

THE

# KING

APRIL 2026



# THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. EDMUND THE KING

## NORTHWOOD HILLS

**VICAR** The Reverend Michael Miller (020) 8866 9230  
The Vicarage, 2 Pinner Road, Northwood HA6 1QS  
*e-mail* vicar@saintedmundschurch.org.uk

**LAY MINISTER** Miss Sarah Parnaby (020) 8866 8309

**SERVICES** Principal Service - Sung Eucharist at 10.00 am every Sunday  
Also streamed from our website  
Other Services - Said Eucharist  
7.15 pm Tuesdays, 6.00 pm Wednesdays,  
10.00 am Thursdays, 11.00 am Fridays, Saturdays 10.30 am

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sundays at 10.00 am in the Hall during term time.  
Please contact Carol Diggins on 07827 159 586 for more information.

Arrangements for the SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (Confession),  
BAPTISMS, FUNERALS, WEDDINGS, and BANNINGS OF MARRIAGE -  
please telephone the Vicar.

### OFFICERS

Churchwardens Mr. Steve Castle 3a Willows Close, Pinner HA5 3SY (020) 8868 0482  
Mr. Isaac Odeyemi *e-mail* churchwardens@stedmundtheking.org.uk  
Hon. Secretary Mrs. Amanda Roberts *e-mail* secretary@stedmundtheking.org.uk  
Hon. Treasurer Mr. James Mair (020) 8428 1349  
Director of Music Mr. Mark Hammond 39b Carlton Avenue, Kenton HA3 8AX (020) 8909 2687  
Hall Bookings Mr. Steve Castle 3a Willows Close, Pinner HA5 3SY (020) 8868 0482  
Safeguarding Officer Ms. Frederica Pratley-Lovegrove 07981 327 678

### ORGANISATIONS

Women's Guild Miss Sarah Parnaby (020) 8866 8309  
Arrow Players Mr. Michael Warrick 07813 618 225  
Youth Group Mr. Steve Castle 3a Willows Close, Pinner HA5 3SY (020) 8868 0482  
Scout Group Mrs. Amanda Roberts *e-mail* amanda.roberts@renscouts.org.uk  
Brownies Nicola Setterfield *e-mail* brownies6northwood@yahoo.co.uk 07742 886 758

### MAGAZINE

Hon. Editor Mrs. Jenny Jones 19 Latimer Close, Pinner HA5 3RB (020) 8866 7173

### WEBSITE

[www.saintedmundschurch.org.uk](http://www.saintedmundschurch.org.uk)

### FACEBOOK

 St. Edmund's Church, Northwood Hills

## HOW TO RECEIVE THE MAGAZINE

This magazine is published online at [www.saintedmundschurch.org.uk](http://www.saintedmundschurch.org.uk)  
and can be printed on request.

If you know someone who does not have internet access  
and would like a printed copy of this magazine,  
please contact Steve Castle at  
[steven.castle@saintedmundschurch.org.uk](mailto:steven.castle@saintedmundschurch.org.uk)  
giving their name and postal address  
(having first obtained their permission to supply this personal information).

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to the latest edition of this magazine and to The Orbit pew sheet.

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and clicking the “Subscribe” link underneath “Weekly Newsletter”.



### MAY MAGAZINE

*All contributions for  
the May Magazine  
to be with Jenny Jones by*

**Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April**

**020 8866 7173**

**[jonesjennye@googlemail.com](mailto:jonesjennye@googlemail.com)**

*The May Magazine  
will be available  
from Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April*

# FR. MICHAEL'S LETTER

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Dear Friends,

As April arrives and our gardens come back to life, there is a sense of renewal in the air, a glint of hope that gently stirs our hearts. Our Lent Course this year has focused on finding God in darkness and pain. We all experience darkness in our lives at times and it has been good to be able to explore where God is in all of this. It has been particularly encouraging to see the number of people who have attended the course – there was only just enough room in the Small Hall to accommodate us all.

The message of Easter is one of hope, but it is important to remember that Christ's resurrection could not have happened had it not been for the darkness and pain of Holy Week and Good Friday. Easter and the season of Eastertide encourages us to journey together, seeking renewal not only in our gardens but within our own souls. I hope that we can all make space for the joy and hope that Easter brings. It is a time to reach out - to volunteer, to offer a kind word, to share prayer - with the assurance that every act of compassion multiplies the light of Christ in our community.

The theme of light and hope is mirrored in our liturgy, particularly on Holy Saturday evening, when we celebrate the Easter Vigil. During the Service, all the lights in the church are turned off and a fire is prepared outside. The fire is blessed and the Paschal (Easter) Candle is lit from the new fire. Then the candle is carried into the dark church. It is a sign of Christ, the Light of the World, who has overcome the darkness of sin and death. The lighted Paschal Candle provides the only illumination.

Then, from the flame of the Paschal Candle, members of the congregation light the small candles that they are holding. The flame is passed from person to person until everyone is holding a lighted candle. The light from the Paschal Candle and all the small candles provides the only illumination in the church during this portion of the liturgy. This section concludes with the singing of the Easter Proclamation, the Exultet.

During the second part of the Service, the story of God's great love for us is proclaimed in readings from the Old and New Testaments. The readings recall the great events of salvation, beginning with creation itself.

During the Liturgy of Baptism, all present stand with lighted candles and renew their baptismal promises as a sign that they share the new life of Jesus through his resurrection.

The priest then makes the acclamation **Alleluia! Christ is risen,** and everyone responds loudly **He is risen indeed. Alleluia!** We then sing the Gloria and bells are rung for the first time since Maundy Thursday.

The Easter Vigil concludes with the celebration of the Eucharist. This is a joyous sharing in the sacrificial meal of Jesus Christ, Lord and Risen Saviour.

Easter is not merely a day marked on the calendar, but a living truth that shapes our lives. It is the celebration of Christ's victory over death, a reminder that love triumphs over darkness and that new life is possible for each of us. As we gather as a parish to honour the resurrection, let us hold fast to the promise that no matter how weary or burdened we may feel, God offers fresh beginnings and abundant grace.

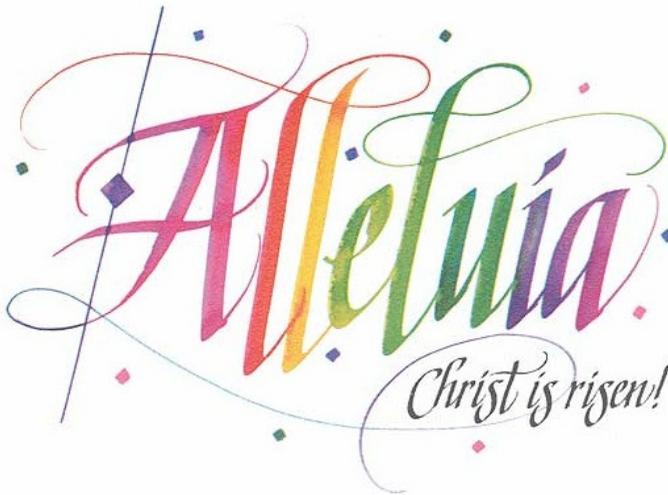
May the triumph of the resurrection inspire us to embrace each new day with faith and courage.

As we celebrate, I pray that you and your loved ones be filled with peace, joy, and the comforting presence of Christ, who walks with us through all seasons and promises life in abundance.

Wishing you a blessed Easter.

With every blessing,

*Fr. Michael*



# CALENDAR AND PRINCIPAL SERVICE READINGS APRIL 2026

**Principal Service** - Sung Eucharist at 10.00 am every Sunday

- 2 THUR MAUNDY THURSDAY**  
8.00 pm The Mass of the Lord's Supper  
Exodus 12.1-14, 1 Corinthians 11.23-26, John 13.1-17, 31b-35
- 3 FRI GOOD FRIDAY**  
2.00 pm The Good Friday Liturgy  
Isaiah 52.13-53.12, Hebrews 10.16-25, The St. John Passion
- 4 SAT** 8.30 pm The Easter Vigil and Sung Eucharist of the Resurrection  
Genesis 1.1-2.4a, Exodus 14.10-15.1a, Ezekiel 36.24-28  
Romans 6.3-11, Matthew 28.1-10
- 5 SUN EASTER DAY**  
Acts 10.34-43, Colossians 3.1-4, John 20.1-18
- 12 SUN 2<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER**  
Acts 2.14a,22-32, 1 Peter 1.3-9, John 20.19-31
- 14 Tues 2.30 pm Women's Guild
- 19 SUN 3<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER**  
Acts 2.14a,36-41, 1 Peter 1.17-23, Luke 24.13-35  
11.15 am Bring and Buy Sale
- 25 Sat **St. Mark, Evangelist**  
Acts 15.35-41, Ephesians 4.7-16, Mark 13.5-13
- 26 SUN 4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER**  
Acts 2.42-47, 1 Peter 2.19-25, John 10.1-10

## OTHER DIARY DATES

Thursday, Friday, Saturday	
7 <sup>th</sup> , 8 <sup>th</sup> , 9 <sup>th</sup> May	Arrow Players Play (see p.21)
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> May	Ascension Day
Saturday 16 <sup>th</sup> May	Plant Sale
Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> May	Beating the Bounds
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> May	The Day of Pentecost
Sunday 31 <sup>st</sup> May	Trinity Sunday
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> June	Corpus Christi
Saturday 20 <sup>th</sup> June	Summer Fair

## LENT GIVING 2026

As usual, this year's Lent Giving will be divided equally between a charity providing services to people in our country and an overseas charity.

**ST. GILES TRUST** is a national charity that works with people facing disadvantages such as homelessness, long-term unemployment, an offending background, addiction, severe poverty and involvement in gangs. Founded in 1962 at St. Giles' Church in Camberwell, the Trust's main work is in schools, prisons, hospitals and communities across England and Wales.

[www.stgilestrust.org.uk](http://www.stgilestrust.org.uk)

**THE DAVID NOTT FOUNDATION** provides safe, skilled surgical care to areas where healthcare is stretched to breaking point by conflict and catastrophic events, like earthquakes or floods. Injuries in these areas are complex, specialist surgical skills are scarce, medical resources limited, surgical teams stretched thin, and emergency rooms overwhelmed. Hospitals can also be targeted as a weapon of war, inflicting further chaos.

When volunteering his trauma surgery skills at times of urgent need in Syria, Libya, Afghanistan, Yemen, Nepal and beyond, co-founder Professor David Nott shared decades of knowledge with frontline doctors, equipping them with the confidence and skills that helped them save more lives against the odds.

[www.davidnottfoundation.com](http://www.davidnottfoundation.com)

Envelopes for your Giving are available at the back of the Church, to be placed in the Offertory Dishes.

Or you can send a cheque, made payable to PCC of St. Edmund The King, to St. Edmund's Lent Appeal, 2 Pinner Road, Northwood, HA6 1QS.

Or you can make a bank transfer (details as in "Raise the Roof Update" - p.12)

# EASTER WORSHIP

at **ST. EDMUND'S**

## **PALM SUNDAY - 29 MARCH**

10 am      Blessing of Palms, Procession  
and Sung Eucharist



## **MONDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY 30, 31 MARCH, 1 APRIL**

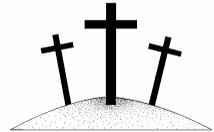
7.00 pm      Eucharist for Holy Week

## **MAUNDY THURSDAY - 2 APRIL**

8 pm      The Eucharist of the Lord's Supper  
The Watch of the Passion begins

## **GOOD FRIDAY - 3 APRIL**

1 pm - 2 pm      Good Friday Meditation  
2 pm - 3 pm      The Good Friday Liturgy



## **HOLY SATURDAY - 4 APRIL**

8.30 pm      Easter Vigil

## **EASTER DAY - 5 APRIL**

10 am      Blessing of the Easter Garden  
and Sung Eucharist



**SUNDAY SCHOOL**   
at St Edmund's Church  
For more information  
call Carol 07827 159 586

 **BRING - AND - BUY  
SALE**  
**1st SUNDAY OF  
EACH MONTH**  
**11.15am IN THE HALL**  
Part of our Eco Church Project

**St. EDMUND'S WOMEN'S GUILD**  
will meet on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April at 2.30 pm  
when Jean Aiken will entertain us  
with one of her popular dramatic monologues  
Followed by refreshments  
All are welcome

**St. EDMUND'S YOUTH GROUP**  
Meets usually every 2 weeks  
on Wednesdays during term time;  
7.30 - 9 pm, in the Hall. Open to all aged 10-16.  
Contact Steve Castle on 020 8868 0482 for information.  
See [www.saintedmundschurch.org.uk/youthgroup](http://www.saintedmundschurch.org.uk/youthgroup)  
for details and dates

## PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL NOTES

March is a busy time for the PCC as we prepare for the Annual Parochial Church meeting, which at St. Edmund's usually takes place on Passion Sunday. Church of England rules require the APCM to be held no later than 31<sup>st</sup> May each year - however most churches tend to have them earlier in the spring to ensure the deadline is met and before the intense liturgical focus of Holy Week and the celebrations of Easter. The APCM held in March does put pressure on everyone at St. Edmund's, as a number of the PCC, having been involved in Arrow Players and the pantomime during January, which means that there's a big push to get everything done in February.

Annual Reports are required to be drafted and approved by the PCC prior to the APCM so they can be adopted at the APCM itself. Our Treasurer, James Mair, works extremely hard to get the annual accounts and finance review together. Just like all the members of the PCC, James is a volunteer and the amount of work and responsibility being Treasurer shouldn't be underestimated, as you will see from the annual accounts. As highlighted in our recent PCC meeting, we have a number of funds relating to different aspects of church life, and all these have to be managed.

Our Churchwardens have their own reports to do; with Steve Castle reporting on the Fabric of St. Edmund's. The maintenance of the Fabric (the Church buildings and contents) presents its own challenges as the Churchwardens together with the PCC seek to ensure good stewardship of our buildings, whilst accepting we have to balance our limited financial resources against the work necessary to keep our buildings functional both for worship and wider community activities. As Secretary to the PCC, I have my own responsibilities; coordinating the reports from all the organisations associated with St. Edmund's, and reviewing the year we've just had. That's the fun part, as I get to learn what everyone has been up to and to relive. In addition, I make sure that the previous year's annual meetings are all recorded correctly and the upcoming meetings' agendas are included.

What is generally referred to as APCM also includes the Annual Meeting of Parishioners, where the elections of the Churchwardens takes place. Candidates for Churchwardens' election must be nominated and seconded in writing by persons entitled to attend the meeting, and each nomination paper must include a statement, signed by the person nominated, to the effect that that person is willing to serve as a Churchwarden. This short meeting is held immediately prior to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

The APCM is where the Statutory Reports are considered, including from the Deanery Synod. It's also the time when PCC members are elected. Nominees require a proposer and seconder which, like the Churchwarden elections, need to be formally recorded. Sidespeople and the Independent Financial Examiner to the PCC are also appointed. Other reports are included in the APCM itself, including Fr. Michael's, which gives a summary of church activities over the past year and an overview of the running of the Parish. There is also the opportunity for the groups and associations linked to St. Edmund's to present their report.

This year's APCM took place on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March after the Passion Sunday Service.

Amanda Roberts, PCC Secretary

# WHO'S WHO AT ST. EDMUND'S

(as from the 2026 APCM)

## MINISTERS

Fr. Michael Miller *	Vicar and Chairman of the PCC
Sarah Parnaby	Lay Minister

## CHURCHWARDENS

Steve Castle *	Elected to serve 2026-2027 elected by the PCC to serve as its Vice-Chairman 2026-2027
Isaac Odeyemi *	Elected to serve 2026-2027

## PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC) (ELECTED MEMBERS)

Jade Chambers	Elected to serve 2025-2028
Carol Diggins	Elected to serve 2024-2027
Mark Hammond	Elected to serve 2026-2029
James Mair *	Elected to serve 2024-2027 elected by the PCC to serve as Hon. Treasurer 2026-2027
Anita Nicholas	Elected to serve 2025-2028
Marjorie Pimm	Elected to serve 2026-2028
Indrani Prabhu	Elected to serve 2024-2027
Amanda Roberts *	Elected to serve 2026-2029 elected by the PCC to serve as Hon. Secretary 2026-2027
Nicola Setterfield	Elected to serve 2026-2029

**STANDING COMMITTEE** comprises those above marked \*

## DEANERY SYNOD REPRESENTATIVES

*(ex-officio members of the PCC)*

Sarah Parnaby	Elected to serve 2026-2029
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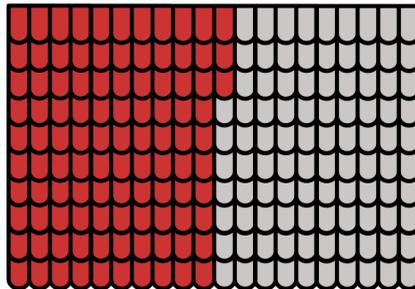


## LANDMARK UPDATE!

Dear Friends, I am truly delighted to be able to tell you that we have **passed the halfway mark** in our fundraising for Raise the Roof.

Our total now stands at £103,000 raised, with £97,000 remaining.

**Thank you to everyone for your support!**



**£103,000 raised    £97,000 to raise**

As reported at the Annual Meetings (APCM), the PCC is now moving forward with the necessary permissions and planning work for the replacement of the Hall and Lady Chapel roof and we hope this work will be able to take place during the summer holidays next year (2027). In order for this to become a reality we are asking all of our congregation to prayerfully consider personal donations in order to close the funding gap as far as possible.

## **Personal Donations: An Appeal**

We can only reach our fund-raising target through a combination of prayer, collective fundraising events, grants and personal donations.

If, after prayerful thought and consideration, you feel able to make a personal donation towards the Hall and Lady Chapel roof replacement, it would be greatly appreciated. Donations may be made in several ways:

- by bank transfer to our account with CAF Bank (preferred method, as we receive the whole amount with no fees taken):
  - account name: PCC of St. Edmund The King, Northwood Hills
  - sort code: 40-52-40
  - account number: 00017222
  - reference “Raise the Roof”
- by online donation via credit or debit card or PayPal by clicking the “Donate here” button on our website: [www.saintedmundschurch.org.uk](http://www.saintedmundschurch.org.uk)
- by cheque, made payable to PCC of St. Edmund The King (with “Raise the Roof” written on the reverse, please). Cheques may be sent to The Treasurer, St. Edmund’s Church, 2 Pinner Road, Northwood. HA6 1QS.

Thank you for considering a donation. Please continue to keep the project in your prayers as we seek to keep our Hall and Lady Chapel open, safe and available for all in our Parish. With my best wishes Steve Castle



## **ST. EDMUND’S WOMEN’S GUILD PROGRAMME 2026**

**TUESDAY 14<sup>th</sup> APRIL** at 2.30 pm **Jean Aiken will entertain us**  
**with one of her popular dramatic monologues** *Followed by refreshments*

**TUESDAY 12<sup>th</sup> MAY** at 2.30 pm **Quiz and Raffle** *Followed by refreshments*

**TUESDAY 9<sup>th</sup> JUNE** at 2.30 pm **A Talk by Jan Heath**  
about giving support to children in Sri Lanka. *Followed by refreshments*

**TUESDAY 14<sup>th</sup> JULY** at 2.30 pm **Afternoon Tea at a local venue.**

**AUGUST** *No meeting*

**TUESDAY 8<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER** at 2.30 pm  
**A Sing-along with Peter Heath at the piano** *Followed by refreshments*

**TUESDAY 13<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER** at 2.30 pm  
**Mark Hammond** will entertain us with a recital exploring ‘Musical Connections’  
*Followed by refreshments*

**TUESDAY 10<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER** at 2.30 pm  
**A Talk by Colin Richards** ‘Ovaltine at Kings Langley’ *Followed by refreshments*

**TUESDAY 8<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER** at 2.30 pm  
**Peter Heath will lead us in a Carol Concert** with some solo items  
*Followed by a Festive Tea*

Easter Greetings!

It was a delight to participate in the Baptism service of Maeve Ruth Capel, which took place on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> February during the Sung Eucharst. It's always good to have a church full of people, including plenty of children! Little Maeve seemed to find the whole event rather alarming, but she was calm during much of the music! We were very happy to welcome her as a member of the Church.

Being a service of cleansing and renewal, it was a good precursor to Lent: Ash Wednesday fell on 18<sup>th</sup> February. I always find it meaningful to act out my repentance, by receiving the ash on my forehead, by the prayers of penitence and by singing the sober, reflective hymns.

The Lent Course began on the following Thursday. Marjorie Pimm writes:

'The Lent course for 2026, organised by the Diocese of London Ministry Team, was delivered as an online programme entitled, "Treasures of Darkness - Discipleship in Times of Mystery and Unknowing". It included a 5-week programme on the themes of Beginning, Mystery, Shadow, Pain, Dawn. The sessions, hosted by local Bishops and Archdeacons, included people from different traditions contributing and taking part. The evening began with the lighting of a candle as a sign of God's presence and after a few moments silence extinguishing it as a sign that God is also with us in the darkness. This was followed by a Breath prayer, Opening prayer and Bible reading. At the end of each session on screen, there was an opportunity for discussion before the Closing Prayer and Blessing and lighting the candle in gratitude for what we have received.'

In the pleasant spring days after the torrential rain, I started noticing more how nature was coming to life. Some urban areas try really hard to create flower-filled vistas, which is commendable, and uplifting for those who pass by. Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March saw our monthly All-Age Service, which focused on becoming a 'New Creation'. The Gospel Reading spoke of the Pharisee Nicodemus, who came in secret to find out more about Jesus and His teaching, and was told he needed to be 'born again.'

In the sermon, Fr. Michael compared Nicodemus' spiritual hunger with the intense craving of the 'Very Hungry Caterpillar' from the popular children's book by Eric Carle. The conclusion of that book shows how the caterpillar's consistent absorption of the right kind of nourishment makes it become a very different and glorious creature. Similarly, Nicodemus learned that by seeking true spiritual sustenance, he could become a New Creation by the grace of God - and so can we.

For our prayers, we were invited to approach the Font, into which we each dropped an ice-cube, which represented the things for which we were sorry. As the ice melted into water, it represented the washing away of our sins and a new start.

On Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March four of us from St. Edmund's attended a meeting of LIFT (Ladies in Faith Together). It was a stimulating and enjoyable morning.

After a refreshing breakfast, we were led in prayer and song. Then Katriina Greene, our coordinator, explained to us the presence of three trees on the dais: one signified the Tree in the Garden of Eden, the fruit which Adam disobediendly ate, resulting in the second, the Tree of the Cross, on which Jesus redeemed us. The third represented the Tree of Life in the Book of Revelation, which symbolises eternal life and healing. It was a message of hope for all of us.

Then we listened to our speaker, Janice Hopkins, whose theme, of trust in God, was based on the name 'Ebenezer' from 1 Samuel 7.12 - which means 'Thus far the Lord has helped us'. The name was given by Samuel to a stone monument, set up to remind the Israelites how God helped them rout the Philistines. Janice reminded us how the Jews established festivals (such as Passover) and built memorials (such as Gideon's altar in Judges 6) as a reminder of God's support for them in the past. These reminders would help restore their faith and give them hope for the future.

Janice told us an alarming but ultimately hopeful story from her own life, about the time when her baby daughter was critically ill in a foreign country with limited facilities, and was faced with a number of serious obstacles before receiving a correct diagnosis and treatment. Help came just in time from an unexpected source, and the child received the operation she needed. Janice, her family and friends all over the world, although anxious, had prayed trustingly throughout, and God had honoured their faithfulness.

We then read the 'Ebenezer' passage about Samuel's faith in times of darkness and fear, and shared in our groups the times when we had found it hard to hold on to our hope, but had come through the experience through our trust in God. I was particularly moved by Indrani Prabhu's eloquent account of the difficult and worrying time the family had when trying to purchase their house. Indrani had kept praying in faith and trust, and they had got there in the end. It was an inspiring and challenging testimony. We all enjoyed the morning, and also discovered so much more about each other!

On the same day, Marjorie Pimm attended an exciting event at St. Edmund's. She writes: 'On the afternoon of Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March, Trinity Orchestra hosted a Family Concert with the engaging theme of Musical Superheroes. This was a very jolly occasion, offering a memorable musical experience for families, celebrating the power and excitement of music in a fun setting. Ruth Rosales, an experienced children's concert presenter, led the event with enthusiasm and skill. Her lively approach encouraged the entire audience - including parents and grandparents - to join in, waving and participating in actions to accompany the music. The concert featured thrilling pieces such as 'Superman March', 'If You Want to Be a Superhero', and the theme from 'The Avengers'. These selections captivated both young and old. Alongside the superhero-themes, the orchestra performed works by Glinka, Beethoven, Holst, and Delibes, providing a delightful contrast and highlighting the versatility of Trinity Orchestra. These pieces allowed everyone to catch their breath and appreciate a broader range of musical styles within the programme. It was an exhilarating afternoon.'

On Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March 14<sup>th</sup> the Eastcote and Ruislip Choral Society 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Concert took place with a rousing performance of Handel's 'Messiah'. It was by all

accounts a moving and uplifting occasion, in which some of our musical friends from St. Edmund's, including Mark Hammond and Jenny Jones, were involved. I always find 'Messiah' a thrilling work, and it was a fitting choice for such an important anniversary. Ann Hughes writes "I found the performance was fitting for the celebration of the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of the Choral Society. Over 90 people formed the audience. The four soloists were excellent in their interpretations; the soprano is to be congratulated, as she had been asked to sing at short notice when the original singer was taken ill. Well done ERCS!"

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March was Refreshment Sunday, when a break can be taken from the Lenten fast - also known as 'Laetare' ('Rejoice') - and, of course, as Mothering Sunday. It was wonderful to have a church full of regulars, friends, visitors, families, Cubs, Scouts, Beavers, Brownies and even a Squirrel! The focus was on love: Fr. Michael asked the young attenders how they had shown love to their mothers that morning; he reminded us of God the Father's great love for us, and demonstrated some of the ways in which we can show love both to mothers and others. For this, he handed symbolic objects to young volunteers to display to the congregation. These represented the giving of love, through such things as gifts (chocolates), time (a clock), service (a wooden spoon), and so on. An important one was forgiveness (illustrated by tearing up a charge sheet). This, said Fr. Michael, was perhaps the most difficult to practise, but the most necessary. The service was a lively and joyful occasion, and it was so good to have such a crowd coming into the hall for refreshments afterwards.

Peter Heath reports on a recent local organ recital by Mark Hammond:

'To mark the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of free Tuesday morning concerts in St. John's Church, Hallowell Road, Mark Hammond performed an uplifting organ recital on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March, called 'From Toccata to Toccata' - a very varied programme, which concluded with the well-known toccata from the Symphony no. 5 by Widor. An audience of about 70 showed their appreciation with a heart-warming round of applause at the end, and I could see, looking around, how much Mark's music had meant to so many, as it does for us each week. It was wonderful to see his efforts appreciated by a new audience, some hearing him for the first time.'

(Free concerts are held at St. John's on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month, with refreshments from 10.45 am, and the concert from 11.30 am till noon. Details of future concerts can be found at [www.stjohnsurcnorthwood.co.uk/whats-on](http://www.stjohnsurcnorthwood.co.uk/whats-on))

Also on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March, the Women's Guild held their meeting, which featured *Desert Island Discs* with Fr. Michael presenting his choices and talking about his life. He had chosen an intriguingly eclectic selection of music, from Petula Clark to Verdi to Queen and much in between! His responses to the questions were both interesting and very amusing. He talked about his life during his school-days - admitting that he'd been initially horrified to find himself gaining a place at a Girls' Grammar School (it was partially co-ed!), and about happy times in the Scouts, his experiences at work and his journey to Ordination and Priesthood. The session was very enjoyable, and was followed by plenty of tea and cakes, as usual.

Wishing you a blessed Holy Week and Easter.

# RUTH LUCK R.I.P.

Sarah Parnaby

Ruth Luck's funeral took place on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March at St. Edmund's Church. The Requiem Mass was a serene and dignified service, with a reminder of her German heritage in the first hymn, 'Now thank we all our God'. The choir sang the Mozart anthem 'Ave Verum Corpus' with great tenderness. It was interesting to learn in the sermon about some of her family history. Born in Germany on 17<sup>th</sup> December 1928 to a family of four sisters and one brother, she had a happy childhood in a village called Piene (her first 'Pinner'!) near Hanover, where her mother owned a sweet-shop.

She met her husband Bertie at a dance in 1948, and after their marriage they came to England in 1951, living first in Shepton Mallet, and moving to London in 1957. They settled in Pinner, ending up in Woodford Crescent, and started attending St. Edmund's in 1961. Sadly, Bertie developed Alzheimer's in later life and died in 2000. This was devastating for Ruth but she carried on bravely. She visited Bertie's plot in the Garden of Remembrance every Sunday, and always talked of him with great love and wistfulness. In 2024 she moved into St. Vincent's Care Home and was grateful for her lovely room with the tree outside the window. She worshipped regularly with the community there, until the Lord finally answered her request to take her to Him.

At the funeral reception we heard some more stories from her godson Nick. He said that because her family suffered severe hardship during the war, Ruth was always careful with food: she hated waste. An event which had a great effect on her in childhood was Kristallnacht in 1938 when the Nazis destroyed many Jewish buildings. With horror, the ten-year-old Ruth watched the synagogue opposite her house burn to the ground. The fire-brigade arrived, but only to ensure that the houses around the synagogue were safe; a child died in there that night.

Nick described Ruth as a very attentive godmother and a kind and generous friend. We hold him in our prayers along with all Ruth's loved-ones, especially Jenny Stratford, her close friend and former neighbour, and Joanna (Ruth's cleaner) who were both such a great practical and loving support to her.

May Ruth be in peace at last with God and her beloved Bertie.



# 6<sup>th</sup> NORTHWOOD BROWNIES

Nicola Setterfield

We have had a very busy term at 6<sup>th</sup> Northwood Brownies, having lots of fun both in our meetings and out and about. We have been enjoying activities such as Comet Catcher, Brownie Beads and Hootenanny. On Thinking Day we learned about Guiding from the past in the Centenary Time Travel activity and celebrated 100 years of Thinking day by decorating candles and cards which we shared with members of the church.

The leaders were lucky enough to have a week off planning when our three oldest Brownies planned a meeting for everybody to enjoy; as you would expect there were biscuits and other sweet treats involved; the girls played a game similar to a Beetle Drive to create a yummy biscuit with lots of toppings, as well as playing “mafia”, a game all about storytelling and finally creating straw butterflies, which really do fly when the girls blow through their straw!

We ensured all our Brownies’ Mums had a lovely gift for Mothering Sunday, creating beautiful bookmarks for them that were very lovingly made. It was lovely to be able to go to Church on Mothering Sunday and the girls who joined were very grateful for the experience and for the flowers for their Mums.

The weekend before we went bowling and out for pizza where lots of fun was had, it was a competitive time! Some of the Brownies even came home on the train with the leaders! [www.ticketsource.co.uk/arrowplayers](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/arrowplayers)

We were in for a treat to end the term as three of our Brownies have completed the highest award they can; their Brownie Gold Award! We are very proud of them for their hard work and dedication to getting this award and really enjoyed their Gold Award Party with not one but three cakes!! We finished this term creating Easter crafts and going on an egg hunt which was lots of fun!

We wish you all a lovely Easter

Shannon Jones, Unit Leader





 **6<sup>th</sup> Northwood Brownies**

Brownies is part of Girlguiding and  
open to girls aged 7-10

We meet at St Edmund's Hall  
on Wednesday's  
5.30pm to 7pm

For more information contact Nicola at  
[brownies6northwood@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:brownies6northwood@yahoo.co.uk)

**Alleluia! Christ is risen.  
He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Jesus lives! thy terrors now  
Can, O death, no more appal us;  
Jesus lives! by this we know  
Thou, O grave, canst not enthrall us.  
Alleluia!

Jesus lives! henceforth is death  
But the gate of life immortal:  
This shall calm our trembling breath,  
When we pass its gloomy portal.  
Alleluia!

Jesus lives! for us He died;  
Then, alone to Jesus living,  
Pure in heart may we abide,  
Glory to our Saviour giving.  
Alleluia!

Jesus lives! our hearts know well  
Nought from us His love shall sever;  
Life nor death nor powers of hell  
Tear us from His keeping ever.  
Alleluia!

Jesus lives! to Him the throne  
Over all the world is given:  
May we go where He is gone,  
Rest and reign with Him in heaven.  
Alleluia!

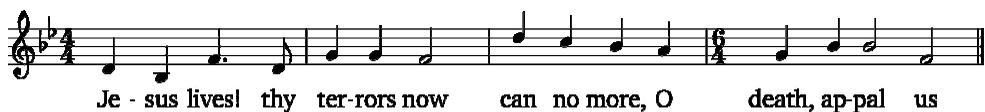
The original German text of this hymn was written, probably in the 1750s, by Christian Fürchtegott Gellert (1715-1769). He was born in Hainichen, near Dresden, and educated at the University of Leipzig, where he spent most of the rest of his life in various academic posts, culminating in professorships in philosophy, poetry and rhetoric.

The translation of the hymn to English was the work of Frances Elizabeth Cox (1812-1897), a prolific translator of hymns from German. Her translations were published as *Sacred Hymns from the German*, first published in 1841, with a revised and extended edition in 1864.

The tune usually used for the hymn is "St. Albinus", written in 1852 by Henry John Gauntlett (1805-1876). The origin of the title is not clear - possibly a reference to St. Albinus of Angers, France (470-550), Abbott and Bishop, also referred to as St. Aubin. Or, possibly a reference to St. Albinus, Bishop and missionary companion of St. Boniface, in Germany, who became Bishop of Buraburg in Hesse, Germany, in 741. Or, possibly, Albinus, Abbot of St. Augustine's Abbey, Canterbury in the 700s. Or, possibly, a reference to St. Alban, who, being a Roman, has the Roman name Albanus. And there appear to be a number of other priests/monks/bishops of uncertain authenticity in the first millennium whose names were variously and interchangeably called Albinus, Albanus, Alban, Albin or Aubin. We might never know which one of all of these (or yet another?) Dr. Gauntlett had in mind.

Henry Gauntlett was a lawyer, but gave that up when he was 40 to concentrate on music. He had been organist at the church of St. Peter and St. Paul at Olney, Buckinghamshire, then at a number of leading London churches, including St. Olave's in Tooley Street, Southwark from 1827 to 1846, where he designed a new grand organ which was built, installed and perfected to his satisfaction between 1844 and 1846. In 1852 he patented an "electrical-action apparatus" for organs.

He wrote much music and over 1,000 hymn tunes, and edited a large number of hymn books. His most famous tune is "Irby", the tune to which "Once in Royal David's City" is usually sung. The degree of Mus. Doc. was conferred on him by the Archbishop of Canterbury, he being the first to receive such a degree from that quarter for over 200 years. He did much to raise the standard of church music both mechanically and musically. He died in London aged seventy in 1876 and was buried at Kensal Green Cemetery.



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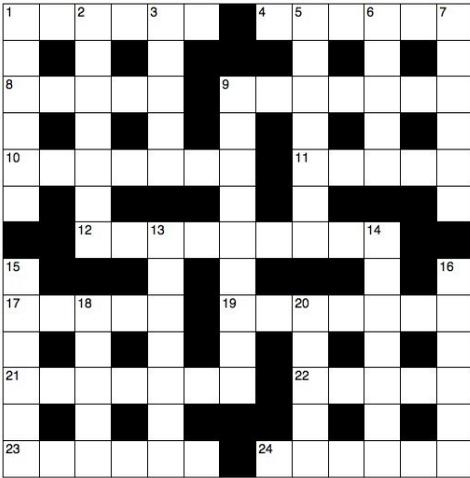
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## APRIL CROSSWORD



### ACROSS

1. Relating to the whole universe (6)
4. The disciple who made the remark in 8 Across (*John 20.24*) (6)
8. 'Unless I see the nail marks — — hands, I will not believe it' (*John 20.25*) (2,3)
9. He urged King Jehoiakim not to burn the scroll containing Jeremiah's message (*Jeremiah 36.25*) (7)
10. Baptist minister and controversial founder of America's Moral Majority, Jerry — (7)
11. 'Look, here is — . Why shouldn't I be baptised?' (*Acts 8.36*) (5)
12. Repossessed (*Genesis 14.16*) (9)
17. Port from which Paul sailed on his last journey to Rome (*Acts 27.3-4*) (5)
19. 'Moses was not aware that his face was — because he had spoken with the Lord' (*Exodus 34.29*) (7)
21. Roonwit, C.S. Lewis's half-man, half-horse (7)
22. Grill (*Luke 24.42*) (5)
23. 'The lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the — Apostles' (*Acts 1.26*) (6)
24. 'I was sick and you looked after me, I was in — and you came to visit me' (*Matthew 25.36*) (6)

### DOWN

1. Coastal rockfaces (*Psalms 141.6*) (6)
2. Academic (*1 Corinthians 1.20*) (7)
3. Publish (*Daniel 6.26*) (5)
5. For example, the Crusades (4,3)
6. 11 Across is certainly this (5)
7. He reps (anag.) (6)
9. Liberator (*Psalms 18.2*) (9)
13. Man who asked the question in 11 Across was in charge of all her treasury (*Acts 8.27*) (7)
14. They must be 'worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine' (*1 Timothy 3.8*) (7)
15. The human mind or soul (6)
16. 'O Lord, while precious children starve, the tools of war increase; their bread is — ' (*Graham Kendrick*) (6)
18. 'We played the flute for you, and you did not — ' (*Matthew 11.17*) (5)
20. Bared (anag.) (5)



### March Crossword Solution

A	W	A	K	E	N	Q	U	E	N	C	H
G	T	J	S	N	O	A					
H	I	T	M	E	S	A	D	N	E	S	S
A	E	C	A	E	N	T					
S	E	M	I	T	I	C	R	I	D	G	E
T	P	R	G	N							
	T	E	S	T	I	M	O	N	Y		
S	A	F	E	D							
P	S	A	L	M	I	N	D	U	L	G	E
I	S	A	C	R	L	A					
D	E	S	E	R	V	E	A	R	I	E	L
E	E	I	K	N	E						
R	O	S	E	A	S	B	E	G	G	A	R

*The Church of St. Edmund the King has been serving  
the Parish of Northwood Hills since 1934.*

*The Parish is in the Harrow Deanery of  
the Willesden Episcopal Area of the Diocese of London*



*Edmund was the devout young King of the East Angles,  
martyred by the Danes for his allegiance to Christ  
in the year 869 when he was 29 years old.  
The crown and arrows of the church crest  
symbolise his Kingship and Martyrdom.*

