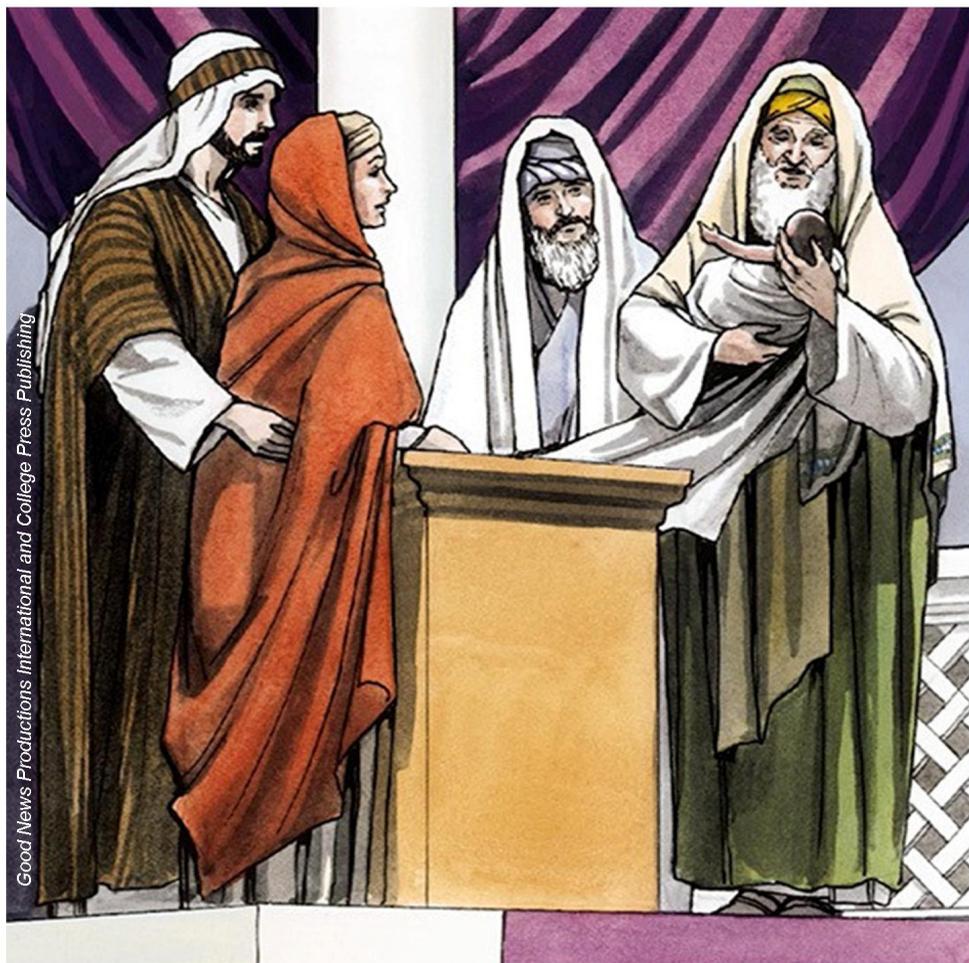


THE

KING

FEBRUARY 2022



“...he is a light to reveal God to the nations...”

Luke 2:32

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

WEBSITE: www.saintedmundschurch.org.uk

VICAR The Reverend Michael Miller (020) 8866 9230
The Vicarage, 2 Pinner Road, Northwood HA6 1QS

ASSISTANT CURATE The Reverend Helen Hutchins 01923 824 741
e-mail: helenhutchins@hotmail.co.uk

LAY MINISTER Miss Sarah Parnaby (020) 8866 8309

SERVICES

Principal Service - Sung Eucharist at 10.00 am every Sunday
can be attended in Church

Other Services - Said Eucharist (can be attended in Church)
10.00 am Thursdays, 11.00 am Fridays, Saturdays 10.30 am
Said Eucharist (online only)
6.00 pm Tuesdays, 6.00 pm Wednesdays

All Services are currently streamed from our website.
Please see our website for the latest information.

SUNDAY SCHOOL at St. Edmund's Church

Sundays at 10.15 am in the Hall.
Please contact Carol Diggins on 07827 159 586 for more information.

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

OFFICERS

Churchwardens: Mr Steve Castle 3a Willows Close, Pinner HA5 3SY (020) 8868 0482
Mr Chris Ambrose 01923 825 524
e-mail: churchwardens@stedmundtheaking.org.uk

Hon. Secretary: Mrs Clare Moses *e-mail:* claremoses@hotmail.com 07950 863 250

Hon. Treasurer: Mr James Mair (020) 8428 1349

Director of Music: Mr Mark Hammond 39^B Carlton Avenue, Kenton HA3 8AX (020) 8909 2687

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ORGANISATIONS

Flower Guild: Mrs Glenda Greenfield *e-mail:* ggreenfield60@gmail.com 07850 581 551

Women's Guild: Mrs Hilda Greenfield 01923 823 134
Mrs Connie Ambrose 01923 825 524

Arrow Players: Mr Michael Godden 01296 631 975

Classic Concerts: Mrs Marjorie Pimm 2 Northwood Way, Northwood HA6 1AT 01923 821 869

Youth Group: Mr Steve Castle 3a Willows Close, Pinner HA5 3SY (020) 8868 0482

Scout Group: Mrs Karen Retter 07984 662 588

Guides: Abigail Harrison/Clare Walker *e-mail:* secondnorthwoodhillsguides@gmail.com

Brownies: (7th Northwood Brownies)
Ellie Morgan *e-mail:* 7thnorthwoodbrownies@gmail.com 07910 208 094

MAGAZINE

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

WELCOME

to the online edition of this magazine.

In the current circumstances, we are publishing on our website so that you don't miss out on the regular monthly issue.

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).

If you would like to receive the Newsletter by e-mail you can subscribe 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".

All Services continue to be celebrated with a congregation inside Church. In addition, the 10 am Sunday Sung Eucharist is available online - see www.saintedmundschurch.org.uk for details.

Congregational singing has been reintroduced on Sundays, and refreshments are now available in the Hall afterwards (table service).

The wearing of masks is strongly recommended unless you are exempt, to protect others and show caring.

In order to reduce the risk of virus transmission some doors and windows remain open during the service. You are advised to wrap up warm if the weather is cold.

Communion continues to be given in one kind only. The Peace is shared non-physically. The Offertory Procession remains suspended, but collection plates are available near the Font.

FR. MICHAEL'S LETTER

Dear Friends

This February marks the 70th anniversary of Her Majesty the Queen's accession to the throne. Queen Elizabeth, as well as being our Head of State, is also The Supreme Governor of the Church of England, something that she takes very seriously. I think we are very fortunate to have Her Majesty, not only as our monarch, but also as Supreme Governor. Clergy in the Church of England take an Oath of Allegiance to the Sovereign at their Ordination and also when Inducted or Licensed to a new position. I last took the oath when I was made Vicar of St. Edmund's. Some clergy find this difficult, but I have to say I have always been proud and honoured to do so. Queen Elizabeth clearly has a strong faith and is not afraid to talk about it, often mentioning it in her broadcasts. Her sense of duty is such an example to us all and something we should be so grateful for.

During The Queen's seventy-year reign there have been some unprecedented changes in our world and society. Through this she has been exemplary in the values and virtues that are at the heart of her faith. I will be offering a Eucharist of Thanksgiving for her reign, during the weekend of her Jubilee celebrations; I hope you will keep that date in your diaries when it is announced.

One of the most poignant things I have seen over the last year is the sight of Her Majesty sitting all alone in St. George's Chapel in Windsor Castle at the funeral of her husband Prince Philip. Most of us felt enormous sympathy for her and I am sure no one would have been upset if she had sat with one of her family for comfort, but she was showing true leadership by example. Her subjects had followed the Covid rules, and she was expressing solidarity with us at what must have been a tremendously difficult and painful time for her. Family issues, along with the death of Prince Philip and the Covid pandemic, must have made the last couple of years so difficult for the Queen, but throughout she has shown strong and empathetic leadership. Something which many of our nation's leaders should perhaps take note of and emulate.

In these difficult times it is good to have something to look forward to, so I do hope that here at St. Edmund's we can mark this Jubilee with some special event during the national celebrations.

Please continue to keep safe and well

Love and prayers

Fr. Michael

CALENDAR AND PRINCIPAL SERVICE READINGS FEBRUARY 2022

Principal Service - Sung Eucharist at 10.00 am every Sunday

6 SUN 4th SUNDAY BEFORE LENT

Celebrant - Fr. Michael

Isaiah 6.1-8, 1 Corinthians 15.1-11, Luke 5.1-11

8 Tues 2.30 pm Women's Guild AGM

13 SUN 3rd SUNDAY BEFORE LENT

Celebrant - Mthr. Helen

Jeremiah 17.5-10, 1 Corinthians 15.12-20, Luke 6.17-26

20 SUN 2nd SUNDAY BEFORE LENT

Celebrant - Fr. Michael

Genesis 2.4b-9,15-25, Revelation 4, Luke 8.22-25

27 SUN SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE LENT

Celebrant - Fr. Michael

Exodus 34.29-end, 2 Corinthians 3.12-4.2, Luke 9.28-36

WEEKDAY SERVICES AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

Sunday	10.00 am	Sunday School
Monday	5.00 pm 6.30 pm 7.00 pm	Beaver Scouts Cub Scouts Guides
Tuesday	6.00 pm 6.15 pm 7.00 pm	SAID EUCHARIST Brownies Scouts
Wednesday	6.00 pm	SAID EUCHARIST
Thursday	10.00 am	SAID EUCHARIST
Friday	11.00 am 8.00 pm	SAID EUCHARIST Arrow Players
Saturday	10.30 am	SAID EUCHARIST

St. EDMUND'S YOUTH GROUP

meets every 2 weeks on Wednesdays, 7-9pm in the Hall.

Open to all aged 10-16.

Contact Steve Castle on 020 8868 0482 for information.

February dates - 9th and 23rd

See www.saintedmundschurch.org.uk/youthgroup for details



MARCH MAGAZINE

*All contributions for
the March Magazine
to be with Jenny Jones by
Friday 18th February
020 8866 7173*

St. EDMUND'S WOMEN'S GUILD

Will meet for its AGM on Tuesday 8th February
at 2.30 pm in the Lounge,
when Subscriptions will be taken
and the programme for the year will be discussed.
All are welcome.

THE ROYAL ACCESSION

This month, on 6th February, it is the 70th anniversary of the Accession to the Throne of the United Kingdom of Queen Elizabeth II. The official celebrations of this significant time in Her Majesty's reign will be in June; local celebrations at St. Edmund's will be announced nearer that time.



God Save the Queen! Long may she reign.

SUNDAY SCHOOL



at St Edmund's Church

The group meets during term time from 10-11.15am. We spend time together in church and then children, and parents if they wish, can join with experienced leaders in the hall where we help children understand the Christian message through craft, games and drama. If you would like to join in or know more please contact Carol on 07827 159 586

Adults are requested
to wear masks

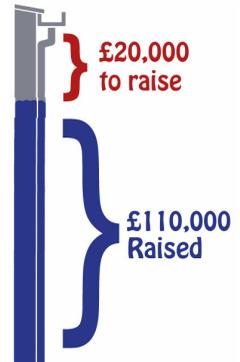




Fundraising continued in December with something new for St. Edmund's – a Christmas Tree Festival. It was (in my humble opinion) a tremendous success in outreach, fellowship and fundraising. As Chair of the Buildings and Fundraising Committee I would like to thank Sarah Wilson for organising the event and all of those who provided such wonderfully decorated trees, delicious refreshments, marvellous gifts and a warm welcome to our very generous visiting public.

At the risk of turning this article into an Oscars acceptance speech, I would also like to thank...those who spent an hour or two rattling collecting buckets in Tesco Pinner Green – we were fortunate to be given this opportunity which came about because Simon Wilson visited the store to give them a leaflet to advertise the Christmas Tree Festival! It was a great to be able to raise some money and, more importantly, the profile of St. Edmund's in our community.

In December we managed to raise just over £3,000 – an amazing amount to raise in a single month. As a result our drainpipe has filled to £110,000 with £20,000 remaining. Onwards and upwards dear friends!



Just a reminder that we are updating the fundraising totals at the end of each calendar month and announcing the amount raised at the end of the 1st or 2nd Sunday of the month during Parish Notices. Again, please accept my apologies that the total in the magazine will be a few weeks behind the actual situation but please continue to be assured that all donations are counted and greatly appreciated.

Now that 2021 has drawn to a close the Standing Committee and PCC will be reviewing the accounts with our Treasurer, James Mair and considering whether we can move some funds from our General Fund (the fund which is used to pay the usual day to day running costs of the church) to Raise the Roof Phase 1. I will report the PCC's decision in my next article, however, you may wish to review the PCC minutes which are posted on the noticeboard in the foyer soon after each meeting. Our application for additional funding from the Willesden Area of our Diocese has also been submitted and I hope to have news about this next month too.

During December and January we continued to receive generous donations from individuals for which I offer my sincere thanks.

If you have not already made a donation but would like to do so, it would be very welcome. Donations can be made in several ways:

- 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.
- by bank transfer to our account with CAF Bank:
 - account name: PCC of St. Edmund The King, Northwood Hills
 - sort code: 40-52-40
 - account number: 00017222
- by online donation via credit or debit card or PayPal by clicking the “Donate here” button on our website: www.saintedmundschurch.org.uk

Thank you.

Fundraising Events for Raise The Roof

The profits from all fundraising events will continue to be given to the “Raise The Roof” appeal for the time being. The Building and Fundraising PCC Subcommittee is preparing 2022’s programme of events and these will be listed in this magazine, on the church website www.saintedmundschurch.org.uk and in the weekly pew sheet (The Orbit). As I mentioned last month, we will be looking at the list of ideas created during the August barbecue and seeing which of those we can run. Please let me know if you have any new fundraising ideas, would like to organise an event, have any requests for revival of previously-held events, or would like to join the committee.

More information

If you would like to know more about the appeal please contact me on 020 8868 0482 or e-mail steven.castle@saintedmundschurch.org.uk I am also the acting Stewardship Recorder and will be happy to answer any questions you may have about making donations.

And finally...

Please continue to keep the Raise the Roof appeal in your prayers, giving thanks for the amazing progress we have made together since the launch last August and that we will be able to start work soon to keep this place a welcoming, warm, safe and dry place for all who come to worship Our Lord here.

With my best wishes,

Steve

A Very Happy Not-So-New Year to you all. By the time you see this, there will be just a whisper of Christmas left, namely Candlemas, which celebrates the presentation of the child Jesus in the Temple. Here he is recognised by Simeon and Anna, holy servants of the Temple, as 'a light to lighten the Gentiles' and 'the Glory of your people Israel'. Quite a load for a small baby... I therefore thought it acceptable to look back at some of our Christmas celebrations in 2021.

On Sunday 12th December we were treated to a really classy Christmas Tea, as part of our 'Raise the Roof' campaign. Fortnum's, eat your heart out! Savoy, look to your laurels! Elegant three-layer cake plates piled with sandwiches, savouries, cakes, scones and sweetmeats more than satisfied our appetites, while to drink there were extra options of Prosecco or mulled wine in addition to the excellent tea, which was served in a fascinating variety of teapots! Those who had been foolhardy enough to partake of even a smidgen of lunch earlier, were very relieved to be given paper plates and cling film so we could take home what we hadn't managed to consume! The Mayor was invited, and seemed to enjoy himself thoroughly, even though he didn't win the coveted gingerbread house in the raffle which followed...

On Tuesday 14th December it was a joy to take part in the Women's Guild Carols (held this year in the Church), the music of which was organised by Peter Heath. He introduced the carols with interesting nuggets of information about the history of their composition; he also sang his own beautiful version of 'O Little Town of Bethlehem'. There was an opportunity to make requests for favourite carols, and we also sang 'Happy Birthday' to Ruth Luck. I too, obliged with a couple of solos, including 'O Holy Night', which seems to be an annual favourite. We had a lovely sociable tea in the Church afterwards, with the welcome help of Sarah Wilson.

The Service of Lessons and Carols followed on Sunday 19th December, providing a bright boost for the run-up to Christmas. Choir members were allowed to choose a carol this year, and I was very happy to get my choice, 'Past Three O'clock', which my mother taught me when I was very young. It brings back to me the sparkle of some of my earliest Christmases. Much thanks is due to Mark, not just for his labours with the music (and us) but also for organising the choir tea! Thanks also to those who provided the seasonal refreshments after the service.

Then there was the magnificent Christmas Tree Festival in the Lady Chapel, organised by the multi-talented Sarah Wilson, which ran from 10th to 19th December. If you missed it, you can still enjoy its wonders through Steve Castle's Virtual Tour. In fact, it helps you notice more details, such as the fact that the Scouts' tree represents so many of their activities, and uses their scarves as tinsel! There were so many marvellous ideas deployed on the sixteen trees (seventeen, if you include the customary 'Lights of Life' tree) - including the mouth-watering nuts, fruits and the popcorn star which decorated the Eco-Tree, and the colourful games-equipment and packets of Haribo on the Youth Group offering - very familiar! Some trees were elegant and stylish (and the Warrick tree smelt good too!); others were more

personal, like that of Twinkle Stars Nursery, with its home-made pictures of, and by, the children. Some presentations had a slightly different take on the theme, like Clare Moses' ingenious geometric sculpture, and the Sunday School's silver branches covered with home-made angels. They were all gorgeous: see for yourself on Steve's splendid video, to which he also provided the glowing musical accompaniment. I was particularly amused to hear a few bars of 'Raindrops are Falling on my Head' when the camera focused on the 'Raise the Roof' fundraising posters! Well done, everyone.

And so to Christmas itself. Sadly, I wasn't around for it, but I hear that the Crib Service (my personal favourite) was a literally resounding success with the presence of the Harrow Concert Band, and brilliant noisy participation from the 'animals' at the crib. I also gathered that Fr. Michael made an appearance in his magician's role on Christmas Day! I had a very good time myself in Christchurch with Frank's amazing Mum, and we were lucky enough to be allowed to sing in the choir of St. Stephen's, Bournemouth on Boxing Day.

It's good to be back, though. St. Edmund's has impressively risen to so many challenges over the last year, and we've gone into 2022 in the same Spirit. At the time of writing, we've just celebrated the Baptism of Jesus, and renewed our Baptismal vows. Let's take them seriously, as a call to mission, and continue to make our church a hub of joy and love to those around us.

Here is a poem that expresses that mission (please excuse the language of the time):

The Divine Image (by William Blake)

To Mercy, Pity, Peace, and Love
All pray in their distress;
And to these virtues of delight
Return their thankfulness.

For Mercy, Pity, Peace, and Love
Is God, our father dear,
And Mercy, Pity, Peace, and Love
Is Man, his child and care.

For Mercy has a human heart,
Pity a human face,
And Love, the human form divine,
And Peace, the human dress.

Then every man, of every clime,
That prays in his distress,
Prays to the human form divine,
Love, Mercy, Pity, Peace.

And all must love the human form,
In heathen, Turk, or Jew;
Where Mercy, Love, and Pity dwell
There God is dwelling too.

May this year bring glory to God, and joyful and loving outreach to our neighbour.

R.I.P. EILEEN WHALLEY 1928-2021

from Fr. Michael's Address at Eileen's Funeral

We are here today to give thanks for Eileen to mourn her passing, and to comfort each other in our grief.

There are some people that have a huge influence on other people's lives, and Eileen was one of those people.

Eileen was a stalwart member of St. Edmund's for many years. Being a teacher, she took a great interest in the young people and she assisted at the St. Edmund's Brownie Pack as a parent helper attending meetings and making lots of cakes for the open evenings when parents and visitors were invited so see what happened at Brownie meetings.

I think, however, what Eileen will be remembered, for most here at St. Edmund's, is her involvement with the Sunday School for over 40 years. During her leadership numbers rose from a handful of children to over 50 on the register. There were 10 helpers who would attend on a rota basis while Eileen was there nearly every week. This all took careful managing and the children's interest was maintained by parties held throughout the year, Nativity plays and taking part in the main services. Under Eileen's leadership the team wrote many of the Nativity plays while she personally oversaw the planning of the service presentations and the children's writing of the intercessions they read on a monthly basis.

During one notable Nativity play it snowed during a rehearsal. Eileen was anxious that we reached the end so all the children would know what they were doing. By the time we had packed up, the snow was so thick, that Eileen got stuck on Cuckoo Hill and Steve Castle had to go out to rescue her.

The children all knew that Eileen cared about them personally because she took time to find out who they were and what they enjoyed doing. She engaged their interest and all these things enabled them to grow in the Christian faith. She also took time to engage with parents so that if a child needed extra support care could be taken to encourage the child.

In the early 2000s, Spectrum 5 Holiday Club came into being, and for six months each year, time was taken in the preparation. Again, Eileen managed the small team, who created the vision for each themed event, and then drew in 30-40 people from the wider congregation to become group leaders, craft leaders and helpers in the kitchen. The first club was attended by around 60 children, and during the 10 years that it ran nearly 100 children were attending each club. It was during this time that Sunday School became Spectrum on Sunday.

All this came together through numerous, lengthy phone calls, and meetings at The Pear Tree where Eileen and Alan were always so hospitable. Some of the highlights of those times include Epiphany Parties, Pancake Parties and Firework Parties as well as the creation of the St. Edmund's banner.

By the time I arrived at St. Edmund's Eileen had retired from her duties with the children's work but from the comments made to me over the years it has been obvious just what a tremendous force for good she was in teaching the faith to so many youngsters and also how much she inspired all the other adults involved. Her contribution to the Church was rightly recognised by the wider church when she was awarded the St. Mellitus medal by the Bishop of London. Thankfully her legacy lives on and I hope will. She and Alan worked tirelessly before the present church building was erected raising money by collecting shillings from houses in the parish and were founding members of the new St. Edmund's.

I witnessed a different aspect of Eileen's faith when I visited her and Alan on a number of occasions to take them communion as Alan had become pretty much housebound. She was determined to care for Alan at home as long as she was physically able to do so. A true example of the love they had for each other and her caring faith in action. She was very upset when eventually things got too difficult for her and Allan had to go to a care home.

Unfortunately, I was unable to visit Eileen at St. Vincent's during most of the pandemic but thankfully I did manage to get permission to see her in her last days and anoint her. Prior to the lockdowns I was able to take communion to her at the previous care home and at St. Vincent's. On one such visit I experienced something of the feisty side of Eileen when one of the volunteers intimated that I wasn't a proper priest. Gone was the quiet gently spoken lady I had got to know, as she sat up and angrily said 'He is a proper priest, of course he is!!!' Clearly Eileen was someone to have on your side.

Eileen's strong faith sustained her throughout her life and she so clearly took seriously Christ's commandment to make disciples of all people. God used Eileen for so many years to spread the Good news. She was in no doubt that Jesus was the way the truth and the life and her life's task was to let others know. I am sure Eileen would have been familiar with a passage from Deuteronomy

You shall put these words of mine in your heart and soul, and you shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and fix them as an emblem on your forehead. Teach them to your children, talking about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise.

She certainly did that for so many children.

Eileen lived a good Christian life and is an example of a true Christian and so I finish with words from the second letter to Timothy

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness which the Lord will give to me.

I have no doubt Eileen will be wearing that crown.

Rest eternal grant unto her, O Lord. May she rest in peace. Amen.

R.I.P. GEOFF POND 1935-2021

from Fr. Michael's Address at Geoff's Funeral

Today we have come together to remember Geoff and it is a sad day because we have lost a dear friend of St. Edmund's. But we can also celebrate his life which, as his daughter Vanessa has said, was well lived.

Geoff was born in St. Bartholomew's Hospital and spent his childhood in Islington. His parents owned a tea room and restaurant in Camden. He moved with his mother to Northolt before marrying Eve and ending up in Northwood.

Geoff was a Bank manager and that was something we had in common, and led to some interesting conversations. Eve was a very active member of St Edmund's from early on after their move to Northwood and took on many roles before Geoff eventually started to come to church too. He and Bernard Wood were for many years responsible for printing the parish magazine - a job that he and Eve continued after Bernard died, until the onset of the pandemic. Geoff and Bernard always finished by having a pub lunch together, and I was told that once a year Eve and Nora were allowed - sorry - invited to join them.

Geoff had a quiet, practical and inquisitive faith. He and Eve always attended the Lent Groups. He joined in fully in the discussions and wasn't afraid to question things he either didn't agree with or didn't fully understand. I am told that he found the course we did a couple of years ago on prayer particularly helpful and was extremely interested in the sessions on meditation. In times past Geoff joined pilgrimages to Walsingham and to Santiago de Compostela.

As I said, Geoff had a quiet faith and he once told me that a good friend of his who he went to football with was a Christian, but they never talked about church or God but were well aware of each other's faith. Geoff showed his faith in the way he lived his life and especially in the way he cared for Eve.

Today is a difficult day and a sad day we have lost a husband, a father a grandfather, a friend, but I hope as Christians we too can take comfort from the scriptures. In the reading from St. John's Gospel we heard that there are many dwelling places in God's house and that Jesus has prepared a place for us and he has prepared a place for Geoff.

Geoff was well aware that the Christian message is grounded in love. St. Paul says that nothing can separate us from God's love and we rejoice that Geoff will be experiencing that love in a way that is beyond how we experience it here in our earthly lives. In another of his letters, this time to the Corinthians, Paul talks a lot about love. One of the things he says is that many things will come to an end but Love will never end. Knowing that your love for Geoff will never end and neither will his love for you can also give some comfort at this sad time.

So let's thank God for Geoff's life, for the love he showed to others and for the example of his faith and also for his friendship. May he rest in peace. Amen

WHAT IS A SENIOR CITIZEN?

A Senior Citizen who was here before colour television,
frozen foods, contact lenses credit cards ...
and before man walked on the moon,

For us “Time Sharing” meant togetherness not holiday homes,
and a “chip” meant a piece of wood,
“Hardware” meant nuts and bolts, and software wasn’t even a word.

We got married first, then lived together
and thought that cleavage was something that butchers did.

A “stud” was piece that linked a collar onto a shirt,
and “going all the way” meant staying on a double decker bus to the bus depot.

We thought that “fast food” was what you ate in Lent;
a “Big Mac” was an oversized raincoat and “crumpet”, we had for tea.

In our day “grass” was mown, “pot” was something you cooked in,
“coke” was kept in the coal house and a “joint” was cooked on Sundays!

We are today’s SENIOR CITIZENS.

A hardy bunch when you think how much the world has changed!

(I was amused by this, which I found printed on a tea towel! Jenny Jones)



SPRING CONCERT

7.30 pm Saturday 19th March at St. Edmund’s

Mozart Mass in D and Mendelssohn Psalms

Tickets £15 (includes refreshments)
available from Beattie Bedford 01895 476224
or from a choir member.
also available on the door on the night

Some hymns have a fairly straightforward origin - well-documented authorship, often written for a specific liturgical use. Others have a more complex origin, with legend and mythology combining with contemporary interpretations to produce a work of inspirational praise and devotion, of which this a sublime example.

Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart,
 Be all else but naught to me, save that Thou art;
Be Thou my best thought in the day and the night,
 Both waking and sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be Thou my wisdom, be Thou my true word,
 Be Thou ever with me, and I with Thee, Lord;
Be Thou my great Father, and I Thy true son;
 Be Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.

Be Thou my breastplate, my sword for the fight;
 Be Thou my whole armour, be Thou my true might;
Be Thou my soul's shelter, be Thou my strong tower:
 O raise Thou me heavenward, great Power of my power.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise:
 Be Thou mine inheritance now and always;
Be Thou and Thou only the first in my heart;
 O Sovereign of heaven, my treasure Thou art.

High King of heaven, Thou heaven's bright Sun,
 O grant me its joys after victory is won;
Great Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
 Still be Thou my vision, O Ruler of all.

The Hymn started life as an Irish poem written in (possibly) the 6th century, or (maybe) the 8th century, or even the 10th century, traditionally attributed to an Irish monk called (Saint) Dallan Forgaill. But he lived from c.560 to c.640, so if he wrote it, that would rule out the 8th or 10th century theories. But the legends keep coming, because it is believed by some that the poem was inspired by a tale of St. Patrick, who, against a decree by King Loghaire of Tara (or "High King of Ireland") that no fire was to be lit on the Hill of Slane (not far from Dublin) until a particular pagan festival (probably the Spring Equinox) had begun, did light a (possibly Paschal) fire. But he got away with it because the King was impressed by his devotion and (possibly) subsequently converted to Christianity.

Origins aside, a manuscript of the poem in Middle Irish (c.900-1200) was translated into literal prose by Dublin academic Mary Elizabeth Byrne (1891-1931), a scholar of mediæval Irish literature, and published in 1905.

Then, in 1912, a re-versified version was published by Eleanor Hull (1860-1935), a scholar of Irish Studies, a co-founder of the Irish Texts Society and President of The Irish Literary Society, in her 1912 “Poem Book of the Gael”.

The tune used for the hymn derives from an ancient Irish folk tune; it was first published (without annotation or attribution) by Irish historian, writer and music collector Dr. Patrick Weston Joyce (1827-1914) in 1909 in his “Old Irish Folk Music and Songs”, with the title “By the Banks of the Bann.” The melody was first coupled with Hull’s “Be Thou My Vision” text in 1919 by Leopold Dix (1861-1935) in the Irish Church Hymnal, with the title “Slane”, presumably as a reference to the St. Patrick legend. The current form of the tune is that of Welsh musician, academic and composer David Evans (1874-1948), published in the 1927 Church of Scotland Church Hymnary. The tune is also used for “Lord of all Hopefulness”.



JANUARY Crossword Solution

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

BRITISH CATHEDRALS - PART 5

Mike Godden

ST. ALBANS CATHEDRAL - The Cathedral and Abbey Church of St Alban.

St. Albans has only been a Cathedral since 1877 with the creation of the Diocese of St. Albans from parts of the Diocese of Rochester, covering (at the time) Hertfordshire and Essex. It 1914 it lost Essex and gained Bedfordshire. But the present Cathedral building dates back to 1077, making it one of the oldest British Cathedral buildings still standing; previous buildings go back to the 8th century. Much of the building was built from bricks and tiles saved from the ruins of Roman Verulamium. As with many Cathedrals, it has undergone many partial rebuildings, renovations and additions over the centuries, with major restoration works during the 19th century. In particular, the Abbey (as it was then) was closed in 1539 and some of its buildings were destroyed. The shrines of St. Alban and St. Amphibalus were demolished and Alban's relics disappeared. In 1553, the people of the town bought the church for their own use, but upkeep was expensive and by 1832, the Abbey was in a sorry state until Victorian benefactors came to its rescue.

TRURO CATHEDRAL - The Cathedral Church of St. Mary. Cornwall's Cathedral was founded in 1876 when its Diocese was created out of the Archdeaconry of Cornwall in the Diocese of Exeter. It was built between 1880 and 1910 in the Gothic Revival style. It was the first Cathedral to be built on a new site in England since Salisbury Cathedral in 1220. It is one of only 3 Cathedrals in Britain to have 3 spires - the others being Lichfield and Edinburgh. It occupies the site of the previous Parish Church of St. Mary (built in the 16th century), which was largely demolished, leaving only its south aisle, incorporated into the new building and still serving as the Parish Church of the City Centre. It was in this part of the building that the now-familiar Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols was first held. Because of its relatively recent origin, the building has a most pleasing consistency in style of architecture. Among notable features are the intricately carved teak Bishop's throne, the magnificently carved stone reredos, the font made from red breccia marble from North Africa and green serpentine rock from the Lizard, a stunningly detailed terracotta panel depicting The Way of the Cross, and John Miller's inspiring painting "Cornubia - Land of the Saints" showing Cornwall from above - the sun is setting in the west; the Celtic Saints arrive with the Light of Christ; each Cornish church is marked by a Celtic cross and a shaft of light shines down upon the Cathedral.

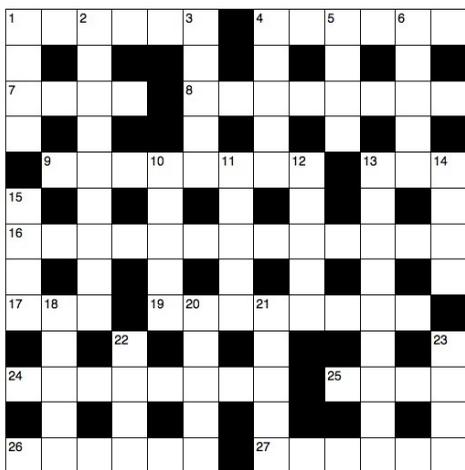
LIVERPOOL CATHEDRAL - The Cathedral Church of the Risen Christ. The Diocese of Liverpool was formed in 1880 from part of the Diocese of Chester. For a while the new Diocese had no Cathedral - St. Peter's Parish Church stood in, as a "pro-Cathedral". Eventually, after some years of site-selection, planning, re-planning and architect-selecting, the foundation stone was laid by Edward VII in 1904.

The Lady Chapel was completed in 1910; the Chancel in 1924, and consecrated in the presence of George V; the Tower was completed in 1942; final completion was in 1978, with a Dedication in the presence of Her Majesty. The building is quite simply, architecturally and spiritually monumental. It rises above the Liverpool skyline in the same way that St. Paul's did in London until recently. It is the largest cathedral in Britain, by any definition. Its impact defies mere verbal description - you have to be there. It may not be beautiful, in the ordinary sense of the word, but neither is it brutalist - its style could be said to be the eventual manifestation of the Gothic style of 700 years ago, but labels are for purists - just go and be awed.

NEWCASTLE CATHEDRAL - The Cathedral Church of St. Nicholas. The Diocese of Newcastle came into being in 1882, formed from the part of the Diocese of Durham north of the Tyne - i.e. Northumberland. The Norman Parish Church of St. Nicholas became the new Cathedral. That building was founded in 1091, but was destroyed by fire in 1216. The present building was completed in 1350, so is mostly of the Perpendicular style of the 14th century. Its tower is noted for its 15th century lantern spire. The interior of the church was badly damaged by Scottish invaders during their brief occupation of the city in 1640, and again in 1644, during a nine-week siege. There was much restoration in the 18th century. Inside the cathedral a finely-carved marble monument commemorates Admiral Lord Collingwood (1748-1810), who took over command at the Battle of Trafalgar (21st October 1805) after the death of Admiral Lord Nelson. Collingwood was baptised and married in the Church, and each year, on 21st October, a wreath is laid in his memory in front of the monument.

SOUTHWELL MINSTER - The Cathedral and Parish Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham covers the county of Nottinghamshire and a few parishes in South Yorkshire. The Cathedral, Southwell Minster, is in the small town of Southwell, 15 miles north of Nottingham. Having been variously part of the Dioceses of York and Lincoln, the Diocese was established in 1884, the Minster thus becoming a Cathedral. At that time the Diocese also covered Derbyshire, until the Diocese of Derby was established. The earliest church on the site of the Minster believed to have been founded in 627 by Paulinus, the first Archbishop of York. In 956 King Eadwig gave land in Southwell to the Archbishop of York, on which the a Minster church was established. The Norman reconstruction of the present church building began in 1108. Many stones from the earlier Anglo-Saxon church were re-used in the construction; some parts of the Anglo-Saxon building remain intact. The church was completed by c.1150. During the ensuing centuries there were various rebuildings - the Chancel was replaced by a larger one, in the Early English style in the 13th century; there was much damage in the Civil War; in 1711 one of the spires was struck by lightning, causing extensive destruction - which was repaired by 1720. The spires and nave roof were rebuilt in the 19th century.

FEBRUARY CROSSWORD



ACROSS

1. 'If you love those who love you, what — is that to you?' (*Luke 6:32*) (6)
4. 'They threw the ship's — overboard' (*Acts 27:19*) (6)
7. The first murderer (*Genesis 4:8*) (4)
8. He was the head Levite in charge of the singing when the ark of God was brought back to Jerusalem (*1 Chronicles 15:22*) (8)
9. Samson was noted for this (*Judges 16:6*) (8)
13. Solicit money or food from passers by (*Acts 3:2*) (3)
16. What William Booth's Christian Mission became in 1878 (9,4)
17. Alliance of Religions and Conservation (1,1,1)
19. 'I will praise your name for ever and ever. — — I will praise you' (*Psalms 145:1-2*) (5,3)
24. Simon had (anag.) (8)
25. Desperate (*Deuteronomy 28:48*) (4)
26. Elisha witnessed the boy he was seeking to resuscitate do this seven times before opening his eyes (*2 Kings 4:35*) (6)
27. The belly and thighs of the statue in Nebuchadnezzar's dream were made of this (*Daniel 2:32*) (6)

DOWN

1. 'Before the — crows, you will disown me three times' (*Matthew 26:75*) (4)
2. Relating to the books of the Bible between Acts and Revelation (9)
3. 'They have — the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!' (*John 20:2*) (5)
4. Belief (5)
5. 'Take the following fine spices: ... 250 shekels of fragrant — ' (*Exodus 30:23*) (4)
6. 'Do not — Jerusalem, but wait for the gift' (*Acts 1:4*) (5)
10. seer (anag.) (5)
11. 'Even there your hand will — me' (*Psalms 139:10*) (5)
12. The wild variety was part of John the Baptist's diet (*Mark 1:6*) (5)
13. A non-Greek speaker who was looked down on by civilized people (*Colossians 3:11*) (9)
14. Famous 1950s musical whose characters included members of
16. Across, — and Dolls (4)
15. The province from which Paul wrote to the Corinthians (*1 Corinthians 16:19*) (4)
18. 'He was standing in the gateway with a linen cord and a measuring — — his hand' (*Ezekiel 40:3*) (3,2)
20. 'Today, if you hear his — , do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion' (*Hebrews 3:15*) (5)
21. The Jericho prostitute who hid two Israelite spies on the roof of her house (*Hebrews 11:31*) (5)
22. 'And now these three remain: faith, — and love. But the greatest of these is love' (*1 Corinthians 13:13*) (4)
23. 'God has numbered the days of your reign and brought it to an end' (*Daniel 5:26*) (4)