



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

FIRST SUNDAY of LENT

10 February 2008

A warm welcome to our services today.

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

Hymns: 95, 385, 118 and 621

Setting: Oldroyd

Tea and coffee will be served in church after the 9.30 service and this is followed at 11.15 with our monthly service of thanksgiving and praise – 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 Church in Burundi – Archbishop Bernard Ntahoturi.
General Synod meeting in London this week.

God's blessing on our observance of Lent.

The World: Peace in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The candidates for the American Presidential Elections.

Our own responsibility in conserving energy.

The Community and Parish: Our local General Practitioners and all who participate in local health care.

Dorothy Thornhill, our elected Mayor, and all who work with her.

The Ill and the Housebound: Especially Ray Angles, Monica Batt, Ellen Benoy, Mel Browne, John Burn, Marjorie Carlisle, Claire Challis, Jennifer Coley, Bill Craddock-Jones, Jean Crouch, Ifagaani Desiderio, June Dickinson, Kate Dickinson, Jocelyn Harewood, Sarah Heath, Margery Holt, Jenny Houghton, Mary Kearns, Lesley Kinch, Loretta Lynch, Maggie Maguire, Stella Meager, Eva Portas, Myrtle Powell, Ann Reed, Gladys Robertson, Maureen Swann, June Tatnall, Bill Widdowson, Anne Wightman and Maureen Williams.

We give thanks for the continuing recovery of Günter Bouché.

The Departed: Ann Hobby (aged 98), Fairhaven, Park Avenue

Zadok Dixon, Jamaica – Basil's father and Cynthia's father-in-law.

Collect

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days in the wilderness, and was tempted as we are, yet without sin:
give us grace to discipline ourselves in obedience to your Spirit;
and, as you know our weakness, so may we know your power to save;
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 Genesis 2.15–17; 3.1–7

A reading from the book of Genesis.

- ¹⁵ The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it.
- ¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, ‘You may freely eat of every tree of the garden;
- ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.’
- ¹ Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, ‘Did God say, “You shall not eat from any tree in the garden”?’
- ² The woman said to the serpent, ‘We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden;
- ³ but God said, “You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.”’
- ⁴ But the serpent said to the woman, ‘You will not die;
- ⁵ for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.’
- ⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate.
- ⁷ Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

SECOND READING Romans 5.12–19

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

- ¹² Just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned –

- ¹³ sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law.
- ¹⁴ Yet death exercised dominion from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who is a type of the one who was to come.
- ¹⁵ But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many.
- ¹⁶ And the free gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgement following one trespass brought condemnation but the free gift following many trespasses brings justification.
- ¹⁷ If, because of the one man's trespass, death exercised dominion through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.
- ¹⁸ Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so the act of righteousness of one leads to justification and life for all.
- ¹⁹ For just as by the one person's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

GOSPEL Matthew 4.1-11

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

- ¹ Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.
- ² He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished.
- ³ The tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.'
- ⁴ But he answered, 'It is written, "One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."'
- ⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him,
- ⁶ 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, "He will command his angels concerning you," and "On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone."'
- ⁷ Jesus said to him, 'Again it is written, "Do not put the Lord your God to the test."'
- ⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour;
- ⁹ and he said to him, 'All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.'
- ¹⁰ Jesus said to him, 'Away with you, Satan! for it is written, "Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him."'
- ¹¹ Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

THIS WEEK

Mon	11	Feb	<i>Half term week</i>	
			Toddlers' Group	10.00 – 11.30am
			Service at Chase Care Home	3.00pm
Tue	12	Feb	Pause (23 Whippendell Road)	7.30pm
Wed	13	Feb	Coffee in Church	10.30am-12 noon
			Service at Home Manor	3.00pm
			Bible Study – starting at Acts 14.19	8.00pm
Thu	14	Feb	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
			St Anthony's	morning
			Choir Practice	7.00- 8.30pm
Sat	16	Feb	Baptism of Kayley and Joe Sandell	2.30pm
Sun	17	Feb	LENT 2	
			Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	8.00am
			SUNG EUCHARIST (crèche available)	9.30am
			Evensong in Lady Chapel	6.30pm

NOTICES

MANY THANKS to all who made/gave/served and helped to make Gary's visit and Parish Lunch last Sunday so successful.

THE LENT LUNCH, when a simple lunch of soup and bread and cheese will be served by St Michael's Brownies, is on Saturday, 23 February, from 11.30 – 1.30 pm. There will also be a bring-and-buy stall.

Offers of help to make soup, lay up tables and help in kitchen to Pat Brown please.

LENT GROUPS: Please sign up list to indicate your preference for time and day. Details of this year's Lent Course are on the list which is on the church table at the west end.

HELP PLEASE! We badly need volunteers to join the rota for Sunday morning crèche (please see Alison Makin), serving coffee (please see Pat Brown) and sidespeople (please see one of the churchwardens).

SWORD SUBSCRIPTIONS for 2008 are now due. Please see Valerie Alvarez who has again kindly agreed to collect the subscriptions for the coming year, which remain the same as last year, £5.00 if you pay for the year instead of 50p per month.

HOLY ROOD CHURCH – THE BUILDING AND DECORATION: Brian O'Riordan will be giving an illustrated talk on this in the Parish Centre at Holy Rood on Tuesday, 12 February, starting at 7.30 pm. Refreshments will be served. Brian extends an invitation to any St Michael members to go along for this.

THE BRIDGE OF PEACE inter-faith coach outing to St Albans Abbey (for women and children) will be on February 20th from 10.00am -2.00pm. Please note the date, and see Gill Heath for more details!