



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

**The Sunday next before Lent
Sunday 19 February 2023**

We are now able to receive the wine at communion. There will be a chalice on your left for those who wish to receive by drinking, and on your right for those who wish to receive by dipping their wafer in the wine. You are also welcome to just receive the bread.

Hymns are CP435 Glorious things of thee are spoken, CP248 'Tis good Lord to be here, CP392 Bright the vision that delighted, CP380 at the name of Jesus (omit*).

For your prayers this week:

The Church: The Parish of Ridge in our Diocese.

The Anglican Church of Rwanda.

The Revd Charles Hudson, new Archdeacon of St Albans.

The World: The People of Turkey and Syria.

Local, national and international responses to the earthquake.

The people of Ukraine.

The Community and Parish: Our Lenten disciplines.

People in Watford with friends and relations in the earthquake zone.

Members of our congregation living in residential and nursing homes.

The Ill and the Housebound: Especially Jean Alexander, Violet Allen-Smith, Julie Alvarez, Andy Benoy, Janet Chandler, Jemima Hill, Kristine Jenkins, Lisa Mills, Josephine Stadden, Catherine Stone, Fay Storey, Adelaide Tonkin, and all who care for them.

The Departed: Stella Harris (Keith Honour's sister)

Collect

Almighty Father, whose Son was revealed in majesty before he suffered death upon the cross:

give us grace to perceive his glory, that we may be strengthened to suffer with him and be changed into his likeness, from glory to glory;
who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God,
now and for ever.

FIRST READING Exodus 24.12–18

A reading from the book of Exodus.

- ¹² The LORD said to Moses, ‘Come up to me on the mountain, and wait there; and I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction.’
- ¹³ So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God.
- ¹⁴ To the elders he had said, ‘Wait here for us, until we come to you again; for Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them.’
- ¹⁵ Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain.
- ¹⁶ The glory of the LORD settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud.
- ¹⁷ Now the appearance of the glory of the LORD was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel.
- ¹⁸ Moses entered the cloud, and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

SECOND READING 2 Peter 1.16–21

A reading from the second letter of Peter.

- ¹⁶ We did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty.
- ¹⁷ For he received honour and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, ‘This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.’

- 18 We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain.
- 19 So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.
- 20 First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation,
- 21 because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

GOSPEL Matthew 17.1–9

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

- 1 Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves.
- 2 And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white.
- 3 Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him.
- 4 Then Peter said to Jesus, 'Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.'
- 5 While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!'
- 6 When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear.
- 7 But Jesus came and touched them, saying, 'Get up and do not be afraid.'
- 8 And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.
- 9 As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, 'Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.'

Our service today for the Sunday next before Lent is available to attend in person or via livestream on our YouTube channel
“St Michael’s Church Watford”

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC8GTX0MfiICGmcDUkXTGFSw>

Wednesday 22nd February is Ash Wednesday: there will be a Eucharist with imposition of ashes at 10.00am and 7.30pm

There will be prayers in the Peace Garden today at 2.00pm for the people of Turkey and Syria

The Church will be open for tea and coffee on Wednesday mornings from 10.00am – 12.00 noon.

We are asking opinions from the congregation about whether a starting time of 10.00am would be more helpful. There is a sheet at the back of Church for you to let us know either way.

Lent is fast approaching! The Lent course this year will be following the theme “Jesus’ teaching for our daily lives today”.

There are several weekdays and times of day when we could meet, with the possibility of meeting in person or online.

There is a list at the back of Church on which you can express your availability. We are looking at having two sessions on the same material each week.

An apology in advance – we probably won’t be able to accommodate everybody’s wishes, so please give as wide a range of alternatives as possible.

A Date for your Diary

The second Annual St Michael’s Quiz will be held on Saturday 10th June, with the questions starting at 7.30p.m.

More details to follow but please keep the date free, start recruiting your team (up to 8 in a team) and watch all the quiz programmes you can to get into training!

Lent Lunch and Bring and Buy Sale Saturday 11th March 11.30am – 13.30pm

Bag a bargain at Norma’s stall and then enjoy a delicious lunch of homemade soup with bread and cheese ably served by our Brownie friends. Lunch is priced at £5 per adult and £2 per child to include soup, bread, cheese, tea or coffee for adults and squash for children. Lunch served between 12 and 1.15pm.

As always help is needed on the day and the evening before so anyone able to offer assistance please speak to Valerie Blacklock or contact on 07858763594. Offers of soup gratefully received.

All profits to Mission Giving Fund.

Website: <http://www.stmichaels-watford.org.uk>
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