



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE LENT

22 February 2009

A warm welcome to everyone to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Eucharist, Fr George celebrates and preaches and Neil Hart leads the intercessions. A crèche is available. Sunday School is in Littlebury Hall.

Hymns: 523, 248, 383 and 2

Setting: Wilson

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 Evening Prayer in the Lady Chapel at 3.30 pm.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: Philip Freier, Bishop of Melbourne, Australia; Stephen Hale, Philip Huggins, John Wilson and Paul White – Bishops of the Eastern, Northern, Southern and Western Regions of Melbourne.

Ian Todd to be licensed as Team Vicar of Holy Saviour in the Hitchin Team Ministry.

All Lent courses

The World: Peace in all troubled places.

Those who face danger working on oil rigs in the sea

The Community and Parish: Those facing redundancy.

Child Protection Training

Everyone returning to schools this week after the half term.

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 Father, whose Son was revealed in majesty before he suffered death upon the cross:

give us grace to perceive his glory, that we may be strengthened to suffer with him and be changed into his likeness, from glory to glory; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING 2 Kings 2.1–12

A reading from the second book of Kings.

- 1 When the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal.
- 2 Elijah said to Elisha, ‘Stay here; for the LORD has sent me as far as Bethel.’ But Elisha said, ‘As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.’ So they went down to Bethel.
- 3 The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, ‘Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?’ And he said, ‘Yes, I know; keep silent.’
- 4 Elijah said to him, ‘Elisha, stay here; for the LORD has sent me to Jericho.’ But he said, ‘As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.’ So they came to Jericho.
- 5 The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, ‘Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?’ And he answered, ‘Yes, I know; be silent.’
- 6 Then Elijah said to him, ‘Stay here; for the LORD has sent me to the Jordan.’ But he said, ‘As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.’ So the two of them went on.
- 7 Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan.
- 8 Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.
- 9 When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, ‘Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you.’ Elisha said, ‘Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit.’
- 10 He responded, ‘You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not.’

- 11 As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven.
- 12 Elisha kept watching and crying out, 'Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!' But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

SECOND READING 2 Corinthians 4.3–6

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

- 3 Even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing.
- 4 In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.
- 5 For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake.
- 6 For it is the God who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

GOSPEL Mark 9.2–9

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

- 2 Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them,
- 3 and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them.
- 4 And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus.
- 5 Then Peter said to Jesus, 'Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.'
- 6 He did not know what to say, for they were terrified.
- 7 Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!'
- 8 Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.
- 9 As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

THIS WEEK

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| Mon | 23 | Feb | Toddlers' Group (Church in use by Potter's House for service) | 10.00 – 11.30am 6.30-9.30pm) |
| Tue | 24 | Feb | Intercessory Prayer Group (Choir Vestry) (Church in use by Potter's House for service) | 3.00pm 6.30-9.30pm) |
| Wed | 25 | Feb | ASH WEDNESDAY Holy Communion and Imposition of Ashes Coffee in Church | 10.00am 10.30am-12 noon |
| Thu | 26 | Feb | Holy Communion with hymns and Imposition of Ashes Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language) Kids' Club Choir Practice | 8.00pm 10.00am 3.30-5.00pm 7.00-8.30pm |
| Sat | 28 | Feb | Wedding | 2.00pm |
| Sun | 1 | Mar | Lent 1 SUNG EUCHARIST: (crèche available). Sunday School in Littlebury Hall United Evening Service at St Michael's | 9.30 am 6.30pm |

NOTICES

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, at the back of church or Martin Matthews.

TALENTS FOR BANGLADESH: If you missed getting a Talents envelope and would like to take part in the Talents Challenge, please take a Talents envelope and explanatory leaflet from the bier at the back of the church. A display about the work that we are supporting is there 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.

TALENTS TABLE: During Lent there will be a sales table on which you can display your priced items of any sort made for the Talents challenge. We hope that church members will look and purchase anything that they wish. You are also encouraged to sell your items to people outside the church.

FINAL COPY DATE FOR THE MARCH SWORD is MIDDAY today Sunday, 22 February. Hard copy or floppy disc to Sylvia or email to 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.