



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

MOTHERING SUNDAY

2 March 2008

A warm welcome to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Eucharist, Fr John celebrates and preaches and Vicki Matthews leads the intercessions. There will be a presentation of posies. A crèche is available.

Hymns: 507, 383, “Our Father God in heaven” (see inside), and 530.

There is a special service book for Mothering Sunday.

Sunday School is in Littlebury Hall at 9.30am.

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

There is a United Evening Service at 6.30 pm at Trinity Methodist Church..

For your prayers this week:

The Church: El Salvador, Central America and its Bishop, Martin Barahona.
Jay Macleod and his work as Diocesan Interfaith Adviser.
Our mothers, whether with us still, or departed – give thanks for their influence on us for the good.

The World: Peace in Iraq and Afghanistan.
Honesty and integrity among those who hold public office.
The people of Wales as yesterday they celebrated St David’s day.

The Community and Parish: Our local police and community support officers.
Watford’s Women’s Refuges and the mothers and children who are housed in them.

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:

Collect

God of compassion, whose Son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary, shared the life of a home in Nazareth, and on the cross drew the whole human family to himself:
strengthen us in our daily living that in joy and in sorrow we may know the power of your presence to bind together and to heal; 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 2.1–10

A reading from the book of Exodus.

- ¹ A man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman.
- ² The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him for three months.
- ³ When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river.
- ⁴ His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him.
- ⁵ The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it.
- ⁶ When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him, 'This must be one of the Hebrews' children,' she said.
- ⁷ Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, 'Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?'
- ⁸ Pharaoh's daughter said to her, 'Yes.' So the girl went and called the child's mother.
- ⁹ Pharaoh's daughter said to her, 'Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages.' So the woman took the child and nursed it.
- ¹⁰ When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, 'because,' she said, 'I drew him out of the water.'

GOSPEL Luke 2.33–35

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

- ³³ The child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about Jesus.
- ³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed
- ³⁵ so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed – and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

Hymn “Our Father God in heaven”

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| 1 Our Father God in heaven
On whom our world depends,
To you let praise be given
For families and friends;
For parents, sisters, brothers,
A home where love belongs,
But on this day for mothers
We bring our thankful songs. | 3 How well we know the story
That tells of Jesus' birth,
The Lord of heaven's glory
become a child of earth;
A helpless infant sleeping,
yet King of realms above,
who finds in Mary's keeping
the warmth of human love. |
| 2 What wealth of God's bestowing
For all the world to share!
What strength of heart outgoing
To children everywhere!
Our deepest joys and sorrows
A mother's path must trace,
And earth's unknown tomorrows
Are held in her embrace. | 4 Our Father God in heaven,
To you we lift our prayer,
That every child be given
Such tenderness and care,
Where life is all for others,
Where love your love displays:
For God's good gift of mothers
Let earth unite in praise! |

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THIS WEEK

Mon	3	Mar	Toddlers' Group (Choir Vestry)	10.00 – 11.30am
Wed	5	Mar	Coffee in Church	10.30am-12 noon
			Memorial Service for Fred Thompson	12 noon
			Bring-&-Share Lunch	1.30pm
			Bible Study (Choir Vestry)	8.00pm
Thu	6	Mar	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
			Fairhaven	morning
			Kids' Club	3.30 – 5.00pm
			Choir Practice	7.00 - 8.30pm
Fri	7	Mar	Women's World Day of Prayer (Christchurch, N Watford)	2.00pm
Sat	8	Mar	RSCM Examinations in Choir Vestry	9.30am – 4.00pm
			Quiz evening in church – contact Ashley Vos: 244898	
Sun	9	Mar	<u>PASSION SUNDAY</u>	
			Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	8.00am
			SUNG EUCHARIST (crèche available)	9.30am
			Preacher: Rev Andrew Hartropp	
			11.15 Service of Thanksgiving and Praise	11.15am
			(Private party in Church)	1.30 – 4.30pm)
			River Court Service	3.00pm
			(Choir rehearsal)	
			Passiontide Service of music, poetry and prayer	6.30pm

NOTICES

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

THANK YOU EVERYONE for your prayers for our daughter-in-law in her pregnancy. There has been a miraculous improvement –but keep on praying! Gill & Martin.

PLEASE SIGN UP for the monthly Bring-&-Share Lunch on Wednesday 5 March.

EASTER FLOWERS: Fay Storey will be pleased to receive donations towards the Easter flowers in church. If you are able to gift aid your donation please use one of the small white envelopes.

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.