



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

Second Sunday of Lent

20 March 2011

A warm welcome to everyone to our services today.

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

Hymns: 109, 547, 475 and 442 (t278)

Setting: Oldroyd

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

The Baptism of Rhiannon Langton is at 3.00 pm.

”Stations of the Cross” in the Six o’Clock Series is at 6.00pm.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: The caring work of all the Churches in Japan.
The Nippon Sei Ko Kai (Anglican Communion in Japan).
USPG supported work in Tanzania.

The World: The people of Japan, and relief work for homeless and displaced people.
The people of Libya and Bahrain.
The Samaritans.

The Community and Parish: Planning for the holding of Celebration 2011 at the Multicultural Centre and St Michael's.
St Anthony's School and their Quiet Day in Church.
The Littlebury Children's 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 Hartopp, Ben Heath, Gladys Holloway, Leena Hosie, Jenny Houghton, Mary Kearns, Dorothy Kiddle, Lesley Kinch, Vera Levinson, Loretta Lynch, Jacqui Lyons, Maggie Maguire, Stella Nicholas, Dorcas Ochola, Gaynor Osbourne, Helen Perry, Myrtle Powell, Bryony Purse, June Tatnall, Eric and Anne Wightman.

The Departed: Peter Hatswell

Collect

Almighty God, you show to those who are in error the light of your truth, that they may return to the way of righteousness:
grant to all those who are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's religion, that they may reject those things that are contrary to their profession, and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same;
through our Lord Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING Genesis 12.1–4a

A reading from the book of Genesis.

- ¹ The LORD said to Abram, 'Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you.
² I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.
³ I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.'
⁴ So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him.

SECOND READING Romans 4.1–5, 13–17

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

- ¹ What are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh?
² For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God.
³ For what does the scripture say? 'Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.'
⁴ Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due.
⁵ But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.
¹³ For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith.
¹⁴ If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void.
¹⁵ For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.
¹⁶ For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us,
¹⁷ as it is written, 'I have made you the father of many nations') – Abraham believed in the presence of the God who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

GOSPEL John 3.1–17

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

¹ There was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews.

² He came to Jesus by night and said to him, 'Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.'

³ Jesus answered him, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.'

⁴ Nicodemus said to him, 'How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?'

⁵ Jesus answered, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit.

⁶ What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit.

⁷ Do not be astonished that I said to you, "You must be born from above."

⁸ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.'

⁹ Nicodemus said to him, 'How can these things be?'

¹⁰ Jesus answered him, 'Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?'

¹¹ Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony.

¹² If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things?'

¹³ No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man.

¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up,

¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶ For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷ Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.'

THIS WEEK

Mon	21	Mar	Toddlers Group	10.00 – 11.30am
			Worship Committee (Choir Vestry)	7.45pm
Tue	22	Mar	St Anthony's School Quiet Day (in Church)	9.45 – 3.00pm
Wed	23	Mar	Coffee in Church	10.30am-12 noon
Thur	24	Mar	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
			Choir Practice	7.00 – 8.30pm
Fri	25	Mar	<i>Lady Day Service at St Peter's, Bushey Mill Lane</i>	2.00pm
Sat	26	Mar	<i>Clocks go forward one hour tonight</i>	
Sun	27	Mar	LENT 3	
			Holy Communion (Pres: Fr George)	
			SUNG EUCHARIST: with crèche and Sunday School	9.30am
			(President and Preacher: Fr Geoff) followed by a Bring-&-Buy Sale	
			Meditation led by Pause Group	6.00pm

NOTICES

LENT COURSE: Members of St Michael's are taking part in the Ecumenical course 'Rich Inheritance – Jesus' legacy of love'. It is not too late to join a group; if you would like to do so please see Martin Matthews.

AT THE BACK OF CHURCH ARE COLLECTING BOXES which you can take away and put your loose change in during Lent. Proceeds are to the Church Army, which we have traditionally supported during Lent.

ELECTORAL ROLL REVISION: This year's revision commenced on 13th March and finishes 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.

The SHROVE TUESDAY SOCIAL raised £218 for the masonry fund and then pancakes and quiz were enjoyed by all. Many thanks to everyone who helped and who came.

MOTHERING SUNDAY: Are you able to make a simnel cake for 3 April? Please see Sylvia Moring if you would like to.

BRING-&-SHARE LUNCH is on Wednesday, 6 April and the PARISH WALK on Saturday 2 April. Please sign the lists on the signings table.

METAL DETECTOR: The Estates Committee needs the use of one to search for a manhole cover. If you have one that you could lend for a short time, please see Phil Gough or Paul Chandler.

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

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.

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