



# THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

*St Michael and All Angels*

Watford

**THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT**

3 March 2013

We wish you a warm welcome to our services today.

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

**Hymns: 605 (t416ii), 469, 435 and 455**

**Setting: Missa Seraphica**

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

Compline with devotional talk at 6.00pm. (Joint service here with Trinity Methodist)

---

## **For your prayers this week:**

**The Church:** The Parish of Bushey Heath in our Diocese.  
The Diocese of Matlosane in South Africa, Stephen Diseko its Bishop and its People.  
The Anglican Church in Zambia.

**The World:** Orphans and children separated from parents.  
All people suffering from ovarian or prostate cancer.  
People working in High Street retail shops.

**The Community and Parish:** Residents and Staff at River Court and Fairhaven.  
Local Residents Associations.  
Our Borough and County Councillors.

**The Ill and the Housebound:** Especially Bruce Alexander, Jean and Robert Caton. Peter Coley, Bill and Marion Craddock-Jones, Jean Crouch, Pamela Cutler, Ben Heath, Jessie Hobby, Jenny Houghton, Audrey Jaquest, Mary Kearns, Lesley Kinch, Loretta Lynch, Jacqui Lyons, Maggie Maguire, Audrey Morgan, Dorcas Ochola, Brian O’Riordan, Helen Perry, Myrtle Powell, Christina and David Simon, Eric and Anne Wightman.

**The Departed:**

---

**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 Isaiah 55.1–9**

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

The LORD says this:

- <sup>1</sup> Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.
- <sup>2</sup> Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labour for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food.
- <sup>3</sup> Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David.
- <sup>4</sup> See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples.
- <sup>5</sup> See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.
- <sup>6</sup> Seek the LORD while he may be found, call upon him while he is near;
- <sup>7</sup> let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.
- <sup>8</sup> For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.
- <sup>9</sup> For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

**SECOND READING I Corinthians 10.1–13**

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

- <sup>1</sup> I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea,
- <sup>2</sup> and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea,
- <sup>3</sup> and all ate the same spiritual food,
- <sup>4</sup> and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ.

- 5 Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.
- 6 Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did.
- 7 Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, ‘The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play.’
- 8 We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day.
- 9 We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents.
- 10 And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer.
- 11 These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come.
- 12 So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall.
- 13 No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

## **GOSPEL Luke 13.1–9**

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

- 1 There were some present who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices.
- 2 He asked them ‘Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans?’
- 3 No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did.
- 4 Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them – do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem?
- 5 No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.’
- 6 Then he told this parable: ‘A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none.
- 7 So he said to the gardener, “See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?”
- 8 He replied, “Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it.
- 9 If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.”’

## THIS WEEK

Mon	4	Mar	Toddlers' Group	10.00 - 11.30am
			Lent Course ( <b>Choir Vestry</b> )	1.30pm
			Service at River Court	3.00pm
			Publicity Committee (Vicarage)	7.30pm
Tue	5	Mar	Stewardship Group (Vicarage)	7.30 pm
Wed	6	Mar	Coffee in Church	10.30am-12 noon
Thu	7	Mar	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
			Fairhaven	morning
			Choir Practice	7.00 – 8.30pm
Sun	10	Mar	<b><u>MOTHERING SUNDAY</u></b>	
			Holy Communion (Pres: Fr George)	8.00am
			<b>SPECIAL SUNG EUCHARIST for MOTHERING SUNDAY:</b>	
			with presentation of posies	
			President: and Preacher Fr Geoff;	<b><u>10.30am</u></b>
			(The Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church	1-5 pm)
			Compline with devotional talk	6.00pm

## NOTICES

**ELECTORAL ROLL:** A **NEW roll** is required this year. **The last date for receipt of forms for inclusion before the AGM will be Sunday 17 March.** New forms are available to complete. If you are not given a form or wish to be added to the roll as a new member, please ask Fr Geoff or Henry or Sylvia Moring for one. Please fill in your form today if possible.

**DETAILS of LENT PROGRAMMES** for 2013 are available at the back of the church with a sign-up list for the course book - "Christ in the Wilderness", by Stephen Cottrell. This can be ordered from Fr Geoff for £6.89.

**LENT COLLECTING BOXES** for the Church Army are available at the back of church. The theme is "giving" rather than "giving up" for Lent.

**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 join the watch for part of the time.

**EASTER FLOWERS:** It is our custom to invite people to make a donation towards the Easter flowers, perhaps in memory of a loved one. If you would like to do this, please give your donation to Fay Storey or Jean Alexander. If you are able to gift aid your donation it should go in one of the white gift aid envelopes.

**THE BRING-&-BUY SALE** last Sunday raised £53. Many thanks to all.

**SIMNEL CAKES:** Volunteers are needed to make simnel cakes for Mothering Sunday (10 March). Please see Sylvia Moring if you are able to help.

**MOTHERING SUNDAY IS 10<sup>th</sup> MARCH:** The service will be at 10.30 am. Please note there will not be a 9.30 service on that day.