



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

LENT 1
1 March 2009

A warm welcome to everyone to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Eucharist, Fr George celebrates, Sue Pankhurst preaches and Vicki Wardman leads the intercessions. A crèche is available. Sunday School is in Littlebury Hall.

Hymns: 386, 379, 118 and 496

Setting: Oldroyd

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

There is a United Evening Service (with hymns) in the Lady Chapel at 6.30 pm.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: Simon Fan, Bishop of the Missionary Area of Macau, Hong Kong.
Women's World Day of Prayer on Friday.

All churches named in honour of St David.

The World: Peace in all troubled places.

Those who died or were injured in the Turkish air crash in Holland.
Fairtrade Fortnight (23 February to 8 March).

The Community and Parish: Our local police and community support officers.

All involved with caring for disabled people in the parish.

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, Eric Wightman and Maureen Williams.

The Departed:

Collect

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days in the wilderness, and was tempted as we are, yet without sin:
give us grace to discipline ourselves in obedience to your Spirit;
and, as you know our weakness, so may we know your power to save;
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 Genesis 9.8–17

A reading from the book of Genesis.

- ⁸ God said to Noah and to his sons with him,
⁹ ‘As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your
descendants after you,
¹⁰ and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the
domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as
came out of the ark.
¹¹ I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut
off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to
destroy the earth.’
¹² God said, ‘This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me
and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future
generations:
¹³ I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant
between me and the earth.
¹⁴ When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds,
¹⁵ I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every
living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a
flood to destroy all flesh.
¹⁶ When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the
everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all
flesh that is on the earth.’
¹⁷ God said to Noah, ‘This is the sign of the covenant that I have
established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.’

SECOND READING I Peter 3.18–22

A reading from the first letter of Peter.

- ¹⁸ Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit,
- ¹⁹ in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison,
- ²⁰ who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water.
- ²¹ And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you – not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,
- ²² who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

GOSPEL Mark 1.9–15

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

- ⁹ In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan.
- ¹⁰ And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him.
- ¹¹ And a voice came from heaven, ‘You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.’
- ¹² And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness.
- ¹³ He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.
- ¹⁴ Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God,
- ¹⁵ and saying, ‘The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.’

THIS WEEK

Mon	2	Mar	Toddlers' Group	10.00 – 11.30am
Wed	4	Mar	Coffee in Church	10.30am-12 noon
			Bring-&-Share Lunch	12.30 pm
Thu	5	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	6	Mar	Women's World Day of Prayer (Beechen Grove Baptist)	2.00 pm
Sun	8	Mar	Lent 2	
			SUNG EUCHARIST: (Pres & Preacher: Rev David Tuck)	9.30 am
			(crèche available). Sunday School in Littlebury Hall	
			11.15 Service of Praise and Thanksgiving	11.15am
			River Court Service	3.00pm
			Evening Prayer	3.30pm

NOTICES

LENT GROUPS: Arrangements are being made for our usual Churches Together ecumenical Lent Groups. If you would like to join one of the groups, please see information in February Sword, at the back of church or Martin Matthews. The Groups start this week.

ELECTORAL ROLL REVISION: This year's revision will commence on 15th March and finish on Sunday 5th 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 Henry or Sylvia Moring. If you have changed your email address or telephone number could you also inform us please.

BRING-&-SHARE LUNCH: Please sign the list for Wednesday 4th March.

The BRING-&BUY SALE last week raised £45. Many thanks.

LENT LUNCH & BRING-&-BUY: Our annual event in aid of the Church Army when the lunch is served by St Michael's Brownies, will be on Saturday, 28 March. We need volunteers to make soup

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). 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.

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.