



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT
4 March 2012

A warm welcome to everyone to our services today.

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

Hymns: 6 (i), 582, 586 (omit *s) and 480

Setting: Missa Seraphica

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

Evening Prayer is at 6 pm.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: The Church of England The Most Revd and Rt Hon Dr Rowan Douglas Williams Archbishop of Canterbury.
The Venerable Richard Atkinson, (currently Archdeacon of Leicester) to be the new Bishop of Bedford.
The Parish of Bushmead in our Diocese.
The work of USPG with the Anglican Church in Tanzania.

The World: The people of Syria.
Christian Aid working with women in Afghanistan.
Our National Health Service and wisdom in its reform.

The Community and Parish: Residents and Staff at River Court and St Anthony's Care Homes.
Community cohesion and harmony in West Watford.
Our "Inside Street Party" plans for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

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, Jacqui Lyons, 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, you show to those who are in error the light of your truth, that they may return to the way of righteousness:
grant to all those who are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's religion, that they may reject those things that are contrary to their profession, and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same;
through our Lord Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING Genesis 17.1–7, 15–16

A reading from the book of Genesis.

- ¹ When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, 'I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless.
² And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous.'
³ Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him,
⁴ 'As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations.
⁵ No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations.
⁶ I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you.
⁷ I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.'
¹⁵ God said to Abraham, 'As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name.
¹⁶ I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.'

SECOND READING Romans 4.13–25

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

- ¹³ The promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith.
¹⁴ If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void.
¹⁵ For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

¹⁶ For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also
¹⁷ as it is written, 'I have made you the father of many nations' – Abraham believed in the presence of the God who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.
¹⁸ Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become 'the father of many nations,' according to what was said, 'So numerous shall your descendants be.'
¹⁹ He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb.
²⁰ No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God,
²¹ being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised.
²² Therefore his faith 'was reckoned to him as righteousness.'
²³ Now the words, 'it was reckoned to him,' were written not for his sake alone,
²⁴ but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead,
²⁵ who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

GOSPEL Mark 8.31–38

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

³¹ Jesus began to teach his disciples that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.
³² He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.
³³ But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, 'Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.'
³⁴ He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.
³⁵ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it.
³⁶ For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life?
³⁷ Indeed, what can they give in return for their life?
³⁸ Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.'

THIS WEEK

Mon	5	Mar	Toddlers Group River Court Service	10.00 – 11.30am 3.00pm
Tue	6	Mar	St Anthony's School in church Intercessory Prayer group (Choir Vestry) Social Committee (8 Cassiobury Park Ave)	9.00am – 3.00pm 2.30pm 7.45pm
Wed	7	Mar	Coffee in Church Service of Lenten Devotion	10.30am-12 noon 7.30pm
Thur	8	Mar	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language) St Anthony's Choir Practice	10.00am morning 7.00 – 8.30pm
Sat	10	Mar	LENT LUNCH (served by Brownies) and Bring - &- Buy Sale (All proceeds to Church Army)	11.30am – 1.30pm
Sun	11	Mar	<u>THIRD SUNDAY of LENT</u> RSCM Examinations in Choir Vestry Holy Communion (Pres: Fr George) SUNG EUCHARIST (President and preacher: Fr George) Service of Thanksgiving and Praise Evening Prayer	8.00am 9.30am 11.15am 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 and See Round are 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. Please see Martin Heath or Violet Allen Smith if you want to know anything about the arrangements for this year's Lent Groups.

OFFERTORY CARDS: People give their offerings for the work of St Michael's in different ways. 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. 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, place it in the plate at offertory time and it will go to the altar with the rest of the offerings.

LENT LUNCH: Next Saturday, 10 March 2012. Bring-and-Buy Sale from 11.30 am and lunch of homemade soup and bread and cheese from 12 noon served by the Brownies. All proceeds to the Church Army.

PLANT SALE: Date for your diary – 19 May 2012.

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 by Tuesday.