



# THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

*St Michael and All Angels*

Watford

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday before Lent  
13 February 2011

A warm welcome to everyone to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Eucharist, Fr George celebrates and preaches. A crèche is available and there is Sunday School.

**Hymns: 492, 428, 424 and 581 (ii)**

**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.

There is Evening Prayer at 6.00pm.

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

**The Church:** Henry Orombi, Bishop of Kampala, Uganda  
Zac Niringye, Suffragan Bishop of Kampala  
USPG Mission Companion Bill Godfrey, Bishop of Peru.

**The World:** The Hospice Movement  
The work of charities and the voluntary sector  
Councillors taking decisions on cuts to services.

**The Community and Parish:** People working in local funeral services  
The Peace Hospice  
Couples preparing for marriage.

**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:** Martyn Ginder (52) Watford

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## Collect

O God, you know us to be set in the midst of so many and great dangers, that by reason of the frailty of our nature we cannot always stand upright:  
grant to us such strength and protection as may support us in all dangers and carry us through all temptations;  
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 Deuteronomy 30.15–20

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy.

- <sup>15</sup> See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity.  
<sup>16</sup> If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the LORD your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess.  
<sup>17</sup> But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them,  
<sup>18</sup> I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess.  
<sup>19</sup> I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live,  
<sup>20</sup> loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the LORD swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

## SECOND READING I Corinthians 3.1–9

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

- <sup>1</sup> Brothers and sisters, I could not speak to you as spiritual people, but rather as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ.  
<sup>2</sup> I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for solid food. Even now you are still not ready,  
<sup>3</sup> for you are still of the flesh. For as long as there is jealousy and quarrelling among you, are you not of the flesh, and behaving according to human inclinations?  
<sup>4</sup> For when one says, 'I belong to Paul,' and another, 'I belong to Apollos,' are you not merely human?  
<sup>5</sup> What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you came to believe, as the Lord assigned to each.  
<sup>6</sup> I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth.

- 7 So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth.
- 8 The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose, and each will receive wages according to the labour of each.
- 9 For we are God's servants, working together; you are God's field, God's building.

## **GOSPEL Matthew 5.21–37**

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

On the mountain, Jesus gathered his disciples around him and taught them, saying:  
21 'You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, "You shall not murder"; and "whoever murders shall be liable to judgement."

22 But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgement; and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council; and if you say, "You fool," you will be liable to the hell of fire.

23 So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you,

24 leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift.

25 Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are on the way to court with him, or your accuser may hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison.

26 Truly I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.

27 You have heard that it was said, "You shall not commit adultery."

28 But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

29 If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to be thrown into hell.

30 And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to go into hell.

31 It was also said, "Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce."

32 But I say to you that anyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of unchastity, causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

33 Again, you have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, "You shall not swear falsely, but carry out the vows you have made to the Lord."

34 But I say to you, Do not swear at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King.

36 And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black.

37 Let your word be "Yes, Yes" or "No, No"; anything more than this comes from the evil one.'

## THIS WEEK

Mon	14	Feb	Toddlers Group	10.00 – 11.30am
Tue	15	Feb	Service at the Chase Care Home	2.30pm
			Bible Study (Choir Vestry)	8.00pm
Wed	16	Feb	Coffee in Church	10.30am-12 noon
Thur	17	Feb	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
			attended by Mothers' Union and followed by AGM	
			Choir Practice	7.00 – 8.30pm
Sat	19	Feb	Funeral of Martin Ginder in Church	12 noon
Sun	20	Feb	<b><u>THIRD SUNDAY before LENT</u></b>	
			Holy Communion (Pres: Fr Geoff)	8.00am
			<b>SUNG EUCHARIST:</b> with crèche and Sunday School	<b>9.30am</b>
			(President and Preacher: Fr Geoff)	
			CHORAL EVENSONG (followed by refreshments)	6.00pm

## NOTICES

SWORD: 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 wish to take out a new annual subscription, please see Dennis Beach.

FINAL COPY DATE FOR THE MARCH SWORD is MIDDAY next Sunday, 20 February. Hard copy or floppy disc to Dennis Beach or email to dhbeach@sky.com.

LENT COURSE: we shall be taking part in the Ecumenical course 'Rich Inheritance – Jesus' legacy of love'. Do sign up on the list in Church, indicating which weekday and time you prefer and whether you are able to lead and/or host. Also whether you would like a copy of the course booklet - around £6.

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:

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 – start the evening with 2 pancakes (savoury and/or sweet) then proceed to 4 rounds of a quiz devised by the Bilsons. Tickets £5 available from members of the Social Committee.

9 March – Ash Wednesday – services at 10 am and 7.30 pm.