

THE

KING



APRIL 2025



The Parish magazine of St. Edmund the King, Northwood Hills

THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. EDMUND THE KING

NORTHWOOD HILLS

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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 at St. Edmund's Church
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.

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Women's Guild Mrs. Hilda Greenfield 01923 823 134
Mrs. Connie Ambrose 01923 825 524
Arrow Players Mr. Michael Warrick 07813 618 225
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Scout Group Mrs. Karen Retter 07984 662 588
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MAGAZINE

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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
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
giving their name and postal address
(having first obtained their permission to supply this personal information).

We publish a free weekly e-mail newsletter which contains links
to the latest edition of this magazine and to The Orbit pew sheet.

You can subscribe to the weekly e-mail by completing the form at
<https://tinyurl.com/subscribe-orbit>
or by visiting www.saintedmundschurch.org.uk
and clicking the “Subscribe” link underneath “Weekly Newsletter”.

THE KING

MAY 2025



“...he left them and was taken up to heaven”

Luke 24 v51

The Parish magazine of St. Edmund the King, Northwood Hills

MAY MAGAZINE

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

Friday 18th April

020 8866 7173

jonesjennye@googlemail.com

*The May Magazine
will be available
from Sunday 27th April*

FR. MICHAEL'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

I do hope that you are all experiencing a fruitful Lent. George Herbert, the 17th century Anglican priest and poet, described Lent as a 'dear feast' not something that we often think of but it is clear that Lent may be a fast for the body but it is a feast for the soul. Lent prepares us to celebrate the resurrection by getting closer to God through our fasting, penitence and prayer. As we approach the great Easter feast we are invited to participate in Christ's passion and death through the Liturgies of Holy Week.

This year we are privileged to be joined by the Archdeacon of Northolt, The Venerable Catherine Pickford, who will be giving the address at the Eucharists on Monday Tuesday and Wednesday of Holy Week and preaching at the Maundy Thursday and Good Friday Liturgies. Do please make an effort to be as many of these services as you can.

Holy Week has been described as 'The Week that Changed the World' and the liturgies reflect Jesus' journey from his triumphant entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday through to his death on the cross on Good Friday; but as we know that wasn't the end and having died for us he rose again on Easter Day which gives us the sure and certain hope that for all of us there is life beyond this life.

Through Christ's death and resurrection, salvation came to the world. That is the basis of the Christian faith and why Easter is the most important of all our feasts. It is difficult in the present climate to see much that is positive in the world, but the resurrection of Jesus is something which can give us great hope. The awful events of the first Good Friday must have left the disciples of Jesus feeling that all hope was gone.

Children often ask me why we refer to the Friday that Jesus was crucified as Good and suggest that perhaps Black Friday would be a better name for it. However, by the Sunday the disciples' despair had turned to great joy when they discovered that Jesus had risen. Jesus' Resurrection gave them new hope, but it is important to remember that without 'Good' Friday there would not have been Easter Day, which is why we call it Good.

I pray that our celebration of the resurrection of Jesus will bring great hope into our lives this Easter.

With love and prayers for a blessed Easter

Fr. Michael

CALENDAR AND PRINCIPAL SERVICE READINGS APRIL 2025

Principal Service - Sung Eucharist at 10.00 am every Sunday

3 Thur 7.45 pm Lent Course

6 SUN 5th SUNDAY OF LENT; Passion Sunday

Isaiah 43.16-21, Philippians 3.4b-14, John 12.1-8

11.30 am (approx.) Annual Church Parochial Meeting

8 Tues 2.30 pm Women's Guild

10 Thur 7.45 pm Lent Course

13 SUN PALM SUNDAY

Isaiah 50.4-9a, Philippians 2.5-11, The St. Luke Passion

17 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

18 FRI GOOD FRIDAY

2.00 pm The Good Friday Liturgy

Isaiah 52.13-53.12, Hebrews 10.16-25, The St. John Passion

19 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

20 SUN EASTER DAY

Acts 10.34-43, 1 Corinthians 15.19-26, John 20.1-18

27 SUN 2nd SUNDAY OF EASTER

Acts 5.27-32, Revelation 1.4-8, John 20.19-end

THE LENT COURSE ("Another Story Must Begin")

continues, on Thursday evenings 3rd and 10th April, at 7.45 pm

OTHER DIARY DATES

8 th , 9 th , 10 th May	Arrow Players play
Saturday 17 th May	Plant Sale
Thursday 29 th May	Ascension Day
Sunday 1 st June	Beating the Bounds
Saturday 7 th June	Film Evening and Supper
Sunday 8 th June	The Day of Pentecost
Sunday 15 th June	Trinity Sunday
Thursday 19 th June	Corpus Christi
Saturday 21 st June	Summer Fair



**BRING - AND - BUY
SALE**

**1st SUNDAY OF
EACH MONTH**

11.15am IN THE HALL

Part of our Eco Church Project

SUNDAY SCHOOL



at St Edmund's Church

**For more information
call Carol 07827 159 586**

St. EDMUND'S WOMEN'S GUILD

The next meeting will be
at 2.30 pm on Tuesday 8th April,
for a Talk by Steve Castle on his trip to India and Nepal
followed by refreshments.

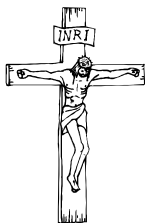
All are welcome.

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
for details and dates

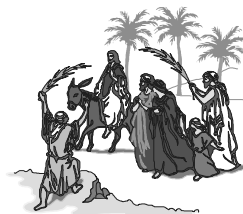


EASTER WORSHIP

at ST. EDMUND'S

PALM SUNDAY - 13 APRIL

10 am Blessing of Palms, Procession
and Sung Eucharist



MONDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY 14, 15, 16 APRIL

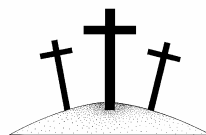
7.00 pm Eucharist for Holy Week

MAUNDY THURSDAY - 17 APRIL

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

GOOD FRIDAY - 18 APRIL

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



HOLY SATURDAY - 19 APRIL

8.30 pm Easter Vigil

EASTER DAY - 20 APRIL

10 am Blessing of the Easter Garden
and Sung Eucharist



LENT GIVING 2025

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.

PAPYRUS UK is a national charity for the prevention of suicide and the promotion of positive mental health and emotional well-being in young people.

<https://www.papyrus-uk.org/>

THE ANGOLA LONDON MOZAMBIQUE ASSOCIATION (ALMA)

Since 1998 the Diocese of London has been linked with the Anglican churches in two African countries: Angola and Mozambique.

The essence of ALMA (Angola London Mozambique Association) is relationships, and links between individual parishes, schools or other organisations are an important part of ALMA's work. There are over 50 links at the moment. Currently there are 43 London parishes twinned with parishes in Angola or Mozambique

<https://www.london.anglican.org/about-us/the-diocese-of-london/alma/>

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.9)

ST. EDMUND THE KING

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

will be held at approx. 11.30 am,
following the 10 am Sung Eucharist
on Sunday 6th April, in the Hall

Elections of Churchwardens and PCC members

Financial Report

Reports from Church Organisations

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC)

St. Edmund's Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, the Rev'd. Michael Miller, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical, financial and practical tasks of being the Parish Church in this place. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of the Church and Hall buildings and the grounds in which they are set.

In addition to Fr. Michael, St. Edmund's PCC members include our 2 Churchwardens, 9 elected representatives from our congregation and our Deanery Synod representative. Members are usually elected to the PCC for a 3 year term, and together with Fr. Michael are responsible for the running of our parish. This means the PCC is our church's governing body, and each member is a trustee. As you would expect, the powers and duties of PCCs are laid down in law, with the additional expectation that all members have a valid DBS and undertake a number of safeguarding courses.

At the Annual Church Meeting, usually in March or April, the PCC elects Officers, including a Vice-chair, Treasurer, Secretary and an Electoral Roll Officer, who also comprise a Standing Committee to handle routine management matters which arise between PCC meetings.

At St. Edmund's the PCC meets on a Tuesday or Thursday evenings in the Lady Chapel approximately 6 times a year. We begin with a prayer led by Fr. Michael before embarking on the agenda which covers Safeguarding, Treasurer's Financial report, Buildings & Fundraising Sub-committee report, Fabric Report, Eco Church Report and any other relevant matters.

In our recent meeting, on 18th March, we discussed the roll out of safeguarding training to our new Youth Group leaders, the success of our monthly Bring and Buy Sales as well as being presented with new exciting fundraising events for the coming months. We heard how Raise the Roof (RtR) funding was coming along with various updates on funding initiatives. We agreed with the proposal for the display of banners highlighting the RtR funding target and giving details on how to donate directly.

We had an update on what our Eco Church has been getting up to and how they have been inspired by their recent visit to St. Andrew's, Uxbridge for a Willesden Area Eco Church presentation by A Rocha. Along with the ongoing recycling projects they are planning on introducing a compost bin in time to use at our annual gardening day.

The Finance Report and Fabric Report given to each meeting form an important part of the governance of the PCC and we are fortunate to have a dedicated Treasurer and Churchwardens providing these respectively. We are kept up to date on our income and expenditure and during our recent meeting it was highlighted that, although there are comparison figures year on year, things can change unexpectedly; for example, the receipt of a kind donation, or an item of unexpected expenditure. Regarding the Fabric Report, we have also agreed and arranged for various repairs to glazing and plumbing. Ongoing concerns at present are the repair of the Church's West Window stained glass and the need to appoint a Quinquennial Inspector (an Architect who performs a survey of the Church every 5 years). As it was our year end meeting we also had the presentation of Statutory Reports for our upcoming APCM which required approving.

Fr. Michael gives his notices in Vicar's Remarks, and during our March meeting reminded us that during Holy Week, the Archdeacon is giving addresses. He also advised us on the date for the Archdeacon's visitation in July which this year will be held at St. Edmund's. This is the service at which Churchwardens and Treasurers are formally admitted to office. Additionally we have Any Other Business on the agenda to capture anything outside the regular agenda, although on this occasion there were no items. In previous meetings during Any Other Business we have discussed car park lighting, addition of white lines on the main road, car park management and our 60th Anniversary pilgrimage and events.

At the end of the meeting we close in prayer, often saying the Parish Prayer.

If you'd like to know more about the PCC and what we are doing for the parish please do contact any member.

Amanda Roberts (PCC Secretary)

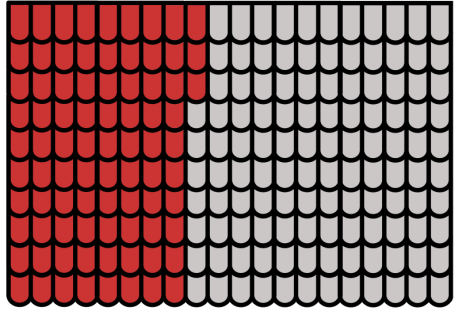
RAISE THE ROOF UPDATE



Our fundraising for the Hall and Lady Chapel roof replacement continues!

I'm delighted to be able to say that we have coloured in another couple of tiles on our virtual roof, meaning an additional £2,000 has been raised since my last update. **Thank you** for the generous personal donations and for your continued support of the Bring and Buy Sale each month. It all adds up!

The Buildings and Fundraising Team has shortlisted the grant-making bodies we feel might support Raise the Roof. I will be working on our applications for these over the next few weeks. At the same time, personal donations continue to be a very important way in which we can reach our target. The more we can raise ourselves, the more likely our external bids for grants will be successful.



£83,000 raised £117,000 to raise

Personal Donations: An Appeal

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):
 - account name: PCC of St. Edmund The King, Northwood Hills
 - sort code: 40-52-40
 - account number: 00017222
 - optional 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
- 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.

My sincere thanks once again to those who have made donations recently. Your gifts are truly appreciated. Please continue to keep this appeal for the continued safe use of our Hall and Lady Chapel in your prayers.

With my best wishes, Steve Castle

Greetings to you all.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Rachel Windsor and her family at the death of her husband, Michael. Rachel, who had moved to Kent, was a faithful and long-standing member of our congregation, over which time she was Churchwarden, choir member, leader of the Women's Guild (Michael audited the books), and of the Flower Guild. I remember how she came to my mother's funeral in Northolt when I barely knew her - I shall always be grateful for that. Michael was a lovely generous-hearted man with many interests (including the building of a fabulous model train set!) and a devotion to his family - and dogs. May he, by the grace of God, rest in peace and rise in Glory.

The All-Age Eucharist on Sunday 2nd March had the Transfiguration as its theme. After the Gospel Reading, in which Jesus appears radiant in shining white flanked by Moses the Law-giver and Elijah the great prophet, Fr. Michael showed us an illustration of the same, along with God's words: *'This is my beloved Son: listen to him'*. He pointed out that this vision would be an encouragement to the disciples, and a glorious image to be etched on their minds during the dark days of suffering that would follow.

We were then shown a wooden cross covered with bright lights. When we stared at this and then shut our eyes, we could still see the imprint of the lights on our retinas. In the same way, the light of the cross needs to be imprinted in our minds so that we too will be assured of Jesus' identity and his presence with us.

Before the Prayers, Fr. Michael explained how the tradition of having pancakes on Shrove Tuesday went back to the practice of using up all one's rich provisions before Lent, a time of repentance, fasting and contemplation of Jesus' suffering. The food that comprised the ingredients of pancakes (eggs, flour, etc) were then brought to the altar. Giving thanks for these, we prayed for strength during Lent, and for those without enough to eat. After the service we were served pancakes with lemon and a choice of sweeteners such as maple syrup. Thanks to those who provided this sweet treat!

After all the turmoil in the world recently, I couldn't help but feel a certain consolation in entering the quiet, familiar discipline of Lent, which helps us to focus on what matters: to reflect on who we truly are, deep down. It's a relief, for me at least, to ditch the burden of my own faults and failures before the altar, receive the ash of repentance and prepare to start again in God's strength. It's why I value the Ash Wednesday service. The words *'Remember that thou art dust'* remind me of my frailty and dependence on God; and the deep purple of the furnishings symbolises so strongly, in these dark times, our sorrow at the outcomes of sin - a sorrow we must acknowledge, with a will to do better ourselves, individually and together.

There was a LIFT in our spirits when, on Saturday 8th March, several of us attended a meeting of Ladies in Faith Together, at London School of Theology. Katherine Ladd Osborne was the speaker - a very gifted young Biblical teacher, who works in the

Criminal Justice System, especially on cases of violence to women. Her subject was 'The Women in Jesus' Lineage' - a topic perfect for the International Women's Day.

Katherine reminded us that there are some slightly 'dubious' women's names in the list of Jesus' forebears in Matthew Ch. 1. It wasn't even common to mention women in a genealogy in the ancient world, so it is significant that these appear in the ancestry of Jesus, in spite of some of their reputations:-

- *Tamar*, who in the guise of a prostitute, sought justice from her father-in-law Judah, for breaking his promise to protect her. (Genesis Ch. 38)
- *Rahab*, a Canaanite prostitute, who hid two Israelite spies from their enemy because she was so convinced of the power of their God. (Joshua Ch. 2)
- *Ruth*, a Moabite immigrant, who remained loyal to her mother-in-law Naomi and her God, after their husbands died, and bravely offered herself in marriage to Boaz, a distant kinsman. (Ruth 1)
- *Bathsheba*, the beautiful wife of Uriah the Hittite, whom King David took for himself, and had Uriah murdered. (II Samuel 11-12)

All these women were outsiders, yet God saw fit for them to be part of His Son's line. There's a strong message for us here, about the people God values.

We were then told some present-day stories of young African women who were kidnapped and raped or forced into marriage; on returning home, they and the children fathered by their oppressors were often rejected by their own community. Helped by the trauma-care group 'Open Doors', these women are now beginning to heal. We prayed for them and others in similar circumstances, that they should feel valued again. This was a wonderful, meaningful morning among friends from other churches. Thanks to all involved in its organisation, not least the caterers for another fabulous breakfast!

That same evening, I attended the Trinity Orchestra Concert in the Church. Coincidentally, this had a similar underlying theme, of the value and final vindication of the underdog. The '*Peterloo Overture*', by Malcolm Arnold, recalled the incident in 1819 when a peaceful demonstration of workers in Manchester was attacked by a local force, killing 4 people and wounding many more. The piece began with a beautiful melody, but soon we heard the sinister drumming of the approaching cavalry, followed by an explosion of violence; yet the finale held a hint of triumph and hope for the future.

The second work, '*Symphonic Variations on an African Air*' by the 19th century mixed-race English composer Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, was based on an African-American spiritual. It was full of rich melodies and a variety of colourful key- and rhythm-changes. In spite of challenges in early life, Coleridge-Taylor and his music became respected both by audiences and fellow-musicians. Finally, we heard Rimsky-Korsakov's glorious '*Scheherazade*': now *there* was an extremely resourceful woman, finding enough stories for 1,001 nights, in order to save her head! It was a superb performance, and the solo violinist Christian Halstead was outstanding.

At the Women's Guild meeting on Tuesday 11th March, Colin Richards was talking about Women in Art. Colin concentrated on two distinguished women artists. The first, Artemisia Gentileschi, lived in the 1600s. Even in her teens she produced fine paintings, often with Biblical themes, and sometimes gruesomely reflecting the savage abuse she herself had suffered, such as '*Judith slaying Holofernes*'. She picked up the style of 'chiaroscuro' (deep contrast of light and darkness) from Caravaggio, and used it to great dramatic effect. She also used self-portraits to depict other characters, such as St. Catherine of Alexandria, as she was short of money, so could not afford models. Nevertheless, and in spite of a difficult life (she lost four of her five children), she grew in renown and travelled widely, including to London where her skill impressed Charles I. She finally settled in Naples, where she set up an artists' workshop. She died there in 1654 aged 60.

Colin's second example was the French artist Elizabeth Vigee Lebrun, who lived during the French Revolution. She showed artistic talent at school, and with the help of first her father and then other artists, her work became successful. Befriended by Queen Marie Antoinette, Elizabeth was accepted into the French Academy, in spite of being a woman. She was much influenced by the art of the Low Countries; in fact, Rubens married her sister! When the persecution of aristocrats and their associates began, Elizabeth fled to Italy where she stayed for 12 years. Unlike her Queen, she escaped the guillotine in 1793; travelling via Vienna, she spent time in St. Petersburg where she painted for Catherine the Great. In the early 1800s she was in London, where she painted, among others, the Prince Regent. She also visited Switzerland where she began painting landscapes. She finally returned to Paris, where she died in 1842, having accomplished around 600 portraits and 200 landscapes. Phew!

This was an inspiring talk which we thoroughly enjoyed, and was followed by a tremendous tea including delicious savoury sandwiches! Many thanks to all who organised the afternoon, and especially to Colin for his entertaining and edifying presentation.

I'm loving the Lent Course, based on the moving tale of '*Les Misérables*'. In between clips of the film (which we were able to see in its entirety on Sunday 16th March) we're reading Bible passages particularly relevant to the issues raised in the story, such as attitudes to poverty, forgiveness, justice etc. We're introduced to the main characters and encouraged to think about their outlooks on life: how some felt they needed to change, and some could not. We think about our own experiences and what we've learned from the story about these important issues. It's so good for us to get together and open ourselves up to each other, developing our understanding of God's love and what He requires of us. It's a moving and salutary experience: many thanks to Fr. Michael, and to Steve for his technical support.

As Passiontide approaches, we reflect on how we, both individually and as part of the human race, have marred God's image in us - and how, in the words of the song, 'another story must begin'. Jesus by His death and resurrection has given us a chance for that to happen: let's take it.

With all my best wishes for a wonderful Easter!

10 ANCIENT EASTER CUSTOMS

Many of the most popular Easter traditions today have been going on for centuries, including the eating of hot cross buns and the consumption of eggs - which used to be real eggs before the first chocolate Easter Egg was introduced in Britain in 1873.

GOOD FRIDAY BREAD - YORKSHIRE

An old custom reported as current in some parts of England as recently as the early 20th century is the Good Friday bread. This involved households baking a loaf of bread on Good Friday and putting it aside until the following Good Friday. In some areas, the loaf was hung up in the kitchen and was believed to improve the quality of any other bread kept in the room. In Yorkshire, it was supposed to protect the home from fire and to prevent other food from going mouldy.

In many parts of Britain, the Good Friday bread, once it had reached a year old, was commonly used as a medicine. Bits of it would be grated into a fine powder and then mixed with water as a remedy for diarrhoea.

THE LOTTERY OF THE READING MAIDS - BERKSHIRE

Reading native John Blagrave, who was a distinguished mathematician and astronomer, left a strange legacy in his will which launched a custom that occurred every Easter from 1612 well into the 19th century.

Blagrave's bequest stipulated that every Good Friday, at the town hall in Reading, three maidservants, one from each of the three parishes of the town, would compete in a lottery for the sum of 20 nobles, which Blagrave provided for in his will.

The maidservants taking part in the lottery had to have '*good character*' and a minimum of five years' service under one master. The three candidates would cast lots and the two runners-up would have the opportunity to take part in the following Easter's lottery.

THE WASHING OF MOLLY GRIME – LINCOLNSHIRE

In the church of the small village of Glentham, 12 miles north of Lincoln, can be found a medieval figure of a woman. This is known as Molly Grime. For centuries, every Good Friday, '*seven old maids*' from the village would ceremoniously wash Molly Grime using water brought up from the local Newell Well, a well which locals have long regarded as having healing properties. After the washing ceremony, each of the old maids would be given a shilling, taken from money given in an ancient local bequest. The last time this ceremony was performed was in 1832.

NO IRONS IN THE FIRE - ISLE OF MAN

A peculiar custom endured for many years in the Isle of Man, still current in the middle of the 19th century but probably dying out in the 20th century. This superstition prohibited anything made of iron from touching the fire at any time on Good Friday. Iron fire tools such as pokers and tongs were put away for the whole day, and a strong rowan stick was used to tend the fire instead. Even traditional iron cooking implements such as griddles were set aside and substitutes, like specially-made fireproof hammocks, were employed for cooking over the fire.

NO PLOUGHING – SCOTTISH HIGHLANDS

In a similar vein, Scottish Highlanders had an ancient tradition that forbade any kind of ploughing or sowing on Good Friday. This was related to the belief that no iron implements should be used on this day. The reason for this, which might also explain the similar superstition in the Isle of Man, is thought to be because iron was associated with the iron nails that were driven into Jesus on the cross.

MAKING CHRIST’S BED - PEMBROKESHIRE

An ancient custom in the town of Tenby in South Wales was for young people to get together on Good Friday and make an effigy of Jesus, which they would leave in a meadow or unused field. This was known as ‘*making Christ’s bed*’. They would all go off and collect reeds from the riverbank and bring them back to a certain spot. The reeds would then be fashioned into the figure of a man, which would be fixed to a wooden cross and then left on a patch of grass where it wouldn’t be disturbed. It was also a custom in Tenby, up until the end of the 18th century, that people would walk from their homes to church barefoot at Easter.

THE BIDDENDEN MAIDS – KENT

A famous and ancient Easter custom in Kent is the Biddenden Dole, otherwise known as the Dole of the Biddenden Maids. For many centuries, the village of Biddenden has given out a dole to the poor at Easter. The source of this ancient charity is two maids who were born in Biddenden in 1100 and died in 1134. They were said to have been conjoined twins named Mary and Eliza Chulkhurst, commemorated in the village sign and the design of the traditional Biddenden Cakes – cakes topped with the impression of two female figures joined together. The dole provided for bread, cakes, and cheese to be given to the parish poor on Easter Sunday.

CHOPPING AT THE TREE - OXFORDSHIRE

University College, Oxford was founded in 1249 and unsurprisingly has a heritage rich in custom and tradition. One of these is a lost tradition known as ‘*chopping at the tree*’, the origin of which is obscure, but some Victorian writers describe it as an ‘*ancient custom*’. Every Easter Day, each member of the college would leave the dining hall after supper and file past a tree on the lawn. This tree was specially decorated with flowers and evergreens for the occasion. Each member would chop at the tree with a cleaver, and then pass the college chef, who would be standing by holding a collection plate. The tradition was discontinued by the college in 1864.

PARISH SWAPPING - SOUTH YORKSHIRE

A peculiar old custom endured for years in South Yorkshire but has long since died out. Every Easter Day, two farms in Swinton would swap parishes. For one year, from Easter Day till Easter Day, they would declare that they were a part of the parish of Mexborough, and the next year they would proclaim to lie in the parish of Wath-upon-Dearne, and then alternate again. It is not known when this bizarre tradition began or ended.

HEAVING – LANCASHIRE

In the northwest of England, and also in some Midlands counties, a curious custom endured every Easter for centuries. This was known as Easter lifting, or Easter heaving. Traditionally, on Easter Monday the men would lift the women, and on Easter Tuesday the women would heave the men. It was a bit like giving someone *'the bumps'* on their birthday: the lifters would cross their arms and then hold hands to form a sort of fleshy net, then use it to lift people up and bounce and carry them.

One early 19th century account quotes a clergyman travelling through Lancashire at Easter time. Sitting in an inn on Easter Tuesday he found himself surrounded by a group of rowdy women who were attempting to lift him. Unfamiliar with the custom and shocked at their raucousness, he paid them to leave him out of the lifting tradition.

This apparently happened to King Edward I on Easter Monday 1290, when he fell victim to seven ladies of the court bursting into his royal bedroom and lifting him.

Said to represent Jesus' Resurrection, it is not known when exactly Easter lifting died out as a custom.



ST. EDMUND'S

PLANT SALE

SATURDAY 17 MAY

10.30 AM - 12 NOON

TOP QUALITY PLANTS

PERENNIALS

BEDDING PLANTS

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE

2nd NORTHWOOD (ST. EDMUND'S) SCOUT GROUP

CONGRATULATIONS to our Scouts, who have won 2 District competitions recently.

At the beginning of January, seven scouts and their leaders braved sub-zero temperatures, sleeping under canvas, to take part in the annual District Chilly Goat camping competition at Phasels Wood. The weekend included challenging activities such as air rifle shooting, archery, sky challenge, water filtration, and rolling rock, designed to promote problem-solving and teamwork. Team Catering (leaders) provided hearty meals throughout, in an endeavour to boost energy and maintain high morale. It worked - 9 teams competed and we won!



Team Chilly Goat

In March, a team from the Scouts participated in the District Swimming gala and returned home with the trophy. Congratulations!

We take great pride in our Scouts, particularly for their commitment to teamwork. However, this would not be possible without our dedicated leaders and parent helpers who give their time to work among these young people in the firm belief that every 2nd counts, making 2nd Northwood a successful and happy group.

Marjorie Pimm

WOMEN'S GUILD PROGRAMME 2024

TUESDAY 8th APRIL at 2.30 pm

A Talk by Steve Castle on his trip to India and Nepal
Followed by refreshments

TUESDAY 13th MAY at 2.30 pm

Quiz and Raffle
Followed by refreshments

TUESDAY 10th JUNE at 2.30 pm

Jean Aiken will entertain us with a dramatic monologue
Followed by refreshments

THURSDAY 10th JULY at 2.30 pm

Peter Heath will entertain us with a musical sing-along
Followed by refreshments

AUGUST

No meeting

TUESDAY 9th SEPTEMBER at 2.30 pm

Mark Hammond will be here
with music and a talk on Musical Connections
Followed by refreshments

TUESDAY 14th OCTOBER at 2.30 pm

To be arranged

TUESDAY 11th NOVEMBER at 2.30 pm

A Talk by Sarah Parnaby on her Favourite Saints
Followed by refreshments

THURSDAY 11th DECEMBER at 2.30 pm

Peter Heath will lead us in a Carol Concert
with Sarah Parnaby - soloist



ARROW PLAYERS

present

AS TIME GHOSTS BY

A Spirited Comedy
by Mike Warrick

Thursday 8th May
Friday 9th May
Saturday 10th May

7.30 pm

St. Edmund's Hall
Pinner Road, Northwood, HA6 1QS

Tickets £12

Box Office
www.arrowplayers.org.uk/tickets

HYMN OF THE MONTH

Mike Godden

In the 1950s and 60s the 20th-Century Church Light Music Group was promoting the idea that more than one style of music, and more than one type of instrument were suitable for church. They were largely writing new, popular-style tunes to existing words, but one of their number, Rev. Patrick Appleford, also wrote his own words, resulting in one the best survivors of the Group's activities.

Lord Jesus Christ,
You have come to us,
You are one with us,
Mary's Son;
Cleansing our souls from all their sin,
Pouring your love and goodness in;
Jesus, our love for you we sing,
Living Lord.

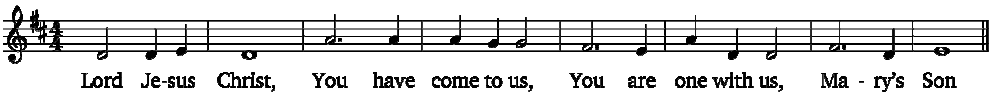
Lord Jesus Christ,
Now and every day
Teach us how to pray,
Son of God.
You have commanded us to do
This in remembrance, Lord, of you:
Into our lives your power breaks through,
Living Lord.

Lord Jesus Christ,
You have come to us,
Born as one of us,
Mary's Son;
Led out to die on Calvary,
Risen from death to set us free,
Living Lord Jesus, help us see
You are Lord.

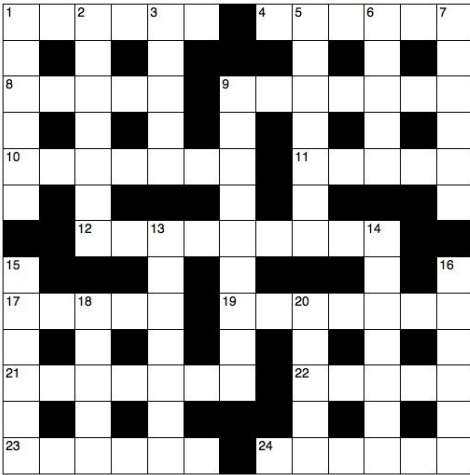
Lord Jesus Christ,
I would come to you,
Live my life for you,
Son of God.
All your commands I know are true,
Your many gifts will make me new,
Into my life your power breaks through,
Living Lord.

Appleford wrote the hymn in 1958 for the youth club in the East London parish of Poplar, during his Curacy at All Saints' Church there from 1952-58, aiming to "... show that Jesus was not a dead hero but a living lord" - which of course fits well with the Resurrection at Easter.

Patrick Robert Norman Appleford was born in 1925 in Croydon. He was educated at Hurstpierpoint College, Trinity College, Cambridge and at Chichester Theological College. He was ordained in 1952. After Poplar, he was Chaplain at Bishop's College, Cheshunt from 1958 to 1961, then served with USPG from 1961 to 1966. He then went to Zambia as Dean of Holy Cross Cathedral in Lusaka from 1966 to 1972, then returned to England to posts in Hereford and Chelmsford. He died in 2018, aged 93;



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



*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.*

