



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

THIRD SUNDAY BEFORE LENT

8 February 2009

A warm welcome to everyone to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Eucharist, Fr George celebrates, Martin Heath preaches and John Adams leads the intercessions. A crèche is available. Sunday School is in Littlebury Hall.

Hymns: 382, 346, 475 and 612

Setting: Wilson

Tea and coffee will be served in church after the 9.30 service. This is followed by the 11.15 Service of Thanksgiving and Praise – please stay on.

The monthly service at River Court is at 3.00 pm.

There is Evening Prayer in the Lady Chapel at 3.30 pm.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: Francis Abiero, Bishop of Maseno South, Kenya.
Mike Shaw, Team Leader of the Workplace Ministry in Herts & Beds.
Education Sunday.

The World: Peace in the Middle East.
H.M. the Queen on the Anniversary of her Accession last Friday.

The Community and Parish: Help in selecting the right person for Priest-in-Charge at St Michael's.
Staff and pupils of Chater School visiting St Michael's on Tuesday.
The success of our Talents Project.

The Ill and the Housebound: Especially Ray Angles, Ellen Benoy, Gunter Bouché, Christopher Browne, Mel Browne, John Burn, Marjorie Carlisle, Jennifer Coley, Bill Craddock-Jones, Jean Crouch, June Dickinson, Kate Dickinson, Simon Fowle, Jocelyn Harewood, Gladys Holloway, Jenny Houghton, Lionel Jones, Mary Kearns, Lesley Kinch, Loretta Lynch, Maggie Maguire, Stella Meager, Dorcas Ochola, Gaynor Osbourne, Myrtle Powell, Bryony Purse, Ann Reed, Gladys Robertson, Elaine Robinson, Pauline Surtees, Maureen Swann, June Tatnall, Matthew Tigwell, Lesley Watkin, Anne Wightman, and Maureen Williams.

The Departed:

Collect

Almighty God, who alone can bring order to the unruly wills and passions of sinful humanity:

give your people grace so to love what you command and to desire what you promise, that, among the many changes of this world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found;

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 40.21–31

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

²¹ Have you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?

²² It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to live in;

²³ who brings princes to naught, and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.

²⁴ Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, when he blows upon them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble.

²⁵ To whom then will you compare me, or who is my equal? says the Holy One.

²⁶ Lift up your eyes on high and see: Who created these? He who brings out their host and numbers them, calling them all by name; because he is great in strength, mighty in power, not one is missing.

²⁷ Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, 'My way is hidden from the LORD, and my right is disregarded by my God'?

²⁸ Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable.

²⁹ He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless.

³⁰ Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted;

³¹ but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

SECOND READING I Corinthians 9.16–23

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

¹⁶ If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel!

¹⁷ For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission.

¹⁸ What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel.

¹⁹ For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them.

- 20 To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law.
- 21 To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law) so that I might win those outside the law.
- 22 To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some.
- 23 I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

GOSPEL Matthew 25.14–29

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

Jesus said to his disciples,

- 14 'The kingdom of heaven is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them;
- 15 to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away.
- 16 The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents.
- 17 In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents.
- 18 But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.
- 19 After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them.
- 20 Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, "Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents."
- 21 His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master."
- 22 And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, "Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents."
- 23 His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master."
- 24 Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, "Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed;
- 25 so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours."
- 26 But his master replied, "You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter?
- 27 Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest.
- 28 So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents.
- 29 For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away."

THIS WEEK

Mon	9	Feb	Toddlers' Group	10.00 – 11.30am
			Service at the Chase Care Home	3.00pm
Tue	10	Feb	Chater School in Church	1.15 – 3.00pm
			Visit of applicants for Priest-in-Charge	1.30 – 8.00pm
Wed	11	Feb	Interviews for Priest-in-Charge appointment	
			9 am onwards in Choir Vestry	
			Coffee in Church	10.30am-12 noon
			Service at Home Manor	3.00pm
			Parochial Church Council	7.55pm
Thu	12	Feb	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
			St Anthony's	morning
			Kids Club	3.30-5.00pm
			Choir Practice	7.00-8.30pm
Sat	14	Feb	Parish walk	departs 10.00am
Sun	15	Feb	<u>Second Sunday before Lent</u>	
			SUNG EUCHARIST: (Pres & Preacher: Rev Ian Pankhurst)	9.30 am
			(crèche available). Sunday School in Littlebury Hall	
			Evening Prayers	3.30pm

NOTICES

APPOINTMENT OF PRIEST-IN-CHARGE: On Tuesday and Wednesday, 10 and 11 February there will be activity in Church in connection with filling our vacancy. Both the Clergy and Choir Vestries may be in use so please enter at the west end; the glass doors will be open on both days.

An EVENING of ENTERTAINMENT (Songs, poems, music, stories; bring and share pot luck supper) on Saturday 21st February at 7 pm. Please speak to Pat Beach or Kristine urgently to offer to share your hidden talents with us all and to buy your tickets (£4, BYO drink) Tel: (01923) 247982/463263. See handbills for more information. In order to have a 'balanced' pot luck supper please sign the list on the signings table to indicate the type of food you will be bringing (ie savoury, salad, dessert, etc)

LENT GROUPS: Arrangements are being made for our usual Churches Together ecumenical Lent Groups starting w/c 2nd March. If you would like to join one of the groups, please see information in February Sword and at the back of church and sign up indicating days and times you could manage.

The BRING-&BUY SALE in January raised £35. Many thanks.

DURING THE SNOW if you are in doubt about a particular event happening at church please ring the organiser(s) or Sylvia Moring (231917) before setting out.

THE NEXT PARISH WALK will be on Saturday 14th February. Meet as usual outside the West Door of St Michael's at 10 am. Any queries check with Martin or Vicki Matthews on 01923 229408.