



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

**THIRD SUNDAY BEFORE
LENT
5 February 2012**

A warm welcome to everyone to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Eucharist, Fr Geoff celebrates, Violet Allen-Smith preaches and Phil Gough leads the intercessions.

Hymns: 612, 346 (ii), 442 and 437 (t.362)

Setting: Wilson

Henry and Sylvia invite everyone to join them for refreshments after the service to celebrate their Golden Wedding.

Evening Prayer is at 6.00pm.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: The Anglican Church of Canada - The Most Revd Frederick Hiltz, Primate.

The parish of Bedford, St Peter de Merton with St Cuthbert, in our Diocese.

The work of USPG with the Church of Bangladesh.

The World: Peace, justice and stability for the people of Egypt and Syria.

The work of Christian Aid partners in Sierra Leone.

All who work in manufacturing industry.

The Community and Parish: Staff and Residents at River Court, Home Manor and St Anthony's.

New Brownies making their promises.

Local businesses and industries in Watford..

The Ill and the Housebound: Especially Bruce Alexander, Billie Bainbridge (age 4), Christopher Bilson, Peter Coley, Bill and Marion Craddock-Jones, Jean Crouch, Darrell Dunning, David and Janet Freeman, Ben Heath, Jessie Hobby, Leena Hosie, Jenny Houghton, Harvey Jaquest, Mary Kearns, Lesley Kinch, Loretta Lynch, Maggie Maguire, Stella Nicholas, Faith Nkugwa, Dorcas Ochola, Helen Perry, Myrtle Powell, Christina and David Simon, Rosie Waite, Eric and Anne Wightman.

The Departed:

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 Isaiah 40.21–31

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

- ²¹ Have you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?
- ²² It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to live in;
- ²³ who brings princes to naught, and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.
- ²⁴ Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, when he blows upon them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble.
- ²⁵ To whom then will you compare me, or who is my equal? says the Holy One.
- ²⁶ Lift up your eyes on high and see: Who created these? He who brings out their host and numbers them, calling them all by name; because he is great in strength, mighty in power, not one is missing.
- ²⁷ Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, 'My way is hidden from the LORD, and my right is disregarded by my God'?
- ²⁸ Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable.
- ²⁹ He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless.
- ³⁰ Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted;
- ³¹ but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

SECOND READING I Corinthians 9.16–23

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

- ¹⁶ If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel!
- ¹⁷ For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission.
- ¹⁸ What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel.
- ¹⁹ For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them.
- ²⁰ To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law.
- ²¹ To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law) so that I might win those outside the law.
- ²² To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some.
- ²³ I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

GOSPEL Mark I.29–39

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

- ²⁹ As soon as Jesus and his disciples left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John.
- ³⁰ Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once.
- ³¹ He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.
- ³² That evening, at sundown, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons.
- ³³ And the whole city was gathered around the door.
- ³⁴ And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.
- ³⁵ In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed.
- ³⁶ And Simon and his companions hunted for him.
- ³⁷ When they found him, they said to him, 'Everyone is searching for you.'
- ³⁸ He answered, 'Let us go on to the neighbouring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do.'
- ³⁹ And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

THIS WEEK

Mon	6	Feb	Toddlers Group River Court Service	10.00 – 11.30am 3.00pm
Wed	8	Feb	Coffee in Church Service at Home Manor	10.30am-12 noon 3.00pm
Thur	9	Feb	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language) St Anthony's Choir Practice	10.00am morning 7.00 – 8.30pm
Sun	12	Feb	<u>SECOND SUNDAY before LENT</u> Holy Communion (Pres: Fr George) SUNG EUCHARIST (President and preacher: Fr George) Service of Praise and Thanksgiving Evening Prayer	8.00am 9.30am 11.15am 6.00 pm

NOTICES

LENT COURSE 2012: Churches Together are planning 5 group meetings, following the York Course and entitled 'Handing on the Torch'. They will start in the week commencing Sunday 26 February. It is hoped that each group will contain members from different churches. Forms are available at the back of church to indicate the days when you can attend. **Please return forms today.**

SWORD: The February edition is available to take and distribute. **SWORD SUBSCRIPTIONS** for 2012 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 would like to take out a new annual subscription, please see Dennis Beach.

LENTEN OBSERVANCE: During Lent Fr Geoff plans to have a devotional service on Wednesday evenings which will start at 7.30 pm – please make a note in your diary. NB Ash Wednesday is on 22 February (Celebrations at 10 am and 7.30 pm).

OFFERTORY CARDS: People give their offerings for the work of St Michael's in different ways. If you put an envelope or cash offering in the plate then you will have something to do when the offertory plate is passed round. If you give your offering by standing order from the bank then you will have nothing to put in the offertory plate nor does your offering go to the altar for a blessing. This doesn't seem fair so in common with a lot of churches we have produced some cards for people who give by standing order. Take one as you arrive at church and then place it in the plate at offertory time and it will go to the altar for a blessing. Please don't take cards home with you, they will always be available as you arrive at church for any of the services.

DIAMOND JUBILEE LUNCH: Have you seen the suggestion on page 8 of the February Sword? Please give your opinion to a member of the Social Committee.