



# THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

*St Michael and All Angels*

Watford

SECOND SUNDAY of LENT

17 February 2008

A warm welcome to our services today.

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

**Hymns: 586 (omit \* verses), 394 (t 267), 424 and 442 (t 278)**      **Setting: Oldroyd**

Tea and coffee will be served in church after the 9.30 service – please stay on.

There is Evensong in the Lady Chapel at 6.30pm.

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

**The Church:** The Anglican Church in Canada: Archbishop Frederick Hiltz.  
The Parish of Woburn and Eversholt.  
Rowan Williams, Archbishop of Canterbury, and his demanding work.

**The World:** Peace in Iraq and Afghanistan.  
A diplomatic solution to the situation in Sudan.  
For open, informed and tolerant public debate about the issues facing society.

**The Community and Parish:** Kayley and Joe Sandell who were baptised here yesterday.

The schools of the parish returning to work.

Claire and Andy Hartropp as they prepare to move to a new parish.

**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, Bryony Purse, Ann Reed, Gladys Robertson, Maureen Swann, June Tatnall, Bill Widdowson, Anne Wightman and Maureen Williams.

**The Departed:**

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**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 12.1–4a**

A reading from the book of Genesis.

- 1 The LORD said to Abram, 'Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you.
- 2 I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.
- 3 I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.'
- 4 So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him.

**SECOND READING Romans 4.1–5, 13–17**

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

- 1 What are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh?
- 2 For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God.
- 3 For what does the scripture say? 'Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.'
- 4 Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due.
- 5 But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.
- 13 For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith.
- 14 If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void.

- 15 For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.
- 16 For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us,
- 17 as it is written, 'I have made you the father of many nations') – Abraham believed in the presence of the God who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

## **GOSPEL John 3.1–17**

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

- 1 There was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews.
- 2 He came to Jesus by night and said to him, 'Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.'
- 3 Jesus answered him, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.'
- 4 Nicodemus said to him, 'How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?'
- 5 Jesus answered, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit.
- 6 What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit.
- 7 Do not be astonished that I said to you, "You must be born from above."
- 8 The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.'
- 9 Nicodemus said to him, 'How can these things be?'
- 10 Jesus answered him, 'Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?'
- 11 Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony.
- 12 If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things?'
- 13 No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man.
- 14 And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up,
- 15 that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.
- 16 For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.
- 17 Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.'

## THIS WEEK

Mon	18	Feb	Toddlers' Group	10.00 – 11.30am
Wed	20	Feb	Coffee in Church	10.30am-12 noon
Thu	21	Feb	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
			Kids' Club	3.30 – 5.00pm
			Choir Practice	7.00 - 8.30pm
Sat	23	Feb	Lent Lunch and Bring-&-Buy Sale	11.30am – 1.30pm
Sun	24	Feb	<b><u>LENT 3</u></b>	
			Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	8.00am
			SUNG EUCHARIST (crèche available)	9.30am
			followed by Bring-&-Buy Sale	
			Sunday School in Littlebury Hall	9.30am
			Evening Meditation arranged by Pause	6.30pm

## **NOTICES**

**THE VIGIL LIST** for Maundy Thursday/Good Friday is on the table at the Mildred Avenue door. Please sign soon.

**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.

**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.

**LENT MEDITATION**: Please note that next Sunday (24<sup>th</sup>) at 6.30 pm there will be an evening Lenten meditation arranged by the Pause group.

**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.

**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!

**THE PARISH LUNCH**: This very enjoyable occasion made a profit of £283.74, thanks to the number of tickets sold and donations of money and food received. This money will be paid into church general funds.

**NEXT BIBLE STUDY** is at 8 pm Wednesday 5th March.