



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

THIRD SUNDAY of LENT

24 February 2008

A warm welcome to our services today.

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

Hymns: 435 (tune 1), 406, 467 and 497

Setting: Oldroyd

Sunday School is in Littlebury Hall at 9.30am.

Tea and coffee will be served in church after the 9.30 service and there will be a Bring-&-Buy Sale – please stay on.

There is a Lent Meditation at 6.30pm arranged by the Pause group.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: The Church of the Province of Central Africa: Archbishop Bernard Malango.

Anglican Methodist Covenant Relationships in the Diocese.

Church Schools in the Deanery of Amphill.

The World: Peace in Iraq and Afghanistan.

A peaceful transition in Kosovo in the early days of its independence.

Politicians in Pakistan as they assemble a new government.

The Community and Parish: The work of the New Hope Trust.

All involved with caring for disabled people in the parish.

All members of the Breathe Easy Group in Watford.

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: Emma Hobby (known as Anne), (aged 98), Fairhaven.

Janet Hosier, Co-Founder of New Hope Trust, once of Cassiobury Park Avenue.

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 Exodus 17.1–7

A reading from the book of Exodus.

- 1 From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink.
- 2 The people quarrelled with Moses, and said, ‘Give us water to drink.’ Moses said to them, ‘Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?’
- 3 But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, ‘Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?’
- 4 So Moses cried out to the LORD, ‘What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.’
- 5 The LORD said to Moses, ‘Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go.
- 6 I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.’ Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel.
- 7 He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarrelled and tested the LORD, saying, ‘Is the LORD among us or not?’

SECOND READING Romans 5.1–11

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

- 1 Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,
- 2 through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God.
- 3 And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance,
- 4 and endurance produces character, and character produces hope,
- 5 and hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.
- 6 For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.
- 7 Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person – though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die.

8 But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.
9 Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be
saved through him from the wrath of God.
10 For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his
Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life.
11 But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through
whom we have now received reconciliation.

GOSPEL John 4.5–26

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

5 Jesus came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had
given to his son Joseph.
6 Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was
about noon.
7 A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink.'
8 (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.)
9 The Samaritan woman said to him, 'How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a
woman of Samaria?' (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.)
10 Jesus answered her, 'If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you,
"Give me a drink," you would have asked him, and he would have given you living
water.'
11 The woman said to him, 'Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you
get that living water?
12 Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and
his flocks drank from it?'
13 Jesus said to her, 'Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again,
14 but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water
that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.'
15 The woman said to him, 'Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have
to keep coming here to draw water.'
16 Jesus said to her, 'Go, call your husband, and come back.'
17 The woman answered him, 'I have no husband.' Jesus said to her, 'You are right in
saying, "I have no husband";
18 for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What
you have said is true!
19 The woman said to him, 'Sir, I see that you are a prophet.
20 Our ancestors worshipped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people
must worship is in Jerusalem.'
21 Jesus said to her, 'Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the
Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem.
22 You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from
the Jews.
23 But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshippers will worship the
Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him.
24 God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.'
25 The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah is coming' (who is called Christ). 'When
he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.'
26 Jesus said to her, 'I am he, the one who is speaking to you.'

THIS WEEK

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| Mon | 25 | Feb | Toddlers' Group | 10.00 – 11.30am |
| Wed | 27 | Feb | Mothers' Union AGM in Choir Vestry | 10.00am |
| | | | Coffee in Church | 10.30am-12 noon |
| Thu | 28 | Feb | Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language) | 10.00am |
| | | | Kids' Club | 3.30 – 5.00pm |
| | | | Choir Practice | 7.00 - 8.30pm |
| Sun | 2 | Mar | <u>LENT 4 – MOTHERING SUNDAY</u> | |
| | | | Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language) | 8.00am |
| | | | SUNG EUCHARIST (crèche available) | 9.30am |
| | | | with presentation of posies | |
| | | | Sunday School in Littlebury Hall | 9.30am |
| | | | United Evening Service (venue tba) | 6.30pm |

NOTICES

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

LENT GROUPS: 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 tonight (24th) at 6.30 pm there will be an evening Lenten meditation arranged by the Pause group.

FINAL COPY DATE FOR THE MARCH SWORD is MIDDAY today Sunday, 24 February. Please submit copy before this time if possible. Hard copy, floppy disc or email to DENNIS.H.BEACH@sky.com.

ELECTORAL ROLL REVISION: This year's revision will commence on 16th March and finish on Sunday 6th April. A copy of the current Roll is on the notice board at the back of the Church for you to check. If anyone would like their name added to the Roll, please get a form from the Clergy or Henry Moring.

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.

PARISH WALK: – Saturday 1 March. Please sign up on the list.

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