



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

3rd Sunday before Lent
20 February 2011

A warm welcome to everyone to our services today.

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

Hymns: 207, 406, 585 and 612

Setting: Wilson

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

CHORAL EVENSONG (followed by refreshments) at 6.00pm.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: Barry Morgan and David Wilbourne, Bishops of Llandaff
The parish of Sarratt and Chipperfield
The Anglican Church in Ethiopia.

The World: Progress towards peace and justice for people living in the Arab countries
All people facing loss of council support and services
Reconstruction in Haiti.

The Community and Parish: The family, employees and friends of Martyn
Ginder
The work of specialist hospitals
The work of the Multicultural Community Centre.

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, Lesley Kinch, 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: Glenys May Venneear.

Collect

Almighty God, who alone can bring order to the unruly wills and passions of sinful humanity:

give your people grace so to love what you command and to desire what you promise, that, among the many changes of this world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found;

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 Leviticus 19.1–2, 9–18

A reading from the book of Leviticus.

- ¹ The LORD spoke to Moses, saying:
- ² Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them: You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy.
- ⁹ When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap to the very edges of your field, or gather the gleanings of your harvest.
- ¹⁰ You shall not strip your vineyard bare, or gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the poor and the alien: I am the LORD your God.
- ¹¹ You shall not steal; you shall not deal falsely; and you shall not lie to one another.
- ¹² And you shall not swear falsely by my name, profaning the name of your God: I am the LORD.
- ¹³ You shall not defraud your neighbour; you shall not steal; and you shall not keep for yourself the wages of a labourer until morning.
- ¹⁴ You shall not revile the deaf or put a stumbling-block before the blind; you shall fear your God: I am the LORD.
- ¹⁵ You shall not render an unjust judgement; you shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great: with justice you shall judge your neighbour.
- ¹⁶ You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not profit by the blood of your neighbour: I am the LORD.
- ¹⁷ You shall not hate in your heart anyone of your kin; you shall reprove your neighbour, or you will incur guilt yourself.
- ¹⁸ You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbour as yourself: I am the LORD.

SECOND READING I Corinthians 3.10–11, 16–23

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

- ¹⁰ According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building on it. Each builder must choose with care how to build on it.
- ¹¹ For no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ.
- ¹⁶ Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?
- ¹⁷ If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy that person. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple.
- ¹⁸ Do not deceive yourselves. If you think that you are wise in this age, you should become fools so that you may become wise.
- ¹⁹ For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, 'He catches the wise in their craftiness,'
- ²⁰ and again, 'The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile.'
- ²¹ So let no one boast about human leaders. For all things are yours,
- ²² whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future – all belong to you,
- ²³ and you belong to Christ, and Christ belongs to God.

GOSPEL Matthew 5.38–48

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

- On the mountain, Jesus continued to teach his disciples.
- ³⁸ 'You have heard that it was said, "An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth."
- ³⁹ But I say to you, Do not resist an evildoer. But if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also;
- ⁴⁰ and if anyone wants to sue you and take your coat, give your cloak as well;
- ⁴¹ and if anyone forces you to go one mile, go also the second mile.
- ⁴² Give to everyone who begs from you, and do not refuse anyone who wants to borrow from you.
- ⁴³ You have heard that it was said, "You shall love your neighbour and hate your enemy."
- ⁴⁴ But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,
- ⁴⁵ so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous.
- ⁴⁶ For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax-collectors do the same?
- ⁴⁷ And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same?
- ⁴⁸ Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.'

THIS WEEK

Mon	21	Feb	<i>Start of Half Term week</i>	
			Toddlers Group	10.00 – 11.30am
Wed	23	Feb	Coffee in Church	10.30am-12 noon
Thur	24	Feb	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
			Choir Practice	7.00 – 8.30pm
Sun	27	Feb	<u>SECOND SUNDAY before LENT</u>	
			Holy Communion (Pres: Fr George)	
			SUNG EUCHARIST: with crèche and Sunday School	9.30am
			(President: Fr Geoff and Preacher: Mr Richard Kendal)	
			Evening Prayer	6.00pm

NOTICES

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.

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

BRING-&-SHARE LUNCH: The next lunch will be on Wednesday, 2 March, at 12.30 pm. Please sign the list on the signings table if you wish to attend.

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.

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.

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 (savory 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 with imposition of ashes at 10 am and 7.30 pm.