



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

5th Sunday before Lent
6 February 2011

A warm welcome to everyone to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Eucharist, Fr Geoff celebrates and preaches and Valerie Alvarez leads the intercessions. A crèche is available and there is Sunday School.

Hymns: 606, 391, 512 and 125

Setting: Wilson

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

There is Evening Prayer at 6.00pm.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: Mouneer Anis, Bishop in Egypt with North Africa and the Horn of Africa
Andrew Proud, Bill Musk, Suffragan and Assistant Bishops in Egypt
Coptic Christians in Egypt.

The World: The people and country of Egypt
The Queen on the anniversary of her Accession
Sailors and Seafarers.

The Community and Parish: Residents and staff of River Court, Home Manor and St Anthony's
Our Church's work in Mission
Churches Together in Central, South and West Watford.

The Ill and the Housebound: Especially Christopher Bilson, Mary Calvert, Peter Coley, Bill and Marion Craddock-Jones, Jean Crouch, Darrell Dunning, David and Janet Freeman, Jocelyn Harewood, Susetta Hartropp, Peter Hatswell, Ben Heath, Gladys Holloway, Leena Hosie, Jenny Houghton, Mary Kearns, Dorothy Kiddle, Vera Levinson, Loretta Lynch, Jacqui Lyons, Maggie Maguire, Dorcas Ochola, Gaynor Osbourne, Celia Pain, Myrtle Powell, Bryony Purse, June Tatnall, Eric and Anne Wightman.

The Departed:

Collect

Almighty God, by whose grace alone we are accepted and called to your service: strengthen us by your Holy Spirit and make us worthy of our calling; 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 Isaiah 58.1–9a

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Thus says the LORD:

- ¹ Shout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins.
- ² Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practised righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgements, they delight to draw near to God.
- ³ ‘Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?’ Look, you serve your own interest on your fast-day, and oppress all your workers.
- ⁴ Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high.
- ⁵ Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the LORD?
- ⁶ Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?
- ⁷ Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin?
- ⁸ Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the LORD shall be your rearguard.
- ⁹ Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

SECOND READING I Corinthians 2.1–12

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

- ¹ When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom.
- ² For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified.
- ³ And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling.

4 My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with
5 a demonstration of the Spirit and of power,
6 so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.
7 Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age
8 or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to perish.
9 But we speak God's wisdom, secret and hidden, which God decreed before the
10 ages for our glory.
11 None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have
12 crucified the Lord of glory.
13 But, as it is written, 'What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart
14 conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him' –
15 these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches
16 everything, even the depths of God.
17 For what human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is
18 within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God.
19 Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God,
20 so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God.

GOSPEL Matthew 5.13–20

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

Jesus went up the mountain and was joined by his disciples. Then he began to teach them:

13 'You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be
14 restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under
15 foot.
16 You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden.
17 No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand,
18 and it gives light to all in the house.
19 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good
20 works and give glory to your Father in heaven.
21 Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not
22 to abolish but to fulfil.
23 For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke
24 of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished.
25 Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches
26 others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever
27 does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.
28 For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees,
29 you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.'

THIS WEEK

Mon	7	Feb	Toddlers Group	10.00 – 11.30am
			Service at River Court	3.00pm
Tue	8	Feb	Mission Committee (Clergy Vestry)	11.00am
			Social Committee (Clergy Vestry)	8.00pm
Wed	9	Feb	Coffee in Church	10.30am-12 noon
			Service at Home Manor	3.00pm
Thur	10	Feb	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
			St Anthony's during morning	
			Choir Practice	7.00 – 8.30pm
Sun	13	Feb	<u>FOURTH SUNDAY before LENT</u>	
			Holy Communion (Pres: Fr George)	
			SUNG EUCHARIST: with crèche and Sunday School	9.30am
			(President and Preacher: Fr George)	
			11.15 Service of Thanksgiving & Praise	11.15am
			Youth Group Lunch (in Church)	12.30pm
			Evening Prayer	6.00pm

NOTICES

SWORD: The February edition is available to take and distribute. **SWORD SUBSCRIPTIONS** for 2011 are now due. Valerie Alvarez has kindly agreed to collect subscriptions for the coming year. The cost of **Sword** is 60p per month. If you pay for the year in advance an annual subscription for 12 issues will be £6.00, thus giving you 12 issues for the price of 10! If you don't subscribe at present and would like to take out a new annual subscription, please see Dennis Beach.

MAINTENANCE WORK ON THE CHURCH: One man and a small scaffolding tower are making very good progress working on the lower reaches of the masonry of St Michael's. However it is likely that more scaffolding and workmen will be needed as the work progresses. This is one of three pieces of essential maintenance that the PCC has to fund; in addition there are two other projects that the PCC would like to put in hand. The potential costs are considerable – if you are able to donate anything or feel inclined to arrange a fund-raising occasion (in your own home, choir vestry or church) please see the Vicar or Paul or Sylvia.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

20 February – Choral Evensong at 6 pm followed by refreshments

27 February – At the 9.30 Sung Eucharist the preacher will be Mr Richard Kendall from the Watford and Three Rivers Refugee Project

8 March – Shrove Tuesday Social; tickets available soon

9 March – Ash Wednesday

19 March – Lent Lunch served by the Brownies with Bring-&- Buy

St Michael and All Angels PCC is a Registered Charity No 1132010