



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE LENT

19 February 2012

A warm welcome to everyone to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Eucharist, Fr Geoff celebrates and preaches and Pam Hart leads the intercessions.

Hymns: 386, 248, 491 (i) and 383

Setting: Wilson

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

At 6pm there is our monthly Six O’Clock Series which will be “Preparation for Lent” and finishing with Compline.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: Iglesia Anglicana de la Region Central de America The Most Revd Armando Guerra Soria Primate of IARCA & Bishop of Guatemala.
The Parish of Bourne End in our Diocese.

USPG work supporting peace work of church partners throughout the world.

The World: Unemployed young people.

The people of Syria living through civil strife.

The people of Greece facing austerity measures.

The Community and Parish: Our keeping of Lent.

Residents and staff at the Chase Care Centre.

All those who work to raise funds for our Church.

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: Barbara Allen.

Agnes Georgina Adams (John Adams’ mother).

Collect

Almighty Father, whose Son was revealed in majesty before he suffered death upon the cross:

give us grace to perceive his glory, that we may be strengthened to suffer with him and be changed into his likeness, from glory to glory; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING 2 Kings 2.1–12

A reading from the second book of Kings.

- 1 When the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal.
- 2 Elijah said to Elisha, 'Stay here; for the LORD has sent me as far as Bethel.' But Elisha said, 'As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.' So they went down to Bethel.
- 3 The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, 'Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?' And he said, 'Yes, I know; keep silent.'
- 4 Elijah said to him, 'Elisha, stay here; for the LORD has sent me to Jericho.' But he said, 'As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.' So they came to Jericho.
- 5 The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, 'Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?' And he answered, 'Yes, I know; be silent.'
- 6 Then Elijah said to him, 'Stay here; for the LORD has sent me to the Jordan.' But he said, 'As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.' So the two of them went on.
- 7 Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan.
- 8 Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.
- 9 When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, 'Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you.' Elisha said, 'Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit.'
- 10 He responded, 'You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not.'

- 11 As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven.
- 12 Elisha kept watching and crying out, 'Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!' But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

SECOND READING 2 Corinthians 4.3–6

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

- 3 Even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing.
- 4 In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.
- 5 For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake.
- 6 For it is the God who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

GOSPEL Mark 9.2–9

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

- 2 Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them.
- 4 And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus.
- 5 Then Peter said to Jesus, 'Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.'
- 6 He did not know what to say, for they were terrified.
- 7 Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!'
- 8 Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.
- 9 As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

THIS WEEK

Mon	20	Feb	Toddlers Group	10.00 – 11.30am
Tue	21	Feb	Chase Care Home	2.30pm
Wed	22	Feb	<i>Ash Wednesday</i>	
			Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes	10.00am
			Coffee in Church	10.30am-12 noon
			Sung Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes	8.00pm
Thur	23	Feb	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
			Choir Practice	7.00 – 8.30pm
Sat	25	Feb	Coffee morning and Sale in aid of church funds	10.30am-12noon
Sun	26	Feb	<u>FIRST SUNDAY of LENT</u>	
			Holy Communion (Pres: Fr George)	
			SUNG EUCHARIST (President and preacher: Fr Geoff)	9.30am
			followed by Bring-&-Buy Sale	
			Evening Prayer	6.00 pm

NOTICES

COFFEE MORNING AND SALE in aid of church funds. Saturday, 25 February, from 10.30 – 12 noon. Please come and support this fund-raising occasion. There are posters and handbills to display and give out. We appreciate your help.

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 8.00 pm). Please note the change of time for the evening celebration.

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.

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 today Sunday 19th February. Please submit copy before this date if possible - hard copy, floppy disc or e-mail to: dhbeach@sky.com