



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

Second Sunday before Lent
27 February 2011

A warm welcome to everyone to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Eucharist, Fr Geoff celebrates, Richard Kendall (from the Watford & Three Rivers Refugee Project) preaches and John Adams leads the intercessions. A crèche is available and there is Sunday School.

Hymns: 250, 267, 210 and 470

Setting: Wilson

Tea and coffee will be served in church after the 9.30 service and there will be a Bring-&-Buy Sale – please stay on.

Evening Prayer in the Lady Chapel is at 6.00pm

For your prayers this week:

The Church: John Chew and Rennis Ponniah, Bishops of Singapore.
Anglican Methodist Relationships in our Diocese.
Persecuted Christians in Zimbabwe.

The World: The people of Christchurch, New Zealand after the devastating earthquake.
The people of Libya, and others caught up in the violence and unrest there.
Political and socio-economic stability and progress in Zimbabwe.

The Community and Parish: Residents and staff of Fairhaven care home.
Our Sunday School and Crèche leaders.

Fr George, for his ministry here, his work, and his family.

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: Beatrice Eames.

Collect

Almighty God, you have created the heavens and the earth and made us in your own image:
teach us to discern your hand in all your works and your likeness in all your children;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns supreme over all things, now and for ever.

FIRST READING Genesis 1.1 – 2.3

A reading from the book of Genesis.

¹ In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth,
² the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters.
³ Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light.
⁴ And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness.
⁵ God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.
⁶ And God said, 'Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.'
⁷ So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so.
⁸ God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.
⁹ And God said, 'Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.' And it was so.
¹⁰ God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good.
¹¹ Then God said, 'Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.' And it was so.
¹² The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good.
¹³ And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.
¹⁴ And God said, 'Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.' And it was so.
¹⁶ God made the two great lights – the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night – and the stars.
¹⁷ God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth,

18 to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness.
And God saw that it was good.

19 And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

20 And God said, 'Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds
fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.'

21 So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of
every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind.
And God saw that it was good.

22 God blessed them, saying, 'Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas,
and let birds multiply on the earth.'

23 And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

24 And God said, 'Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and
creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.' And it was so.

25 God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind,
and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it
was good.

26 Then God said, 'Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness;
and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air,
and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every
creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.'

27 So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.

28 God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth
and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the
air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.'

29 God said, 'See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all
the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food.

30 And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that
creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green
plant for food.' And it was so.

31 God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there
was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

1 Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude.

2 And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on
the seventh day from all the work that he had done.

3 So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all
the work that he had done in creation.

SECOND READING Romans 8.18–25

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

¹⁸ I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us.

¹⁹ For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God;
²⁰ for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it,

²¹ in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.

²² We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now;
²³ and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.

²⁴ For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen?

²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

GOSPEL Matthew 6.25–34

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew. Jesus taught his disciples, saying:

²⁵ ‘Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?’

²⁶ Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?

²⁷ And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life?

²⁸ And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin,

²⁹ yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these.

³⁰ But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you – you of little faith?

³¹ Therefore do not worry, saying, “What will we eat?” or “What will we drink?” or “What will we wear?”

³² For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.

³³ But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

³⁴ So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today’s trouble is enough for today.’

THIS WEEK

Mon	28	Feb	Toddlers Group	10.00 – 11.30am
Tue	1	Mar	St DAVID	
			Intercessory Prayer Group (Choir Vestry)	2.30pm
Wed	2	Mar	Coffee in Church	10.30am-12 noon
			Bring-&-Share Lunch	12.30pm
Thur	3	Mar	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
			Fairhaven	morning
			Choir Practice	7.00 – 8.30pm
Fri	4	Mar	Women's World Day of Prayer – N. Watford Methodist Church	2.00
Sat	5	Mar	Parish Walk	leaving church at 10.00 am
Sun	6	Mar	SUNDAY next before LENT	
			Holy Communion (Pres: Fr Geoff)	8.00am
			SUNG EUCHARIST: with crèche and Sunday School	9.30am
			(President: Fr Geoff and Preacher: Martin Heath)	
			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.

BRING-&-SHARE LUNCH is on Wednesday, 2 March and the **PARISH WALK** on Saturday 5 March. Please sign the list on the signings table.

ELECTORAL ROLL REVISION: This year's revision will commence on 13th March and finish on Sunday 3rd 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 Fr Geoff or Henry or Sylvia Moring. If you have changed your email address or telephone number could you also inform us please.

SWORD: SWORD SUBSCRIPTIONS for 2011 are now due. Valerie Alvarez has kindly agreed to collect subscriptions for this year. If you don't subscribe at present and wish to take out a new annual subscription (£6), please see Dennis Beach.

BRING-&-BUY: Last month Norma raised £53 from the Bring-&-Buy sale which goes into church funds and helps to pay the 'household' bills. Sadly the cost of ingredients for cakes has risen so we have decided to increase the cost of small cakes to 18p each. We hope you will understand this need and indeed any increase in the price of home made goods.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

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 – get yours today.

9 March – Ash Wednesday – services with imposition of ashes at 10 am and 7.30 pm.

19 March – Lent Lunch served by the Brownies with a bring-&-buy stall. Proceeds will go towards our missionary giving. 11.30 – 1.30 pm lunch is served from 12 noon.

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