



# THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

*St Michael and All Angels*

Watford

SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE

LENT

15 February 2009

A warm welcome to everyone to our services today. We give a special welcome to the Rev Ian Pankhurst from St Luke's Church who leads our service this morning.

At the 9.30 am Eucharist, Rev Ian Pankhurst celebrates and preaches and Valerie Alvarez leads the intercessions. A crèche is available. Sunday School is in Littlebury Hall.

**Hymns: 557, 474, 258 and 513**

**Setting: Wilson**

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

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

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

**The Church:** Stephen Diseko, Bishop of Matlosane, South Africa.  
Anglican Methodist Covenant Relationships in the Diocese.  
Jonathan Smith, Archdeacon of St Albans.

**The World:** Peace in all troubled places.  
All affected by the bushfires in Victoria, Australia.

**The Community and Parish:** All funeral directors and those who minister to the bereaved.  
Those on holiday this half-term week.

**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:**

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**Collect**

Almighty God, you have created the heavens and the earth and made us in your own image:  
teach us to discern your hand in all your works and your likeness in all your children;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns supreme over all things, now and for ever.

**FIRST READING Proverbs 8.1, 22–31**

A reading from the book of Proverbs.

- <sup>1</sup> Does not wisdom call, and does not understanding raise her voice?  
<sup>22</sup> The LORD created me at the beginning of his work, the first of his acts of long ago.  
<sup>23</sup> Ages ago I was set up, at the first, before the beginning of the earth.  
<sup>24</sup> When there were no depths I was brought forth, when there were no springs abounding with water.  
<sup>25</sup> Before the mountains had been shaped, before the hills, I was brought forth  
—  
<sup>26</sup> when he had not yet made earth and fields, or the world's first bits of soil.  
<sup>27</sup> When he established the heavens, I was there, when he drew a circle on the face of the deep,  
<sup>28</sup> when he made firm the skies above, when he established the fountains of the deep,  
<sup>29</sup> when he assigned to the sea its limit, so that the waters might not transgress his command, when he marked out the foundations of the earth,  
<sup>30</sup> then I was beside him, like a master worker; and I was daily his delight, rejoicing before him always,  
<sup>31</sup> rejoicing in his inhabited world and delighting in the human race.

## **SECOND READING Colossians 1.15–20**

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Colossians.

- <sup>15</sup> Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation;  
<sup>16</sup> for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers – all things have been created through him and for him.  
<sup>17</sup> He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together.  
<sup>18</sup> He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything.  
<sup>19</sup> For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,  
<sup>20</sup> and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

## **GOSPEL John 1.1–14**

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

- <sup>1</sup> In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.  
<sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God.  
<sup>3</sup> All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life,  
<sup>4</sup> and the life was the light of all people.  
<sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.  
<sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.  
<sup>7</sup> He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him.  
<sup>8</sup> He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.  
<sup>9</sup> The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.  
<sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him.  
<sup>11</sup> He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him.  
<sup>12</sup> But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God,  
<sup>13</sup> who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.  
<sup>14</sup> And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

## THIS WEEK

Mon	16	Feb	<i>Half Term Week</i>	
			Toddlers' Group	10.00 – 11.30am
Wed	18	Feb	Coffee in Church	10.30am-12 noon
			Bible Study (Choir Vestry)	8.00pm
Thu	19	Feb	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
			followed by Mothers' Union AGM	
			Choir Practice	7.00-8.30pm
Sat	21	Feb	EVENING of ENTERTAINMENT and Pot Luck Supper	
			(In Church)	7.00pm
Sun	22	Feb	<b><u>Sunday next before Lent</u></b>	
			<b>SUNG EUCHARIST:</b>	9.30 am
			(crèche available). Sunday School in Littlebury Hall	
			followed by Bring-&Buy Sale	
			Evening Prayers	3.30pm

## **NOTICES**

An EVENING of ENTERTAINMENT (Songs, poems, music, stories; bring and share pot luck supper) on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> 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.

TALENTS FOR BANGLADESH: If you missed getting a Talents envelope last Sunday and would like to take part in the Talents Challenge, please see Sylvia Moring. A display about the work that we are supporting is on the bier and there is still plenty of time to increase your talents before Easter Sunday.

Sue Winterbotham is offering Open House on Tuesdays 2.30 - 4.30 pm for craft/creativity (boxes, cards, patchwork, mats etc etc - materials and help provided) and jolly conversation (tea and biscuits provided) with a view to pre-Easter car boot sale. Ideas welcome.

FINAL COPY DATE FOR THE MARCH SWORD is MIDDAY next Sunday, 22 February. Hard copy, floppy disc or email to [DENNIS.H.BEACH@sky.com](mailto:DENNIS.H.BEACH@sky.com).

SWORD SUBSCRIPTIONS for 2009 are now overdue. Valerie Alvarez has kindly agreed to collect subscriptions for this year. If you pay for the year in advance an annual subscription for 12 issues will be £6.00. If you don't subscribe at present and would like to take out a new annual subscription, please see Dennis Beach.