



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

**The Second Sunday Before Lent
23 February 2014**

We wish you a warm welcome to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Sung Eucharist, Fr Geoff celebrates and preaches.

Hymns: 258 (t502), 267, 501 and 262

Setting: Wilson

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

Evening Prayer in the Lady Chapel is at 6.00pm.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: The Parish of Christchurch, Bedford, in our Diocese.
Iglesia Anglicana de la Region Central de America; Armando Guerra
Soria - Primate of IARCA & Bishop of Guatemala.

The World: The Anglican Church in Malawi, and its hospitals, supported by Us.
The protection of life, livelihood and property from severe weather.
The Fair Trade Movement.

The prevention and treatment of heart disease.

The Community and Parish: Thanksgiving for Fr George's Ministry.

Our PCC members.

The work of the Royal School of Church Music.

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, Owen Hutchinson, 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:

Collect

Almighty God, you have created the heavens and the earth and made us in your own image:
teach us to discern your hand in all your works and your likeness in all your children;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns supreme over all things, now and for ever.

FIRST READING Genesis 1.1 – 2.3

The story of the Creation.

SECOND READING Romans 8.18–25

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

- ¹⁸ I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us.
- ¹⁹ For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God;
- ²⁰ for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it,
- ²¹ in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.
- ²² We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now;
- ²³ and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.
- ²⁴ For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen?
- ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

GOSPEL Matthew 6.25–34

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

Jesus taught his disciples, saying:

²⁵ ‘Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?’

²⁶ Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?

²⁷ And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life?

²⁸ And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin,

²⁹ yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these.

³⁰ But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you – you of little faith?

³¹ Therefore do not worry, saying, “What will we eat?” or “What will we drink?” or “What will we wear?”

³² For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.

³³ But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

³⁴ So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today’s trouble is enough for today.’

THIS WEEK

Mon	24	Feb	Toddlers' Group Messy Church meeting (86 Mildred Avenue)	10.00 – 11.30am
Tue	25	Feb	Service at St Albans Abbey celebrating special anniversaries of priesting for Diocesan clergy, including Fr George's 25 th	5.00pm
Wed	26	Feb	Coffee in Church PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL	10.30am-12 noon 7.55pm
Thu	27	Feb	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language) Choir Practice	10.00am 7.00 – 8.30pm
Sat	1	Mar	RSCM Examinations in Choir Vestry	9.00am-3.00pm
Sun	2	Mar	<u>SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE LENT</u> Holy Communion (Pres: Fr Geoff) SUNG EUCHARIST: President and Preacher: Fr Geoff Joint Service at St Michael's	8.00am 9.30am 6.00pm

NOTICES

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!

LENT GROUPS: There will be (at least) two Lent groups running at St Michael's in 2014. These will be following the book "Prayer, our Deepest Longing" by Ronald Rolheiser. If you would like to attend the course and want a copy of the book, they are selling on Amazon at £5-45, or Fr Geoff can order copies for you if you let him know. There is also a free study guide, which he can send you by email, or print out for you. Please sign the list at the back of the church.

ASH WEDNESDAY is on 5 March. There will be services at 10 am and 7.30 pm with imposition of ashes.

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER There will be a service at Holy Rood Church in Market Street on Friday, 7 March, at 2 pm. Everyone welcome.

LENT LUNCH This will be on Saturday, 22 March. There will be a sales table and a lunch of homemade soup and bread and cheese served by St Michael's Brownies. All proceeds will go to mission.

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.