



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

**The Third Sunday Before Lent
16 February 2014**

We wish you a warm welcome to our services today.

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

Hymns: 492, 338, 318 and 213

Setting: Wilson

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

Messy Church is from 2.30 to 4.00pm.

The Six O'Clock Series evening service is at 6.00pm.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: The Parish of St James, New Barnet in our Diocese.
The Church of the Province of Central Africa; Albert Chama -
Archbishop of Central Africa & Bishop of Northern Zambia.

The ministry of the Anglican Church in Ghana, supported by Us.

The World: All those suffering through flooding and high winds.

An end to the fighting in Syria, Southern Sudan, Central African
Republic, and elsewhere.

The Girl Guide Movement.

The Community and Parish: The Chase Care Centre.

Our Mothers' Union Members

The work of Watford Interfaith Association.

The Ill and the Housebound: Especially Bruce Alexander, Janet Bridge, Jean
and Robert Caton, Peter Coley, Bill and Marion Craddock-Jones,
Jean Crouch, Pamela Cutler, Audrey Dixon, Sandra Fullerton,
Jenny Houghton, Audrey Jaquest, Mary Kearns, Lesley Kinch,
Loretta Lynch, Jacqui Lyons, Audrey Morgan, Dorcas Ochola,
Brian O'Riordan, Helen Perry, Mark Pritchard, Christina and
David Simon, Mark Simon, Pauline White and Anne Wightman.

The Departed: Myrtle Powell.

Collect

Almighty God, who alone can bring order to the unruly wills and passions of sinful humanity:

give your people grace so to love what you command and to desire what you promise, that, among the many changes of this world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found;

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 Deuteronomy 30.15–20

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy.

¹⁵ See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity.

¹⁶ If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the LORD your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess.

¹⁷ But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them,

¹⁸ I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess.

¹⁹ I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live,

²⁰ loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the LORD swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

SECOND READING I Corinthians 3.1–9

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

¹ Brothers and sisters, I could not speak to you as spiritual people, but rather as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ.

² I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for solid food. Even now you are still not ready,

³ for you are still of the flesh. For as long as there is jealousy and quarrelling among you, are you not of the flesh, and behaving according to human inclinations?

⁴ For when one says, 'I belong to Paul,' and another, 'I belong to Apollos,' are you not merely human?

⁵ What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you came to believe, as the Lord assigned to each.

6 I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth.
7 So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God
who gives the growth.
8 The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose, and each
will receive wages according to the labour of each.
9 For we are God's servants, working together; you are God's field, God's building.

GOSPEL Matthew 5.21–37

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

21 On the mountain, Jesus gathered his disciples around him and taught them, saying:
‘You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, “You shall not murder”;
and “whoever murders shall be liable to judgement.”
22 But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to
judgement; and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council;
and if you say, “You fool,” you will be liable to the hell of fire.
23 So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother
or sister has something against you,
24 leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or
sister, and then come and offer your gift.
25 Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are on the way to court with
him, or your accuser may hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard,
and you will be thrown into prison.
26 Truly I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.
27 You have heard that it was said, “You shall not commit adultery.”
28 But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already
committed adultery with her in his heart.
29 If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; it is better for
you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to be thrown into hell.
30 And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; it is better
for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to go into hell.
31 It was also said, “Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of
divorce.”
32 But I say to you that anyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of
unchastity, causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman
commits adultery.
33 Again, you have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, “You shall not
swear falsely, but carry out the vows you have made to the Lord.”
34 But I say to you, Do not swear at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God,
35 or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great
King.
36 And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black.
37 Let your word be “Yes, Yes” or “No, No”; anything more than this comes from
the evil one.’

THIS WEEK

Mon	17	Feb	<i>Half Term Week</i>	
			Toddlers' Group	10.00 – 11.30am
Wed	19	Feb	Coffee in Church	10.30am-12 noon
Thu	20	Feb	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
			Funeral of Myrtle Powell (in church)	11.15am
			Choir Practice	7.00 – 8.30pm
Sun	23	Feb	<u>SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE LENT</u>	
			Holy Communion (Pres: Fr Geoff)	8.00am
			SUNG EUCHARIST: President and Preacher: Fr Geoff	9.30am
			followed by a Bring-&-Buy Sale	
			(Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church)	1.00-5.00pm)
			Evening Prayer	6.00pm)

NOTICES

FUNERAL OF MYRTLE POWELL: Everyone is welcome to attend Myrtle's funeral service which will be held in church at 11.15am on Thursday, 20 February.

WATFORD INTERFAITH ASSOCIATION AGM, Tuesday 18th at Friends' Meeting House, 150 Church Road, Watford, 7.15pm for 7.30pm, guest speaker Zaki Cooper, on "Royalty, Jubilees, and Faith"

FINAL COPY DATE FOR THE MARCH SWORD is 21st February. Hard copy or floppy disc to Rob White or email to robwhite.watford@tiscali.co.uk.

SWORD SUBSCRIPTIONS for 2014 are now due. Valerie Alvarez has kindly agreed to collect subscriptions for the coming years. 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!

MORE VOLUNTEERS urgently required for the Money Counting rota (for after the 9.30 service). If you can help with this, please see Iola Bilson.

FOOD BANK: Don't forget that we are still collecting as well as giving out parcels of food. There is a list of the items of food that can be included in the food parcels in particular there is a need for tinned meat and meat pies, and UHT milk. If you would like to donate any of these items or anything else please bring them to church and put them in the box at the west end.

MESSY CHURCH The next session of Messy Church is this afternoon, Sunday, 16th February, from 2.30 -4 pm. All families welcome and anyone who would like to see what happens at Messy Church is very welcome to look in. If you have any neighbours/friends who you think would be interested please give them one of the handbills at the west end of the church.