



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

LENT 3
15 March 2009

A warm welcome to everyone to our services today.

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

Hymns: 368, 105, 324 and 533

Setting: Oldroyd

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.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: Simon Makundi, Bishop of Mount Kilimanjaro, Tanzania.
Ecumenical Workplace Chaplains in the Deanery of Aldenham.
All church treasurers.

The World: Peace in all troubled places.
All affected by the terrorist attacks in Northern Ireland and the shootings in Germany and the USA.
All who care for the terminally ill.

The Community and Parish: Our neighbours of different faiths.
Our councillors who serve on Watford Borough Council
All people who work for the security of our town.

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: Judith Wightman (Eric's sister-in-law).

Collect

Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; 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 Exodus 20.1–17

A reading from the book of Exodus.

¹ Then God spoke all these words:

² I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery;

³ you shall have no other gods before me.

⁴ You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.

⁵ You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me,

⁶ but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

⁷ You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

⁸ Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy.

⁹ Six days you shall labour and do all your work.

¹⁰ But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work – you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns.

¹¹ For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

¹² Honour your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

¹³ You shall not murder.

¹⁴ You shall not commit adultery.

¹⁵ You shall not steal.

¹⁶ You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.

¹⁷ You shall not covet your neighbour's house; you shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbour.

SECOND READING I Corinthians 1.18–25

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

- ¹⁸ The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.
- ¹⁹ For it is written, 'I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.'
- ²⁰ Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?
- ²¹ For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe.
- ²² For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom,
- ²³ but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling-block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles,
- ²⁴ but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.
- ²⁵ For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

GOSPEL John 2.13–22

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

- ¹³ The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.
- ¹⁴ In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money-changers seated at their tables.
- ¹⁵ Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables.
- ¹⁶ He told those who were selling the doves, 'Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a market-place!'
- ¹⁷ His disciples remembered that it was written, 'Zeal for your house will consume me.'
- ¹⁸ The Jews then said to him, 'What sign can you show us for doing this?'
- ¹⁹ Jesus answered them, 'Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.'
- ²⁰ They then said, 'This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?'
- ²¹ But he was speaking of the temple of his body.
- ²² After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

THIS WEEK

Mon	16	Mar	Publicity Committee	9.30am
			Toddlers' Group	10.00 – 11.30am
Wed	18	Mar	Coffee in Church	10.30am-12 noon
			PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL	7.55pm
Thu	19	Mar	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
			Kids' Club	3.30-5.00pm
			Choir Practice	7.00-8.30pm
Sun	22	Mar	<u>MOTHERING SUNDAY</u>	
			SUNG EUCHARIST (with distribution of posies): (crèche available)	9.30 am
			Lent Meditation arranged by Pause Group	6.30pm

NOTICES

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.

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: Talents envelopes and information about the cause we are supporting are on the bier. Items for sale can be put on the Talents Table.

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.

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED a) to make soup for the Lunt 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.

On SATURDAY, 28 MARCH 2009, at 8.30 pm people, businesses and iconic buildings around the world will switch off their lights for one hour – WWF's Earth Hour. For more information see www.wwf.org.uk/earthhour and Valerie O'Riordan. They want a billion people around the world to sign up to show they care about people wildlife and the planet.

LET'S TALK MISSION, LET'S TALK YOUTH: John Kiddle and Dave Green (Diocesan Youth Officer) are visiting the Watford Deanery on Wednesday, 25 March. They will be in the area all day at different venues. If you would like to meet them and have a conversation look at their programme for the day which is on a noticeboard at the back of the church.