



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

**SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE
LENT
12 February 2012**

A warm welcome to everyone to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Eucharist, Fr George celebrates and preaches and Graham Mordue leads the intercessions.

Hymns: 372, 474, 501 and 267

Setting: Wilson

Tea and coffee will be served in church after the 9.30 service and this is followed at 11.15 am with our monthly service of Thanksgiving and Praise – please stay on.

Evening Prayer is at 6.00pm.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: The Church of the Province of Central Africa The Most Revd Albert Chama Archbishop of Central Africa & Bishop of Northern Zambia.
The Parish of Holy Trinity, Biscot, in our Diocese.
The Anglican Church in Korea.

The World: Couples preparing for marriage.
Third world producers of cocoa and flowers.
The people of Syria..

The Community and Parish: Residents and staff of the Chase Care Centre.
Pupils and staff in our local schools
For elderly people to keep warm.

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: Andrew Hinchey (brother of Maggie Benoy).

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 Proverbs 8.1, 22–31

A reading from the book of Proverbs.

¹ Does not wisdom call, and does not understanding raise her voice?
²² The LORD created me at the beginning of his work, the first of his acts of long ago.
²³ Ages ago I was set up, at the first, before the beginning of the earth.
²⁴ When there were no depths I was brought forth, when there were no springs abounding with water.
²⁵ Before the mountains had been shaped, before the hills, I was brought forth –
²⁶ when he had not yet made earth and fields, or the world's first bits of soil.
²⁷ When he established the heavens, I was there, when he drew a circle on the face of the deep,
²⁸ when he made firm the skies above, when he established the fountains of the deep,
²⁹ when he assigned to the sea its limit, so that the waters might not transgress his command, when he marked out the foundations of the earth,
³⁰ then I was beside him, like a master worker; and I was daily his delight, rejoicing before him always,
³¹ rejoicing in his inhabited world and delighting in the human race.

SECOND READING Colossians 1.15–20

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Colossians.

- 15 Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation;
16 for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers – all things have been created through him and for him.
17 He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together.
18 He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything.
19 For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,
20 and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

GOSPEL John 1.1–14

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

- 1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
2 He was in the beginning with God.
3 All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life,
4 and the life was the light of all people.
5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.
6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.
7 He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him.
8 He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.
9 The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.
10 He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him.
11 He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him.
12 But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God,
13 who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.
14 And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

THIS WEEK

Mon	13	Feb	<i>Start of Half Term week</i>	
			Toddlers Group	10.00 – 11.30am
Wed	15	Feb	Coffee in Church	10.30am-12 noon
			Bible Study (Choir Vestry)	8.00pm
Thur	16	Feb	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
			attended by Mothers' Union and followed by MU AGM in Choir Vestry	
			Choir Practice	7.00 – 8.30pm
Sun	19	Feb	<u>SUNDAY next before LENT</u>	
			Holy Communion (Pres: Fr Geoff)	8.00am
			SUNG EUCHARIST (President and preacher: Fr Geoff)	9.30am
			Six O'Clock Series Preparation for Lent finishing with Compline	
				6.00 pm

NOTICES

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!

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 with Imposition of Ashes at 10 am and 7.30 pm). **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. Please see Martin Heath if you wish to join a group.

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; thus your giving will receive a blessing.

BRING-&-BUY in January raised £54.50 for church general funds. Many thanks.

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.

FINAL COPY DATE FOR MARCH SWORD: Midday on Sunday 19th February. Please submit copy before this date if possible - hard copy, floppy disc or e-mail to: dhbeach@sky.com