



# THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

*St Michael and All Angels*

Watford

Third Sunday of Lent

27 March 2011

A warm welcome to everyone to our services today.

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

**Hymns: 467, 524 (i), 486 (t. AMR) and 455**

**Setting: Oldroyd**

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

A Lenten Meditation led by Pause Group is at 6.00pm.

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

**The Church:** Alana Waithaka, Timothy Ranje and Joseph Kagunda, Bishops of Mount Kenya.

Anglican Methodist relationships in our Diocese.

The Anglican Church in Mozambique.

**The World:** The people of Japan and Christchurch, New Zealand following natural disaster.

The people of Libya.

The welfare of miners across the world.

**The Community and Parish:** People preparing for marriage.

All who work with children in our church.

Members of our congregation with learning disabilities.

**The Ill and the Housebound:** Especially Christopher Bilson, Mary Calvert, Peter Coley, Bill and Marion Craddock-Jones, Jean Crouch, Kate Dickinson, Darrell Dunning, David and Janet Freeman, Jocelyn Harewood, Susetta Hartropp, 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:** Michael Frauchiger

Ron Bruce (New Hope Trust & Citizens' Advice Bureau).

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**Collect**

Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified:  
mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace;  
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 Exodus 17.1–7**

A reading from the book of Exodus.

- 1 From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink.
- 2 The people quarrelled with Moses, and said, ‘Give us water to drink.’ Moses said to them, ‘Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?’
- 3 But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, ‘Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?’
- 4 So Moses cried out to the LORD, ‘What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.’
- 5 The LORD said to Moses, ‘Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go.
- 6 I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.’ Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel.
- 7 He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarrelled and tested the LORD, saying, ‘Is the LORD among us or not?’

**SECOND READING Romans 5.1–11**

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

- 1 Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,
- 2 through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God.
- 3 And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance,
- 4 and endurance produces character, and character produces hope,
- 5 and hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.
- 6 For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.
- 7 Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person – though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die.

8 But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.  
9 Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be  
saved through him from the wrath of God.  
10 For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his  
Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life.  
11 But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through  
whom we have now received reconciliation.

## **GOSPEL John 4.5–26**

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

5 Jesus came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had  
given to his son Joseph.  
6 Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was  
about noon.  
7 A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink.'  
8 (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.)  
9 The Samaritan woman said to him, 'How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a  
woman of Samaria?' (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.)  
10 Jesus answered her, 'If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you,  
"Give me a drink," you would have asked him, and he would have given you living  
water.'  
11 The woman said to him, 'Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you  
get that living water?  
12 Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and  
his flocks drank from it?'  
13 Jesus said to her, 'Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again,  
14 but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water  
that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.'  
15 The woman said to him, 'Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have  
to keep coming here to draw water.'  
16 Jesus said to her, 'Go, call your husband, and come back.'  
17 The woman answered him, 'I have no husband.' Jesus said to her, 'You are right in  
saying, "I have no husband";  
18 for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What  
you have said is true!  
19 The woman said to him, 'Sir, I see that you are a prophet.  
20 Our ancestors worshipped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people  
must worship is in Jerusalem.'  
21 Jesus said to her, 'Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the  
Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem.  
22 You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from  
the Jews.  
23 But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshippers will worship the  
Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him.  
24 God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.'  
25 The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah is coming' (who is called Christ). 'When  
he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.'  
26 Jesus said to her, 'I am he, the one who is speaking to you.'

## THIS WEEK

Mon	28	Mar	Toddlers Group	10.00 – 11.30am
Wed	30	Mar	Coffee in Church	10.30am-12 noon
Thur	31	Mar	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
			Choir Practice	7.00 – 8.30pm
Sat	2	Apr	Parish Walk	leave church at 10.00am
Sun	3	Apr	<b><u>MOTHERING SUNDAY</u></b>	
			Holy Communion (Pres: Fr George)	
			<b>MOTHERING SUNDAY SERVICE</b> with distribution of flowers	
			and followed by simnel cake (President: Fr Geoff)	<b>9.30am</b>
			Baptism	1.00pm
			Evening Prayer	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.

EASTER CARDS: We have 5000 Easter Cards to distribute round the parish. There is a list of roads for people to sign and the cards are also available. They need to be delivered before 17 April. Please help with the distribution.

ELECTORAL ROLL REVISION: This year's revision commenced on 13<sup>th</sup> March and finishes on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

COFFEE MORNING AND SALE: This is on Saturday, 9 April, from 10.30 – 12 noon. Please make a note in your diary and use the posters and handbills to tell your friends and neighbours.

LENT LUNCH: Many thanks to everyone including the Brownies who supported this. £188 was raised for the Church Army.

MOTHERING SUNDAY: Posters and handbills are available to distribute. 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. Please sign the list on the signings table if you intend to go.

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.