



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE LENT

14 February 2010

A warm welcome to everyone to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Eucharist, Fr George celebrates, Martin Heath preaches and Phil Gough leads the intercessions. A crèche is available and there is Sunday School.

Hymns: 523, 248, 329 (i) and 299

Setting: Wilson

Tea and coffee will be served in church after the 9.30 service and this is followed at 11.15 with our 11.15 service of Thanksgiving and Praise – please stay on.

Youth Group Lunch at 12.30pm.

The monthly service at River Court is at 3.00 pm.

There is Evening Prayer in the Lady Chapel at 6.30pm.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: Bishop Christopher of Hertford on his new appointment

All those preparing for marriage

The Anglican Church of the Central American Region

The World: Our Armed Forces Personnel in Afghanistan

Racial Harmony in our Communities

People who are unemployed

The Community and Parish: Our keeping of Lent

Our new "Kids Saturday" venture

Our Borough and County Councillors

The Ill and the Housebound: Especially Ray Angles, Gunter Bouché, Christopher

Browne, Mel Browne, John Brown, Marjorie Carlisle, Peter Coley,

Bill Craddock-Jones, Marion Craddock-Jones, Jean Crouch, June

Dickinson, Kate Dickinson, Jocelyn Harewood, Neil Hart, Gladys

Holloway, Jenny Houghton, Lionel Jones, Mary Kearns, Kate

Kirwan, Vera Levinson, Jacqui Lyons, Loretta Lynch, Maggie

Maguire, Stella Nicholas, Dorcas Ochola, Gaynor Osbourne, Myrtle

Powell, Bryony Purse, Ann Reed, Elaine Robinson, Maureen Swann,

June Tatnall, Anne Wightman and Eric Wightman.

The Departed: Jack Williams.(86) Chase Care Home)

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 Exodus 34.29–35

A reading from the book of Exodus.

- ²⁹ Moses came down from Mount Sinai. As he came down from the mountain with the two tablets of the covenant in his hand, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God.
- ³⁰ When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, the skin of his face was shining, and they were afraid to come near him.
- ³¹ But Moses called to them; and Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation returned to him, and Moses spoke with them.
- ³² Afterwards all the Israelites came near, and he gave them in commandment all that the LORD had spoken with him on Mount Sinai.
- ³³ When Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil on his face;
- ³⁴ but whenever Moses went in before the LORD to speak with him, he would take the veil off, until he came out; and when he came out, and told the Israelites what he had been commanded,
- ³⁵ the Israelites would see the face of Moses, that the skin of his face was shining; and Moses would put the veil on his face again, until he went in to speak with him.

SECOND READING 2 Corinthians 3.12 – 4.2

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

- ¹² Since we have such a hope, we act with great boldness,
- ¹³ not like Moses, who put a veil over his face to keep the people of Israel from gazing at the end of the glory that was being set aside.
- ¹⁴ But their minds were hardened. Indeed, to this very day, when they hear the reading of the old covenant, that same veil is still there, since only in Christ is it set aside.
- ¹⁵ Indeed, to this very day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their minds;

- 16 but when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed.
- 17 Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.
- 18 And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit.
- 1 Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart.
- 2 We have renounced the shameful things that one hides; we refuse to practise cunning or to falsify God's word; but by the open statement of the truth we commend ourselves to the conscience of everyone in the sight of God.

GOSPEL Luke 9.28–36

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

- 28 Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray.
- 29 And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white.
- 30 Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him.
- 31 They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem.
- 32 Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him.
- 33 Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, 'Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.' Peter did not know what he said.
- 34 While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud.
- 35 Then from the cloud came a voice that said, 'This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!'
- 36 When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And the disciples kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.

***CHALLENGE:** The first of the sheets for the Bishop's Challenge for Lent is available at the back of Church*

THIS WEEK

| | | | | |
|------|----|-----|---|-----------------|
| Mon | 15 | Feb | Toddlers' Group | 10.00 – 11.30am |
| | | | Worship Committee (Choir Vestry) | 8.00pm |
| Tue | 16 | Feb | Intercessory Prayer Group (Choir Vestry) | 2.30pm |
| | | | Service at The Chase Care Home | 3.00pm |
| Wed | 17 | Feb | ASH WEDNESDAY | |
| | | | Holy Communion with Imposition of Ashes | 10.00am |
| | | | Coffee in Church | 10.30am-12 noon |
| | | | Sung Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes | 8.00pm |
| Thur | 18 | Feb | Holy Communion (Traditional Language) | 10.00 am |
| | | | <i>(Please note that the Mothers' Union AGM has been postponed until next Thursday 25th)</i> | |
| | | | Funeral in Church | 10.45am |
| | | | Choir Practice | 7.00 - 8.30pm |
| Sun | 21 | Feb | <u>FIRST SUNDAY of LENT</u> | |
| | | | Holy Communion (Pres: Fr George) | 8.00am |
| | | | SUNG EUCHARIST: with crèche and Sunday School | 9.30am |
| | | | (President and Preacher: Fr Geoff) | |
| | | | SIX O'CLOCK SERIES: STATIONS OF THE CROSS | 6.00pm |

NOTICES

OUR CONGRATULATIONS to Bishop Christopher of Hertford on his appointment as Bishop of Portsmouth and thanks for his many years of support to this Church

THE SIX O'CLOCK SERIES: The next Service in the series is at 6 pm next Sunday, 21 February, when Fr Geoff will be leading Stations of the Cross. Please take the handbills to give to your friends and neighbours. Refreshments after the service.

ST MICHAEL'S LENT GROUPS: There will be two Lent Groups, following the Lent Course written by the Bishops of St Albans, Hertford and Bedford, "Words of Challenge, Words of Life". An introduction to the course is available at the back of Church. They will be on Tuesday Evenings, 8.00pm at 134 Mildred Avenue, and Tuesday Afternoons, 3.00pm, at the Vicarage. Signing sheet at back of Church.

CHURCHES TOGETHER LENT GROUPS: Arrangements are being made for our usual ecumenical Lent Groups starting w/c 21 February. If you would like to join one of the groups, please see information at the back of church and sign up indicating days and times you could manage.

LENT LUNCH: This will be on Saturday, 27 February, at the back of the Church. There will be a Bring-&-Buy stall from 11.30 am and the Brownies will be serving a soup and bread and cheese lunch from 12 noon – 1.30 pm. All the proceeds will be for the Church Army. Please make a note of the date. Volunteers to make soup will be most welcome. Please see Sylvia.

KIDS' SATURDAY: 27 February from 2-4 pm. A workshop including craft work, worship and refreshments for children of primary school age. Please advertise it.