll may vote at the AGM.

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.

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

TOWN HALL ORGAN RESTORATION MEETING: 7.00 pm on 12 March at The Colosseum – contact Graham Mordue for information (244180).

ARE YOU 15 -18? Do you want to meet the Archbishop of Canterbury in a small group from the Diocese? See page 18 of Sword or ask Fr John.

LENT MEDITATIONS will be held at 6.30 pm on Sundays, 18 and 25 March. Please make every effort to attend.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE: The date of the next meeting has been changed from 14 to 21 March.

THE MESSIAH: A performance of Handel's oratorio will be given by local singers on Saturday, 17 March, at 7.30 pm at Beechen Grove Baptist Church. This is part of the tercentenary celebrations of the church. Several members of St Michael's are singing. Please come along and support this performance.

MOTHERING SUNDAY POSIES: If you are able to help assemble these on Saturday, 17 March, please see Fay Storey or Sylvia Moring.