



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

26 February 2012

A warm welcome to everyone to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Eucharist, Fr Geoff celebrates and preaches and Sylvia Moring leads the intercessions.

Hymns: 376, 95, 118 and 496

Setting: Missa Seraphica

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

Evening Prayer is at 6 pm.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: The Anglican Church in the Congo, The Most Revd Kahwa Henri Isingoma Archbishop of the Congo & Bishop of Kinshasa.
The Parish of Bromham in our Diocese.

The Church Army's Mission Support Team.

The World: Fair Trade Fortnight, and the work of promoting Fair Trade.
The People of Syria.

All organisations working for peace.

The Community and Parish: Our keeping of Lent.

Our local police officers and police community support officers.

Residents and staff at Fairhaven Residential Home.

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, whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days in the wilderness, and was tempted as we are, yet without sin:
give us grace to discipline ourselves in obedience to your Spirit;
and, as you know our weakness, so may we know your power to save;
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 Genesis 9.8–17

A reading from the book of Genesis.

- ⁸ God said to Noah and to his sons with him,
⁹ ‘As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you,
¹⁰ and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark.
¹¹ I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.’
¹² God said, ‘This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations:
¹³ I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth.
¹⁴ When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds,
¹⁵ I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh.
¹⁶ When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.’
¹⁷ God said to Noah, ‘This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.’

SECOND READING I Peter 3.18–22

A reading from the first letter of Peter.

- ¹⁸ Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit,
- ¹⁹ in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison,
- ²⁰ who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water.
- ²¹ And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you – not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,
- ²² who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

GOSPEL Mark 1.9–15

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

- ⁹ In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan.
- ¹⁰ And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him.
- ¹¹ And a voice came from heaven, ‘You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.’
- ¹² And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness.
- ¹³ He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.
- ¹⁴ Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God,
- ¹⁵ and saying, ‘The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.’

THIS WEEK

Mon	27	Feb	Toddlers Group	10.00 – 11.30am
Wed	29	Feb	Coffee in Church	10.30am-12 noon
			Devotional Service	7.30pm
Thur	1	Mar	<i>St David's Day</i>	
			Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
			Fairhaven	morning
			Choir Practice	7.00 – 8.30pm
Fri	2	Mar	(Andrew Benoy will give a lunch time organ recital at Beechen Grove Baptist Church	1.00 – 1.40pm)
Sun	4	Mar	<u>SECOND SUNDAY of LENT</u>	
			Holy Communion (Pres: Fr Geoff)	8.00am
			SUNG EUCHARIST (President and preacher: Fr Geoff)	9.30am
			Evening Prayer	6.00 pm

NOTICES

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! The March edition of Sword is ready for collection.

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. Lent Groups should be starting this week. Please see Martin Heath or Violet Allen Smith if you want to know anything about the arrangements for this year's Lent Groups.

LUNCH TIME ORGAN RECITAL: Andy Benoy will be giving an organ recital from 1-1.40 pm at Beechen Grove Baptist Church on Friday, 2 March. Everyone welcome. There is no admission charge but the audience is asked to make a donation at the end of the recital. Please support Andy if you can.

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.