



# THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

*St Michael and All Angels*

Watford

LENT 2

8 March 2009

A warm welcome to our services today and a special welcome to the Rev David Tuck who celebrates and preaches at the 9.30 Sung Eucharist. Paul Jenkins leads the intercessions. A crèche is available. Sunday School is in Littlebury Hall.

**Hymns: 6, 582, 586 (omit \* vss) and 470**

**Setting: Oldroyd**

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.

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

### **The Church:**

Barry Clarke, Bishop of Montreal, Canada

Frogmore: David Heath-Whyte; Nigel Ward

The work of the YMCA and those involved with the Littlebury Children's Centre..

### **The World:**

Peace in all troubled places.

Those suffering after the terrorist attack on the Sri Lankan cricket team in Lahore.

The 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the modern commonwealth.

### **The Community and Parish:**

Royal Anglian Regiment Freedom March in Watford.

Residents and staff of the Chase Care Home and River Court.

Those who work at The Peace Hospice.

### **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:**

Mrs Joyce Marchant, Clyston Way.

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**Collect**

Almighty God, you show to those who are in error the light of your truth, that they may return to the way of righteousness:  
grant to all those who are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's religion, that they may reject those things that are contrary to their profession, and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same;  
through our Lord Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**FIRST READING Genesis 17.1–7, 15–16**

A reading from the book of Genesis.

<sup>1</sup> When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, 'I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless.

<sup>2</sup> And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous.'

<sup>3</sup> Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him,

<sup>4</sup> 'As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations.

<sup>5</sup> No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations.

<sup>6</sup> I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you.

<sup>7</sup> I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.'

<sup>15</sup> God said to Abraham, 'As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name.

<sup>16</sup> I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.'

**SECOND READING Romans 4.13–25**

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

<sup>13</sup> The promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith.

<sup>14</sup> If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void.

<sup>15</sup> For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

<sup>16</sup> For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us,

<sup>17</sup> as it is written, 'I have made you the father of many nations') – Abraham believed in the presence of the God who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

<sup>18</sup> Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become 'the father of many nations,' according to what was said, 'So numerous shall your descendants be.'

<sup>19</sup> He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb.

<sup>20</sup> No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God,

<sup>21</sup> being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised.

<sup>22</sup> Therefore his faith 'was reckoned to him as righteousness.'

<sup>23</sup> Now the words, 'it was reckoned to him,' were written not for his sake alone,

<sup>24</sup> but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead,

<sup>25</sup> who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

## **GOSPEL Mark 8.31–38**

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

<sup>31</sup> Jesus began to teach his disciples that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.

<sup>32</sup> He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.

<sup>33</sup> But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, 'Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.'

<sup>34</sup> He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.

<sup>35</sup> For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it.

<sup>36</sup> For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life?

<sup>37</sup> Indeed, what can they give in return for their life?

<sup>38</sup> Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.'

## THIS WEEK

Mon	9	Mar	Toddlers' Group	10.00 – 11.30am
			Service at Chase Care Home	3.00pm
Wed	11	Mar	Coffee in Church	10.30am-12 noon
			Service at Home Manor	3.00pm
Thu	12	Mar	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	Mar	Parish Walk	Leave church at 10.00 am
Sun	15	Mar	<b>Lent 3</b>	
			<b>SUNG EUCHARIST:</b>	9.30 am
			(crèche available). Sunday School in Littlebury Hall	
			Evening Prayer	3.30pm

## NOTICES

**ELECTORAL ROLL REVISION:** This year's revision will commence on 15<sup>th</sup> March and finish on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> 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.

**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.

**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 to sell items on the Talents Table. 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. Last week the table was a great success.

**VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED** a) to make soup for the Lent Lunch on 28 March and/or to help man the kitchen (see Sylvia).

b) to make up the Mothering Sunday posies on Saturday, 21 March (see Fay);

c) to make a simnel cake(s) to serve after the 9.30 service on 22 March (see Sylvia)

d) to take part in the Vigil during the night of Maundy Thursday until the morning of Good Friday. Please sign the list on the Signings table.

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:** Sunday, 22 March at 6.30 pm there will be a meditation arranged by the Pause Group;

Sunday, 29 March at 6.30 pm the Choir will be presenting a Passiontide Sequence of words and music.

**LENT GROUPS:** Arrangements have been made for our usual Churches Together Ecumenical Lent Groups. If you would like to join one of the groups, please see Martin Matthews.