

THE

KING

JANUARY 2024



...And they left their nets at once and followed him.

Mark 1:16

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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HOW TO RECEIVE THE MAGAZINE

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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).

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FEBRUARY MAGAZINE

*All contributions for
the February Magazine
to be with Jenny Jones by
Friday 19th January
020 8866 7173*

*The February Magazine
will be available
from Sunday 28th January*

FR. MICHAEL'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

As I get older the years seem to pass by so quickly. It seems no time since I was writing my New Year letter for 2023 and here I am writing the 2024 one!

2024 marks the 60th anniversary of the Consecration of the current St. Edmund's church building. But, as most of you know, the Church of St. Edmund has been here since 1934, and until 1964 worshipped in what is now the Church Hall. The eagle-eyed will have seen the archway in the brickwork of the Hall that marked out the Chancel of the old church (now the current Lady Chapel). I am told that, prior to what is now the Hall being built, worship took place in a marquee!

I am hoping that to mark this Diamond Jubilee and 90th anniversary we will be able to celebrate with some special events during the year. The Harrow Deanery Choirs' Festival will be held at St. Edmund's in October this year and will be a festival Evensong. The culmination of all the events will be our Patronal festival in November, planning for which is already under way.

Jubilees are a good way to celebrate the past and give thanks for what has been. I do hope however that we will also be able to look to the future and plan how we can further build up the Church ready for the next 90 years. Back in 2019 the PCC, following a planning day, came up with a Mission Action Plan for St. Edmund's. Some of the action points in the plan have been fulfilled; others due to the Covid situation either had to be put on hold or became impossible, and some are no longer relevant. I hope therefore as part of our Jubilee year the PCC can work to revamp the plan and secure the future for St. Edmund's. It is important that as a community we have a vision. The Book of Proverbs tells us in the King James translation .. *'Where there is no vision, the people perish.'* I hope that we can work together to develop our vision for the future of St. Edmund's.

As well as heralding in a new year, January also sees the beginning of what we call the Epiphany season which begins with the Feast of Epiphany itself. Jesus is revealed to the gentiles in the form of the Magi; the three gifts they bring lead us to different aspects of his nature. Gold reminds us that He is a King, frankincense that He is Holy, myrrh foretells His death. During the Epiphany season other aspects of Christ are revealed to us. We hear of His first miracle at the wedding at Cana, and His divinity is revealed as we celebrate His baptism. Let us pray that during this Jubilee year Jesus will reveal Himself to us more and more.

With every blessing for a happy and Holy New Year, love and prayers

Fr. Michael

CALENDAR AND PRINCIPAL SERVICE READINGS JANUARY 2024

Principal Service - Sung Eucharist at 10.00 am every Sunday

7 SUN THE EPIPHANY

Isaiah 60.1-6, Ephesians 3.1-12, Matthew 2.1-12

13 Sat St. Edmund's Pantomime - "Little Red Riding Hood"

- 3.00 pm Saturday 13th

20 Sat 3.00 pm Sunday 14th

7.30 pm Thursday 18th

7.30 pm Friday 19th

3.00 pm Saturday 20th

7.30 pm Saturday 20th

14 SUN 2nd SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY

1 Samuel 3.1-10, Revelation 5.1-10, John 1.43-end

21 SUN 3rd SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY

Genesis 14.17-20, Revelation 19.6-10, John 2.1-11

28 SUN THE PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE (CANDLEMAS)

Malachi 3.1-5, Hebrews 2.14-end, Luke 2.22-40

OTHER DIARY DATES

Wednesday 14th February

Ash Wednesday - the beginning of Lent

Sunday 10th March

Mothering Sunday

Sunday 24th March

Palm Sunday

Thursday 28th March

Maundy Thursday

Friday 29th March

Good Friday

Sunday 31st March

EASTER DAY

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 on
Tuesday 13th February, at 2.30 pm,
for their Annual General Meeting
Followed by refreshments. All are welcome.**

St. EDMUND'S YOUTH GROUP

**meets usually every 2 weeks
on Wednesdays during term time;
7-9 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**



THANK YOU!

As we welcome 2024, I would like to thank everyone who has been involved with this magazine during 2023. Firstly, thanks are due to Mike Godden for processing the material and preparing it for publication, also thanks to Terry Diggins who contributes various items of artwork (including the cover picture), as well as items from "Parish Pump" - a resource that is available to all Church of England Parishes - items that we can use if required. Once assembled, the prepared magazine goes to Steve Castle, who sends out many copies online to our subscribers. He also prints many copies that are sent to those who do not use a computer. Secondly, thanks are due to our two stalwart contributors who provide copy every month - Fr. Michael and Sarah Parnaby, also to Steve who keeps us up to date with monies coming in for 'Raise the Roof'. Finally thank you to all of our readers - none of the above effort would take place without all of you! Do please remember that anyone can send in to me an article, a comment or request.

May I wish you all a Happy, Healthy and Peaceful New Year
Jenny Jones, Hon. Editor

The season of joyful celebration that begins at Christmas continues through the successive Sundays of Epiphany, and ends with the Feast of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple (also known as Candlemas). The child who has been manifested to the Magi at his birth is now recognised by Simeon and Anna, when he comes to be presented in the Temple according to the Law of Israel, 4 days after his birth. He is both ‘a light to lighten the Gentiles’ and ‘the glory of God’s people Israel’. But the redemption he will bring must be won through suffering; the Incarnation is directed to the Passion; and Simeon’s final words move our attention away from the celebration of Christmas and towards the mysteries of Easter.

The Presentation is celebrated on 2nd February, or on the Sunday between 28th January and 3rd February inclusive - this year we celebrate it on Sunday 29th January.

As with a number of Christian festivals, the precise timing of “Candlemas” partly derives from celebrations in pre-Christian times, when the day was known as the “Feast of Lights”. It celebrated the increase strength of the life-giving sun as Winter gave way to Spring, as it marks the halfway point between the shortest day and the Spring Equinox, so from that date the daylight hours are longer than night time.

The name Candlemas refers to the practice on this day of blessing on this day the candles to be used in Church for the coming year - before modern forms of lighting existed, candles were most important in those days, not only for illumination, but because it was believed that they gave protection against plague, illness and famine.

In many Churches on this feast there is a procession of the whole congregation with lighted candles – often inside the whole building, going into every ‘dark’ corner. Everyone carries their own lighted candle, which they are encouraged to take home and light there also.

Christ is often called the ‘Light of the World’ who came to bring light, hope, and peace into our darkness. Candlemas is a reminder that Jesus, like a lit candle, is there for us and with us, lighting our way, making it safe, giving us life in dark places.

A Prayer for Candlemas

*Blessed are you, Lord our God,
King of the universe.
You make our darkness to be light.
For with You is the well of life
and in Your light shall we see light.*

Happy New Year, everybody! I hope you all enjoyed what seems to have become the accepted Christmas period - though actually, in the Church it continues until 2nd of February! But hopefully, the frenzy will be over by the time you read this! It's one of the reasons I love Epiphany: Christmas wonder without the hurly-burly!

I wasn't able to attend the Christmas Bazaar in late November because of a family funeral, but I gather it was a very jolly occasion, with members of the Harrow Concert Band playing carols on the stage, Father Christmas working his usual magic in his magnificent Grotto, and plenty of delicious and beautiful things for sale, thanks to the crafty and culinary artists among our number! Fortunately, there were still some of these items available for purchase after Church the next morning, so I didn't totally lose out, especially as I found I'd won a bottle of nice 'red' on the Grand Draw! The money raised was round about £2,400 - well done, everybody!

The Christmas Tree Festival was another example of the artistic vision and skill of the people of St. Edmund's. Arrow Players' 'Little Red Riding Hood' tree advertised the Pantomime cleverly and effectively. Clare's beautiful construction of pinecones, 'Nature's Bounty' was a real work of art - and patience! The Eco-Church tree demonstrated the potential to make decorations out of anything - who knew that toothpaste tubes could become flying angels, for example! A salutary lesson in recycling.

The Scouts had a lovely tree adorned with colourful badges, and the children of both Twinkle Stars Nursery and the Sunday School had produced home-drawn or -coloured decorations for their trees (the latter with a 'Wise Men' theme) - a personal touch. The Flower Guild's tasteful offering was up to its usual superb standard, and the Women's Guild tree with the theme, 'Santa's Dilemma' (elves and reindeer going AWOL but still visible!) was fantastic, and complete with a model of Santa's workshop. This creation, I believe, was conceived and produced by the talented Sylvia Swallow.

Then there was the Youth Group contribution which was less about sweets this year and more about sport (very healthy!), and the Altar Servers had produced a minimalist but elegant white composition of twigs, with chubby white doves of peace at the top! A much-needed message...

The Choir tree had its customarily eccentric shape and was bedecked with golden instruments and musical symbols; and there was a lovely offering from the Setterfields, covered in snowflake shapes. An unusual but very skilfully executed contribution was Judith Mair's 'My Welsh Ancestry Tree', based on her family history.

The Guides created some wonderfully psychedelic decorations for their tree, and the most moving one of all for me was the Warricks' tree, a creation which appeared to be in the distinct shape of an 'A', reminding us of Ann Warrick, who has now gone to Glory - and in remembrance her name is on the nearby Lights of Life Tree. The Festival raised £338.25 for St. Edmund's.

The Women's Guild Carol concert was held on Thursday 14th December in Church. Peter Heath, our compère, had previously asked for requests, but there was also a chance to proffer other suggestions at the event. He included some seasonal poems and there were a couple of solos from me - at least I didn't have a cold this year! There was a good selection, and all sang lustily. We ended (well, almost) with the 'Twelve Days of Christmas', after which not only our voices but our brain cells were spent, after getting through all the verses! Thank you, Peter, for your hard work and beautiful playing. And thanks everyone who contributed to and prepared the fabulous tea.

More Christmas music followed at the Service of Nine Lessons and Carols on Sunday 17th December. Among the familiar favourites, we sang 'The Holy Star', a carol by Mark Hammond, with which he won a competition some time ago. As we progressed through the Christmas Story, it was moving to hear the Lessons read by a variety of readers representing different organisations within the Church - especially the young people, both of whom had not taken part before. Heaven and Earth connected with the coming of Jesus - we hope that we were able to pass on something of this message, if imperfectly.

Thanks to all who were involved with refreshments both before and after the service. During tea beforehand, the choir celebrated Mark Hammond's sixtieth Birthday in advance with a delicious coffee and walnut cake made by Marjorie. Mark made the comment 'She knows what I like'!

And this month we have the St. Edmund's Pantomime, presented by Arrow Players. Oh yes we do! Good Luck to all involved with the production of "Little Red Riding Hood", which runs from 13th to 20th January.

See you there!



**We celebrate The Epiphany this year
on Sunday 7th January**

RAISE THE ROOF UPDATE



I'm writing this in December and, as the year draws to a close, I would like to take a moment to sincerely thank everyone who has supported, attended and organised the various Raise the Roof fundraising events throughout 2023. It never ceases to amaze me how much we manage to raise together and how much enjoyment and pastoral support our events bring to those outside the immediate church family. I would also like to thank those who have made personal donations during the year. Your personal donations, the gift aid received on those donations, combined with the profits from the fundraising events held in the autumn and winter mean our total has increased by a further £5,000 and now stands at £69,000.

We have now received the updated estimate for the Lady Chapel and Hall pitched roof replacement. We had originally expected the total to be approximately £250,000. I am very pleased to say that the estimate is approximately £50,000 lower than anticipated which means our revised total is now £200,000. With the £69,000 already raised we have £131,000 remaining.



As we prepare our calendar of fundraising events for 2024 the Building and Fundraising Sub-Committee would warmly welcome new fundraising event ideas. If you have an idea for an event which you think could raise £500 or more, please do contact me, Fr. Michael, Carol Diggins or Clare Moses. In the meantime, the Bonus Ball will be back early in 2024 and we'll look forward to the Plant Sale, Summer Fair and Christmas Bazaar in due course!

If you would like 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 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 again for your support in 2023 and for your continuing support in 2024 as we continue our steady progress towards our fundraising target.

With best wishes for a happy and peaceful new year, Steve Castle

ARROW PLAYERS present
The St Edmund's Pantomime

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

Little Red Riding Hood
by Mike Warrick

January 2024
Saturday 13th at 3pm
Sunday 14th at 3pm* (relaxed performance)
Thursday 18th at 7.30 pm
Friday 19th at 7.30 pm
Saturday 20th at 3pm & 7.30 pm

Scan Me
*relaxed performance - see website for details

Tickets
£12 (£10 concessions)
www.arrowplayers.org.uk/tickets

HOLIDAY CHURCHES



In September 2023, we visited The Pontifical Shrine of the Blessed Virgin of the Rosary of Pompei, which is a Roman Catholic cathedral, Marian pontifical shrine, and Pontifical minor basilica commissioned by Bartolo Longo, located in Pompei, Italy. The original building was built between 1876 and 1891 and designed by Antonio Cua followed a Latin cross plan. It was only 420 square metres. To accommodate the increasing numbers of pilgrims, the sanctuary was expanded between 1934 and 1939 from one to three aisles, keeping its Latin cross plan. Each new aisle has three altars on each side. The new building with its 2,000 square metres can accommodate up to 6,000 people.

Terry and Carol Diggins

SAINTS OF THE BRITISH ISLES - WULFSTAN

Mike Godden

Wulfstan, Bishop of Worcester from 1062 to 1095, occupies a unique place in British church history. He was the last surviving pre-Norman Conquest Bishop, the first Bishop to pay homage to William the Conqueror after the battle of Hastings, and one of the few Saxons to keep high office to the end of William's reign. And he is regarded as a truly good and holy man.

Wulfstan was born about 1008 at Long Itchington, Warwickshire. His uncle was Archbishop of York, and through his help, Wulfstan studied at the Abbeys of Evesham and Peterborough. Because of his Christian dedication, his superiors recommended him for the priesthood. Wulfstan was ordained in 1038 and became Benedictine monk at Worcester Cathedral Priory, being appointed Prior in 1050. He was responsible for restoring the fortunes of the Priory - its lands, its finances and its monastic observances. He was made Bishop of Worcester in 1062.

As a Bishop, Wulfstan made some significant contributions to the English church. He had a passion for pastoral care and was the first English bishop to be known to make a systematic visitation of his Diocese. He was a gifted administrator, increasing the effectiveness of his Archdeacons. He was highly influential in monastic reform, overseeing laws and canons to reform the role of the clergy. He encouraged the building of Churches, he upheld the practice of clerical celibacy, he insisted on stone, rather than wooden, altars (said to symbolise the tomb of the crucified Christ). He also said commentaries in English regarding Readings in Latin (making him the first Anglican?).

He was a powerful preacher – with a great gift for explaining the teaching of Christianity. He encouraged a wider understanding of public penitence and taught against the many pagan customs throughout the land. He had a strong social conscience, and became a bitter opponent of the slave trade. Together with Lanfranc, Wulfstan was mainly responsible for ending the slave trade in Bristol, and also for abolishing the slave trade between Worcester Diocese and Ireland.

His passion for buildings, led to the founding of the Great Malvern Priory, as well as overseeing large-scale rebuilding of Worcester Cathedral, Hereford Cathedral, and Tewkesbury Abbey.

Wulfstan died in January 1095, apparently during his daily ritual of washing the feet of 12 of his parishioners. His feast day is **19th January**.



HYMN OF THE MONTH

Mike Godden

It's unusual to find a commonly sung Christmas hymn that doesn't explicitly mention the birth of Christ. The nearest it gets is to quote the angels in Luke 2.14 when they proclaimed to the shepherds, "Peace on earth, good will toward men." ...

It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth
To touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to men,
From heaven's all-gracious King."
The world in solemn stillness lay,
To hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come
With peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heavenly music floats
O'er all the weary world;
Above its sad and lowly plains,
They bend on hovering wing,
And ever o'er its Babel sounds
The blessed angels sing.

Yet with the woes of sin and strife
The world has suffered long;
Beneath the angel-strain have rolled
Two thousand years of wrong;
And man, at war with man, hears not
The love-song which they bring;
O hush the noise, ye men of strife,
And hear the angels sing.

And ye, beneath life's crushing load,
Whose forms are bending low,
Who toil along the climbing way
With painful steps and slow,
Look now! for glad and golden hours
Come swiftly on the wing.
O rest beside the weary road,
And hear the angels sing!

For lo! The days are hastening on,
By prophet bards foretold,
When, with the ever-circling years
Comes round the age of gold
When peace shall over all the earth
Its ancient splendours fling,
And the whole world give back the song
Which now the angels sing.

It is of course right and proper that we should joyfully sing "Hark! the herald angels sing" and "O little Town of Bethlehem" and so on at Christmas time. But always there are moments when we recognise that the message of peace has not yet been fully realised on earth, and we think of Ukraine and Israel and all those others parts of the world where armed conflicts still demand our fervent prayers for peace - which is the main theme of the hymn.

The text of the hymn was written by Edmund Hamilton Sears (1810-1876). He was a Unitarian pastor, who was born and lived most of his life in Massachusetts, USA. He wrote the hymn in 1849, at a turbulent time when there were revolutions in Europe and war between the USA and Mexico, which led Sears to portray the world as dark, full of "sin and strife", not hearing the Christmas message.

In the 1870s there were published by other writers a few revised versions of verses 4 and 5, which are rarely now used, and in 1899 an additional verse was published by Rev. Edgar Puttman in *“The Westminster Carol Book”*, which reinforces the hope that we can all embrace Peace on Earth :

O Prince of Peace, on Whom we Cast
 Our every cross and care,
 Come enter Thou our longing hearts,
 And make Thy dwelling there;
 And may we 'mid our daily toil
 To Thee our praises bring,
 Until on high we learn the song

The tune primarily used for the hymn in Britain is “Noel”, written by Sir Arthur Sullivan (1842-1900) and published in 1874 in his *“Church Hymns with Tunes”*. The tune is an adaptation of a traditional English folk melody. Sullivan is of course best known for his work with W.S. Gilbert on the famous operettas, but he also composed oratorios and music for some Shakespeare plays, in addition to a large number of hymn tunes, notably that for *“Angel Voices Ever Singing”*

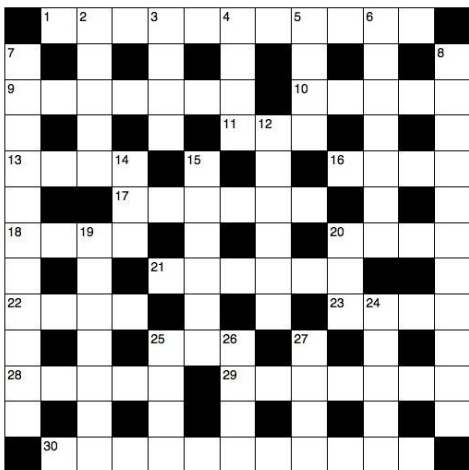
Sullivan entered the Chapel Royal as a chorister in 1854. He was elected as the first Mendelssohn scholar in 1856, when he began his studies at the Royal Academy of Music in London. He also studied at the Leipzig Conservatory (1858-1861), and in 1866 was appointed professor of composition at the Royal Academy of Music.



It_ came up - on the_ mid - night clear, that glo - rious song_ of old



JANUARY CROSSWORD



ACROSS

1. Paul said the wrath of God 'is being revealed from heaven' against this (*Romans 1.18*) (11)
9. Go smite (anag.) (7)
10. 'But — I have risen, I will go ahead of you into Galilee' (*Matthew 26.32*) (5)
11. 'Take and —; this is my body' (*Matthew 26.26*) (3)
13. Type (*2 Thessalonians 2.10*) (4)
16. 'Woe to those who — iniquity' (*Micah 2.1*) (4)
17. 'How shall we — if we ignore such a great salvation?' (*Hebrews 2.3*) (6)
18. Opposite of evens (4)
20. Previously cited (Latin) (4)
21. 'There is surely — — of God in this place, and they will kill me because of my wife' (*Genesis 20.11*) (2,4)
22. The Thessalonians were warned to keep away from every brother who was this (*2 Thessalonians 3.6*) (4)
23. Beat (anag.) (4)
25. To trouble or afflict (*Job 16.3*) (3)
28. Part of a roof (*1 Kings 7.9*) (5)
29. Attain (*Job 5.12*) (7)
30. Insect noted for its gymnastic ability (*Psalms 78.46*) (11)

DOWN

2. Smell (*John 11.39*) (5)
3. Lion's home (*Jeremiah 25.38*) (4)
4. 'Jesus Christ is the — yesterday and today and for ever' (*Hebrews 13.8*) (4)
5. Tidy (4)
6. Made their home (*Genesis 47.27*) (7)
7. Their task was to carry the curtains of the tabernacle (*Numbers 4.25-26*) (11)
8. Timothy's was called Lois (*2 Timothy 1.5*) (11)
12. The Lover likened the fragrance of the Beloved's breath to these (*Song of Songs 7.8*) (6)
14. Times Educational Supplement (1,1,1)
15. Eight-tentacled sea creatures (6)
19. 'And lead us not into temptation, but — us from the evil one' (*Matthew 6.13*) (7)
20. D.L. Moody's legendary song leader, — D. Sankey (3)
24. Rarely used musical note (5)
25. 'Your will be done on earth — it — in heaven' (*Matthew 6.10*) (2,2)
- 26 and 27. 'The Lord Almighty will — them with a —, as when he struck down Midian at the rock of Oreb' (*Isaiah 10.26*) (4,4)

December 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.*

