



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT
11 March 2012

A warm welcome to everyone to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Eucharist, Fr George celebrates and preaches and Pat Beach leads the intercessions.

Hymns: 368, 515, 125 and 533

Setting: Missa Seraphica

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

The monthly Service of Thanksgiving and Praise is at 11.15am.

Evening Prayer is at 6 pm.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui The Most Revd Dr Paul Kwong Archbishop of Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui & Bishop of Hong Kong Island.

The Parish of Chalgrave in our Diocese.

USPG in Britain and Ireland.

The World: Families, friends and comrades of the soldiers recently killed in Afghanistan, and those currently serving there.

The people of Syria.

Disabled people looking for employment, and those facing redundancy.

The Community and Parish: Our Brownies and their leaders.

Staff and residents at Home Manor.

The appointment of a new Manager at the Multicultural Community Centre.

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: The 6 soldiers killed in Afghanistan.

Collect

Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; 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 Exodus 20.1–17

A reading from the book of Exodus.

¹ Then God spoke all these words:

² I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery;

³ you shall have no other gods before me.

⁴ You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.

⁵ You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me,

⁶ but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

⁷ You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

⁸ Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy.

⁹ Six days you shall labour and do all your work.

¹⁰ But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work – you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns.

¹¹ For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

¹² Honour your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

¹³ You shall not murder.

¹⁴ You shall not commit adultery.

¹⁵ You shall not steal.

¹⁶ You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.

¹⁷ You shall not covet your neighbour's house; you shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbour.

SECOND READING I Corinthians 1.18–25

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

- ¹⁸ The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.
- ¹⁹ For it is written, 'I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.'
- ²⁰ Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?
- ²¹ For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe.
- ²² For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom,
- ²³ but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling-block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles,
- ²⁴ but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.
- ²⁵ For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

GOSPEL John 2.13–22

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

- ¹³ The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.
- ¹⁴ In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money-changers seated at their tables.
- ¹⁵ Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables.
- ¹⁶ He told those who were selling the doves, 'Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a market-place!'
- ¹⁷ His disciples remembered that it was written, 'Zeal for your house will consume me.'
- ¹⁸ The Jews then said to him, 'What sign can you show us for doing this?'
- ¹⁹ Jesus answered them, 'Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.'
- ²⁰ They then said, 'This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?'
- ²¹ But he was speaking of the temple of his body.
- ²² After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

THIS WEEK

Mon	12	Feb	Toddlers Group	10.00 – 11.30am
Wed	14	Feb	Coffee in Church	10.30am-12 noon
			Service at Home Manor	3.00pm
			Devotional Service led by Pause Group	7.30pm
Thur	15	Mar	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
			attended by Mothers' Union; followed by coffee	
			Choir Practice	7.00 – 8.30pm
Sun	18	Mar	<u>MOTHERING SUNDAY</u>	
			Holy Communion (Pres: Fr Geoff)	8.00am
			SUNG EUCHARIST (President and preacher: Fr Geoff)	9.30am
			Youth Group Lunch	12.30pm
			Evening Prayer	6.00 pm

NOTICES

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.

MOTHERING SUNDAY: is next Sunday, 18 March 2012. Is anyone able to make a simnel cake so that we can offer the traditional refreshment after the 9.30 service. Please see Sylvia Moring if you are willing. A recipe is available but it is a fruit cake with marzipan cooked in the middle and on the top decorated with marzipan balls representing the apostles.

MAUNDY THURSDAY WATCH: As usual we hope to keep the watch in the Lady Chapel throughout the night on Maundy Thursday. Please sign the list on the table by the Mildred Avenue door if you are able to help with this.

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.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Haydn's Creation performed by Radlett Choral Society at St Michael's – 31 March 2012

Plant Sale – 19 May 2012 – on the triangle

Concert by Ullern Chamberchoir from Oslo at St Michael's – 26 May at 6 pm

Barbecue 8 July 2012 – at 8 Cassiobury Park Avenue

DIAMOND JUBILEE LUNCH: If you are interested in joining in our Inside Street Party on Sunday, 3 June 2012, please fill in the green slip and put it in the box at the west end.