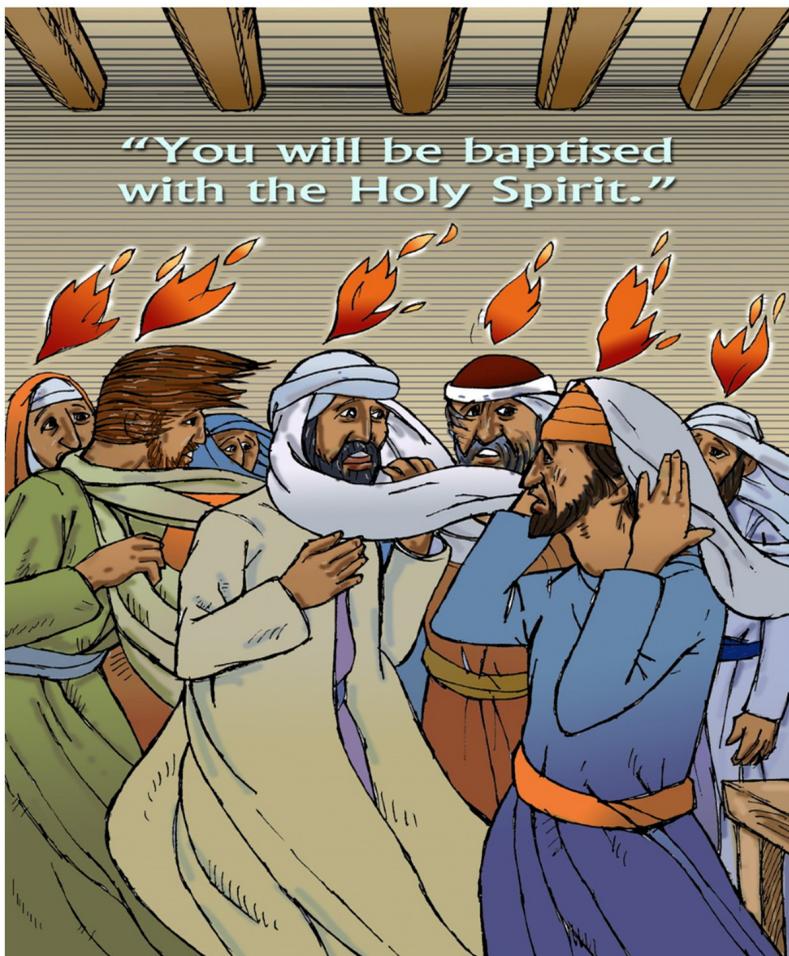


THE

KING

MAY 2024



***The Day of Pentecost
19 May 2024***

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

THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. EDMUND THE KING

NORTHWOOD HILLS

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

LAY MINISTER Miss Sarah Parnaby (020) 8866 8309

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

SUNDAY SCHOOL 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.

OFFICERS

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

ORGANISATIONS

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
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

MAGAZINE

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

WEBSITE

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

JUNE 2024

St Edmund's Church

SUMMER FAIR

22 June

11:30 am
to
2:00 pm

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

JUNE MAGAZINE

All contributions for the May Magazine to be with Jenny Jones by
Friday 17th May
020 8866 7173

The June Magazine will be available from Sunday 26th May

BRING - AND - BUY SALE

1st SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH

11.15am IN THE HALL

Part of our Eco Church Project

FR. MICHAEL'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

May is traditionally dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary - a tradition that dates back about 700 years. This has no doubt a lot to do with the fact that May is a springtime month associated with flowers and blossom, with trees coming back to life and plants and grass sprouting. It is a season of hope and promise.

John Henry Newman offers various reasons why May in particular is dedicated to Our Lady in "Meditations and Devotions". He states:

The first reason is because it is the time when the earth bursts forth into its fresh foliage and its green grass after the stern frost and snow of winter and the raw atmosphere and the wild wind and rain of the early spring. It is because the blossoms are upon the trees and the flowers are in the gardens. It is because the days have got long, and the sun rises early and sets late. For such gladness and joyousness of external Nature is a fit attendant on our devotion to her who is the Mystical Rose and the House of Gold.

In classic western culture May has always been associated with motherhood and this led Christians to adopt May as Our Lady's month; she who is Mother of God and mother of all Christians. She brought life into the world by giving birth to her Son, Jesus, who brought about a new spring.

May normally falls within the Easter season, which is the 50 days from Easter day through to Pentecost. It is a period when we especially celebrate the resurrection of Jesus, and the season culminates with Our Lord's Ascension to his Father and the sending of the Holy Spirit. It is fitting that during this season we recall Mary's great joy at her son's resurrection and rediscover her role as mother and teacher in our lives.

During the Easter season, instead of praying the Angelus at 6 am, 12 noon and 6 pm, the church prays the Regina Caeli (it can be sung to the tune of "Jesus Christ is risen today")

*Joy to thee, O Queen of Heaven; Alleluia!
He whom thou wast meet to bear; Alleluia!
As He promised hath arisen; Alleluia!
Pour for us to God thy prayer; Alleluia!
Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary; Alleluia!
For the Lord is risen indeed; Alleluia!*

*O God, who through the resurrection of Thy Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,
didst vouchsafe to give joy to the whole world:
grant, we beseech thee, that through His Mother, the Virgin Mary,
we may obtain the joys of everlasting life.
Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Throughout her life Mary showed complete trust and obedience to God. She was there when Jesus performed his first miracle at the wedding at Cana and in the period after the Ascension the scriptures tell us that Mary was present in the first community of disciples, and she was present with the Apostles in the upper room as they prayerfully waited for the descent of the Holy Spirit with hopeful expectation.

I hope during this month we can learn from Our Lady how to love and trust God completely and how to be faithful witnesses of the risen Lord.

Wishing you all a blessed Eastertide.

With Love and Prayers

Fr. Michael

Fr. Michael also writes ...

I'm delighted to say our very own Mr. Steven Castle has won a Hillingdon Community Silver Award. I'm sure you will all agree it's very well deserved. Unfortunately, he was unable to attend the award ceremony, but arrangements are being made for him to receive it.

Have a look below at his nomination.....

Steve wears many hats in helping the community. He has been a Churchwarden at St. Edmunds Church since 2009, where he gives lots of his time to help support the church and various other organisations which use the church building. In covid he set up the filming of online services, and shopped for older members. He also helps the elderly members of the congregation and neighbours with their computers/tech. He is also a key figure on the Fundraising Committee for the church's Raise the Roof Appeal.

Steve has run the Church Youth Group for over 15 years, helping and supporting a group of 10 to 16 year olds that meet every other Wednesday, and organising many fun activities including rounders, quizzes and trips, including canoeing. He is invaluable in all aspects of church life and goes way beyond what most wardens do.

Steve serves on the 2nd Northwood (St. Edmund's) Scout Group's executive committee and is a strong supporter currently helping them with the planning of a new building.

He is a very active member of the Arrow Players Amateur Dramatic group for over 25 years. He has been on stage in many different roles in plays and pantomimes (sometimes wearing a dress as the dame). Off stage Steve is the Technical Manager on the Committee, organising and building the sets, rigging and plotting the lighting for shows. His performances have brought much joy to the local community.

Steve is one of those heroes who just can't say "No" - he goes above and beyond in all aspects of his community work, Church, Scouts, and Arrow Players. I know he will be embarrassed to even be nominated for this award, but he is very much loved by all the organisations he helps and I feel it's time he knows how much he is appreciated.

Congratulations Steve!

CALENDAR AND PRINCIPAL SERVICE READINGS MAY 2024

Principal Service - Sung Eucharist at 10.00 am every Sunday

- 1 Wed **St. Philip and St. James, Apostles**
- 5 SUN 6th SUNDAY OF EASTER** (All-Age)
Acts 10.44-end, 1 John 5.1-6.7-21, John 15.9-17
11.15 am Bring and Buy Sale
- 9 THUR ASCENSION DAY**
Acts 1.1-11, Ephesians 1.15-end, Luke 24.44-end
- 9, 10, 11 7.30 pm Arrow Players Play - "Reading Between The Lines"
- 12 SUN 7th SUNDAY OF EASTER**
Acts 1.15-17, 21-end, 1 John 5.9-13, John 17.6-19
2.30 pm Beating the Bounds
- 14 Tues **St. Matthias, Apostle**
2.30 pm Women's Guild
- 18 Sat 10.30 am PLANT SALE
- 19 SUN THE DAY OF PENTECOST (Whit Sunday)**
Acts 2.1-21, Romans 8.22-27, John 15.26-27;16.4b-15
- 26 SUN TRINITY SUNDAY**
Isaiah 6.1-8, Romans 8.12-17, John 3.1-17
- 31 Fri **The Visit of the Blessed Virgin Mary to Elizabeth**

OTHER DIARY DATES

- Sunday 2nd June Corpus Christi (transferred from 30th May)
Saturday 22nd June Summer Fair

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 14th May, at 2.30 pm
for a Talk by Jonathan Hutchins
on Women behind Great Artists
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



St. EDMUND'S

PLANT SALE

SATURDAY 18 MAY

10.30 AM - 12 NOON

TOP QUALITY PLANTS

PERENNIALS

BEDDING PLANTS

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE



THE DAY OF PENTECOST

Sunday 19th May 2024

Pentecost (from the Greek *pentekoste*, 'fiftieth' of fifty days of celebration) has its roots in the Jewish Feast of Weeks, which was completed on the fiftieth day after Passover. On the fiftieth day of Easter, God sends his Holy Spirit to empower the Church to perform the mission which the risen Christ has entrusted to it; and he inaugurates the messianic community of perfect communication. Pentecost celebrates both the Holy Spirit and the Christian Church. It was originally the crown and completion of the Easter season; only later, in the medieval West, did it become a new festival season of its own. After the Easter Vigil, the time of Pentecost was a preferred occasion for baptism in early Christian centuries, and the services of Pentecost also reflect this baptismal theme. Christ's disciples are born again of water and the spirit.

There is some evidence that the Ascension was first celebrated on the fiftieth day of Easter, but it was soon moved to the fortieth day in faithfulness to Luke's chronology. Ascension and Pentecost are closely linked. The risen Lord is no longer present to the Church in the body of his flesh; the Church is now to be the new body of Christ, filled with his life through the gift of the Spirit.

The day is also known as Whit Sunday (as in the Book of Common Prayer). It is believed that the name derives from 'White Sunday' because of the baptismal practice of wearing white. Others believe the name 'whit' is an Anglo Saxon term meaning wit, understanding and wisdom - relating to the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

The Acts of The Apostles describes what happened on the day of Pentecost thus: *They were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, 'What does this mean?' Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, 'Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you. This is what was spoken through the prophet Joel: "God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh. I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day. Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."*

Within 30 years the gospel had spread throughout the northern Mediterranean: Syria, Turkey, Greece, Malta ... to the very heart of the Roman Empire: Rome. The Christian Church was born. God was calling people from every nation to repent, turn to Jesus for forgiveness of their sins, and to follow him.

*adapted by Mike Godden from Common Worship
and from material supplied by www.parishpump.co.uk*

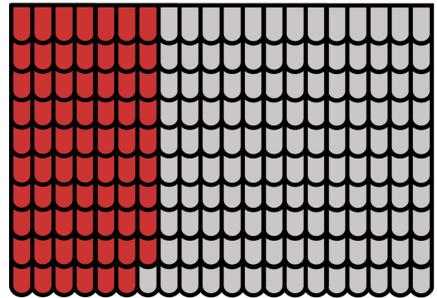
RAISE THE ROOF UPDATE



Our Fundraising for Raise the Roof continues with major events in May and June. Get your diaries ready! Our Plant Sale will be held on Saturday 18th May from 10.30 am until 12 pm, with the usual selection of beautiful annuals, perennials, vegetables and sundries for sale. After that, attention turns to the Summer Fair, which will be held on Saturday 22nd June from 11.30 am until 2 pm, with games, lunches, barbecue, Grand Draw, cakes, Tombola and more. Please do tell your family, neighbours and friends about these events so we make them a wonderful success.

Our 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 best of luck if you are participating in the Bonus Ball game!

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:



£69,000 raised

£131,000 to raise

- 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

I look forward to sharing further updates with you in future editions of this magazine.

With my best wishes, Steve Castle

Greetings to you all.

As Easter was at the end of March, it wasn't possible to report on it in the April edition, but let's start first with Gardening Day -which should be a Day of Obligation! Marjorie Pimm writes:

'On Saturday 23rd March, 13 stalwarts braved the bitter March winds to dig, prune and weed the gardens surrounding the Church, as well as engaging in the unenviable chores of unblocking drains and clearing roof gutters. Special thanks to Mike Godden and Steve Castle, who project-managed the day in their customary quiet but authoritative way, and to Mandy Godden, who organised the catering, providing the "workers in the vineyard" with endless supplies of tea, coffee, and hot cross buns in addition to a most welcome lunch. We were delighted with the surprise 'extras' from the Mike and Mandy Godden's daughter Sally, and her (highly grown-up!) children, Eleanor and Benjamin – who hail from Bedfordshire, and threw themselves enthusiastically into the day. It would however be amiss not to mention the determined and stoic efforts of Team Scouts, Marcin Zufła and Phil Lee. Marcin had the most energetic job of the day, in unearthing the wayward trunks and roots of 2 long-established Christmas trees, which ended up involving a number of those present pulling on ropes with all their might and main. The smiles of eventual success made it all worthwhile. Medals of Merit and a huge thank you to everyone. The next Gardening Day will be on Saturday 12th April 2025. Do make a note to avoid disappointment.'

The Passiontide, Holy Week and Easter services were as moving as ever. Palm Sunday included its usual procession with its glorious bittersweet hymns, and on the Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of Holy Week, Fr. Michael gave a short meditation which connected the Gospel each day to the words and lives of some famous hymn writers. This was both interesting and meaningful. Sometimes we forget about these remarkable people who penned the inspiring hymns that have both gladdened and influenced us down the ages - words born out of personal suffering as well as overwhelming spiritual experiences. The Good Friday Meditation also encouraged reflection, its theme being the Passion of Our Lord, from Gethsemane to Crucifixion.

The choir were very busy as usual with the services building up to Easter: The Last Supper, with its mixture of communal joy and heartbreaking apprehension; Good Friday with the deep solemnity of its age-old liturgy; Holy Saturday with its triumphal movement towards the Light -and then Easter Day with its wonderful jumble of eggs and flowers and children amongst the joy of the Resurrection! Fr. Michael in his sermon presented a wealth of convincing evidence of the Resurrection being a real historical event; uplifting words, to be taken to heart, and to be carried out to those who find it so hard to believe in. He carried on this theme with the children on "Low" Sunday (the Sunday after Easter), emphasising how truth can be very strange and unexpected, and how it's all right to doubt.

Then into April: after a quick visit to family in Christchurch, on Low Sunday Frank and I attended his local church, St. Mary's in Shadwell, which I think of as a kind of sister-church to St. Edmund's in the way it operates: I felt very much at home there, under Fr. Peter McGeary's stalwart and witty auspices, amongst a small but friendly and devoted congregation - in the midst of a predominantly Muslim area. I exhort you to try different churches once in a while: it definitely broadens one's horizons, as I said in last month's article about Synod.

I hurtled back to Northwood Hills, though, for Colin Richards' wonderful talk to the Women's Guild on 'Mines, Quarries and Kilns in Pinner and Northwood'. Who knew we were living on a minefield? (Well, not that sort, hopefully...)

Most of us were aware that Pinner Wood School had suffered damage owing to mining-tunnels collapsing below the surface, but we were amazed to find how much of our local area was riddled with chalk-mines, quarries and even sand-mines! Such areas included Montesole Park, Pinner Hill Farm, Waxwell Lane, Green Lane/Dene Road, Hallowell Road and a number of other familiar locations. Chalk miners were mainly agricultural workers, who did the mining part-time. They worked by candle-light, and there are instances of graffiti, written with candles, found in the tunnels.

A great deal of chalk was mined in the 19th Century and also much earlier: it was used for a soil fertiliser, for building (especially as an ingredient of mortar) and for paint. The flint that is found with chalk was also used for building (c.f. Pinner Parish Church), and not just for the tools and weapons discovered from Neolithic times. Indeed, the working of chalk goes back a very long way: the Roman writer, Pliny the Elder, describes the use of white marl (a chalk mixture) in agriculture, and of chalk mines very similar to those found here.

Another local industry was brick-making which, of course, was connected to the chalk and sand found in the area. We have written and photographic evidence of this, as well as a number of kilns, including one discovered in Potter Street. Brick making revived in the 13th century, following a time-gap after the Romans left, and continued well into the 19th. We have more records for this period, including information about the local bosses. At a 13th century kiln excavated in the 1970s, there have been found examples of Hard Mediæval Greyware, a form of pottery used to make cooking pots, bowls, jugs, etc. in those times.

Colin's talk was as edifying and thoroughly entertaining as usual, with information, diagrams, pictures and videos all impeccably presented in tandem with his lively dialogue: he is a magician! I have barely scratched the surface of this vast 'mine of information' (sorry!) to which he treated us, so if you want to know more, I'm sure he'd be delighted to hear from you. Thank you so much, Colin, for your fascinating presentation. And thanks, Connie and company, for preparing a lovely tea which, sadly, I had to miss this time.

Missing yet another Sunday at St. Edmund's, Frank and I were singing with a visiting choir at Salisbury Cathedral on the weekend of 13th/14th April. Salisbury is a glorious place, well worth a visit, and though not that far away, feels like another world. At coffee after the Sunday Eucharist, I spotted the Bishop of London, who is on Sabbatical at present, chatting to some of the congregation. I left her in peace!

This month is full of action, starting with the All-Age Service on Sunday 5th, followed by the Bring and Buy Sale. Ascension Day is on Thursday 9th, which is also the first night of the Arrow Players' production, 'Reading between the Lines' by Geoff Bamber, also showing on Friday 10th and Saturday 11th. I'm sure it will be very funny and definitely worth watching.

Also on Saturday 11th, there is a meeting of 'LIFT' ('Ladies in Faith together') at 9 am (with breakfast) at the London School of Theology, where Evi Rodemann is coming from Germany to speak. She is a life coach, encouraging and equipping the younger generation to share the call to teach and speak to their generation. Evi is also a part of the Lausanne Conference team in Korea this year. Do ask me for further details: it's also a good way of meeting other local Christians.

On Sunday 12th May, in the afternoon, we shall be Beating the Bounds of the parish, enjoying one another's company and praying for the parish as we encircle it. And then there's Women's Guild on Tuesday 14th, when there is a talk by Jonathan Hutchins, on 'Women behind the Great Artists'. We are so lucky to have such knowledgeable speakers close by. Then on Saturday 18th at 10.30 am, we hold our magnificent Plant Sale, for which we are noted in the area; and in the evening the amazing Trinity Orchestra will be performing in our Church: well worth a ticket! The Day of Pentecost follows on Sunday 19th, then Trinity Sunday (incorporating Corpus Christi) on the 26th. Honestly, it just gets better and better!

To make the most of May at St. Edmund's, do try to support as many of these services and events as you can. You won't regret it!



DEMENTIA WEEK - 15TH-21ST MAY

The following poem is the work of Olive Fairclough, who wrote it some time ago and decided to offer it to the magazine to highlight Dementia Week

Do not ask me to remember,
Don't try to make me understand
Let me rest and know you are with me
Kiss my cheek and hold my hand.

I'm confused beyond your concept
I am sad and sick and lost,
All I know is that I need you
To be with me at all cost

Do not lose your patience with me
Do not scold or curse or cry,
I can't help the way I'm acting,
Can't be different though I try
Just remember that I need you,
That the best of me is gone.
Please don't fail to stand beside me
Love me 'til my life is done.

ST. EDMUND'S SUMMER FAIR

11.30 am - 2 pm
SATURDAY 22nd JUNE

TOMBOLA

SIDESHOWS

PLANTS

TOYS

BOOKS
CDs, DVDs

Ice Creams

LUNCHES

CAKES

Bric a Brac

Grand Draw

AND LOADS MORE FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY!

ST. EDMUND'S CHURCH, Pinner Road Northwood, HA6 1QS

St. COMGALL was an Irish priest, born in County Antrim in the early 6th century. After serving as a soldier in his early life, he was ordained, living for a time as a hermit on an island on Lough Erne, and following a severe form of monastic life. Later, he spent many years spreading the monastic life throughout Ireland. His greatest achievement, in the 550s AD, was to found the monastery and original Abbey (since rebuilt several times) at Bangor, County Down on the southern shore of Belfast Lough. It became the largest monastery in Ireland, with a number of daughter houses, with a total population of several thousand. He also spent some years preaching in Scotland, accompanying St. Columba. Comgall is commemorated on 10th May.

St. DUNSTAN was born of a noble Anglo-Saxon family Glastonbury c. 909. He received his early education from the Irish monks at Glastonbury, then, while still young, he was sent as a page to the court of King Æthelstan. In due course he was encouraged him to take up religious life by his uncle, Bishop Saint Alphege of Winchester, who ordained him c. 935. He returned to Glastonbury and lived almost as a hermit, engaging in prayer, study, and manual labour that included making bells and sacred vessels for the church and copying or illuminating books. He is said to have excelled as a painter, embroiderer, harpist, bell-founder, and metal worker.

Æthelstan's successor, Edmund I of England, called him to court to act as a royal counsellor and treasurer, eventually appointing him Abbot of Glastonbury with the commission to restore monastic life there. The murder of King Edmund was followed by the accession of his brother Edred, who made Dunstan one of his top advisors. Dunstan became deeply embroiled in secular politics and incurred the wrath of the West Saxon nobles for denouncing their immorality and for urging peace with the Danes. Dunstan was disgraced, his property confiscated, and he was exiled.

He spent a year then in Ghent, Flanders, and there he came into contact with reformed continental monasticism. This experience fuelled his vision of monastic Benedictine perfection that would inspire his work from then on. When King Edgar came to the throne, he recalled Dunstan and appointed him in 957 Bishop of Worcester, Bishop of London in 958, then, in 960, Archbishop of Canterbury in 961. Edgar and Dunstan together initiated a policy of reform of the Church through the monastic order. At Canterbury, Dunstan founded an abbey east of the city and three churches: St. Mary, St. Peter and St. Paul, and St. Pancras.

In 961, Dunstan went to Rome to be appointed by Pope John XII a legate (personal representative) of the Holy See. With this authority, he set about re-establishing ecclesiastical discipline, under the protection of King Edgar. In those days, English monastic life had almost vanished as a result of the Danish invasions. They restored most of the great monasteries, such as Abingdon, that had been destroyed during the Danish incursions and founded new ones, notably at Bath, Exeter, Westminster, Malmesbury, and other places.

He drew up rules for each to instil good order, in line with the Rule of St. Benedict. Dunstan remained firm in his moral standards, even to deferring Edgar's coronation for 14 years, due to a disapproval of Edgar's scandalous behaviour. He modified the Coronation rite; some of his modifications devised for Edgar's coronation in Bath in 973 survive to this day. Through 16 years of Edgar's reign, Dunstan acted as his chief adviser, criticising him freely, and he continued to direct the state during the short reign of the succeeding king, Edward the Martyr. The death of the young king, connected with the anti-monastic reaction following Edgar's death, grieved Dunstan.

His political career now over, he returned to Canterbury to teach at the cathedral school, where visions, prophecies, and miracles were attributed to him. But towards the end of his life he was visited by a monk called Abbo, who had been commissioned to write an account of the martyrdom of Edmund (yes, our Edmund). Dunstan told Abbo the story of Edmund's martyrdom, which he in turn had heard in his youth from an old man who claimed to have been in his youth a sword-bearer for Edmund. So we have Dunstan to thank for our understanding of what happened to Edmund

Dunstan died shortly after Ascension Day in 988, aged nearly 80. It has been said that the 10th century gave shape to English history, and that Dunstan gave shape to the 10th century. He is commemorated on 19th May.

There are 5 Church of England churches in London dedicated to St. Dunstan; one of them, in Stepney, is where our organ was originally installed. There is also one in Monks Risborough, in Buckinghamshire (Vicar : Rev. Peter Godden), where a legend concerning Dunstan is illustrated. The legend tells of Dunstan's encounter with the devil. Giving chase and cornering the him, Dunstan gripped his nose firmly with his blacksmith's tongs. The tale is commemorated in the 15th century porch by arms of tongs converging (above the outer door) on a face roughly carved in wood and (above the inner door) on a cross. It is also represented by the more modern (1971) lead and fibreglass figure shown here, which is on the south aisle wall.



The legend is represented in many churches dedicated to St. Dunstan throughout Britain, with widely differing degrees of elaboration; it is also thought to be the origin of the vigorous description "... with hammer and tongs", and even the notion that horseshoes ward off evil spirits because St. Dunstan shod the devil's cloven hoof!

St. FREMUND might have been a 9th century nobleman, or hermit, or soldier, or all three. And he might have been a cousin, or a nephew, of St. Edmund. and/or a son of King Offa of Mercia. There seems to be little reliable historical information about him, so most of what follows should be prefaced by "It is said that ..".

He was born in the early 9th century at Offchurch ("Offa's Church"?), near Leamington, but at quite an early age he left home to lead a solitary life as a hermit on an island called Ylefagel, which may be Steep Holm or Flat Holm in the Bristol Channel.

At that time the English were constantly under threat from invasions by the Danes, and it seems that Fremund felt obliged to leave his hermitage to take up arms in defence of the Christian religion and the freedom of his people. He died in battle at Harbury, not far from his home; his body was taken to Offchurch for burial. His tomb was visited by so many pilgrims in search of healing that in around 931 his relics were translated to Cropredy in Oxfordshire (Why there? Not clear.)

In 1206, Richard, Prior of the new foundation at Dunstable, visited Fremund's shrine or of the Lincoln Diocese in 1206 and found many pilgrims coming there. It was decided that at least some of Fremund's remains were to be taken to Dunstable and an altar was dedicated to him. All this was lost at the dissolution of the Priory in 1540. However, there remains a Chapel dedicated to Fremund in the church of St. Mary the Virgin at Cropredy, and there is held in the village a Feast and Miracle Play in Fremund's honour. There is also a modern church in Dunstable dedicated to St. Fremund the Martyr. He is commemorated on 11th May.



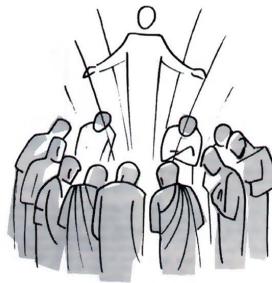
ASCENSION DAY - 40 DAYS WITH THE RISEN CHRIST

40 days after Easter comes Ascension Day. These are the 40 days during which the Risen Christ appeared again and again to His disciples, following His death and resurrection.

The Gospels give us little of Christ's teachings and deeds during those 40 days. Jesus was seen by numerous of His disciples: on the road to Emmaus, by the Sea of Galilee, in houses, etc. He strengthened and encouraged His disciples, and at last opened their eyes to all that the Scriptures had promised about the Messiah. Jesus also told them that as the Father had sent Him, He was now going to send them - to all corners of the earth, as His witnesses.

St. Luke concludes his Gospel thus : "Then Jesus had led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up His hands, He blessed them. While He was blessing them, He withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshipped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple, praising God."

This year we celebrate the Ascension
on Thursday 9th May
with a Eucharists at 10.00 am and 6.00 pm.





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HYMN OF THE MONTH

Mike Godden

As we move through the Easter Season, towards the Ascension and the Day of Pentecost, this hymn celebrates the Resurrection and leads us to consider our path to redemption.

Christ the Lord is risen again!
Christ hath broken every chain!
Hark, the angels shout for joy,
Singing evermore on high,

Alleluia!

He who gave for us his life,
Who for us endured the strife,
Is our Paschal Lamb to-day!
We too sing for joy, and say

Alleluia!

He who bore all pain and loss
Comfortless upon the Cross,
Lives in glory now on high,
Pleads for us, and hears our cry.

Alleluia!

He whose path no records tell,
Who descended into hell;
Who the strong man armed hath bound,
And in highest heaven is crowned.

Alleluia!

Now he bids us tell abroad
How the lost may be restored,
How the penitent forgiven,
How we too may enter heaven.

Alleluia!

Thou, our Paschal Lamb indeed,
Christ, to-day thy people feed;
Take our sins and guilt away,
That we all may sing for ay,

Alleluia!

The hymn was hymn written in 1531 by German theologian, Protestant reformer and prolific hymn writer Michael Weisse, based on an earlier Bohemian hymn, which was itself based on a Latin text of the 1100s “Victimae paschali laudes.” (“In praise of the Paschal Victim”). The translation to English was by Catherine Winkworth, and published in 1854 in her *Lyra Germanica*, a collection of German hymns.

Michael Weisse (c. 1480-1534) was born in Silesia, in the south west of present-day Poland. One of his most notable works was an early Protestant hymnal of 1531 for which he contributed most hymn texts and some tunes himself.

Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878), was born in London, but spent most of her life in Manchester and Bristol. She also lived for a while with relatives in Dresden, where she acquired her knowledge of German and interest in German hymns.

The tune commonly used today for the hymn is “Württemberg”, attributed to German composer Johan Rosenmüller (1615-1686).

Christ the Lord is risen a - gain Christ has bro - ken ev - ery chain;
hear the an - gel voi - ces cry, sing - ing e - ver more on high: a - - le - lu - ial



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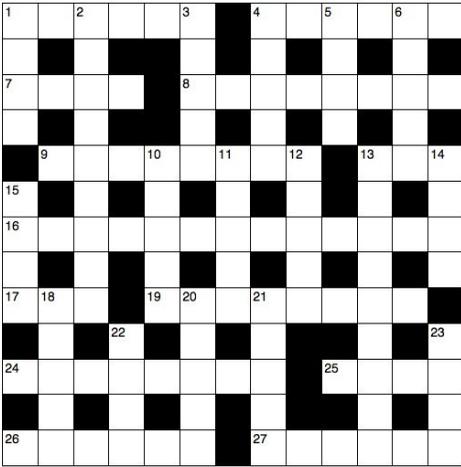
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MAY CROSSWORD



ACROSS

1. One who owes money, goods or services (*Isaiah 24.2*) (6)
4. 'A good measure, pressed down, — together and running over' (*Luke 6.38*) (6)
7. Continuous dull pain (*Proverbs 14.13*) (4)
8. This bread contains yeast (*Amos 4.5*) (8)
9. 'But take heart! I have — the world' (*John 16.33*) (8)
13. And the rest (abbrev.) (3)
16. What Paul was accused of by Tertullus, the high priest's lawyer, in his trial before Felix (*Acts 24.5*) (13)
17. Rap (anag.) (3)
19. Founder of the Jesuits in 1534 (8)
24. 'For where your — is, there your heart will be also' (*Luke 12.34*) (8)
25. The first word written on the wall during King Belshazzar's great banquet (*Daniel 5.25*) (4)
26. 'We all, like sheep, have gone — ' (*Isaiah 53.6*) (6)
27. One was given in honour of Jesus in Bethany (*John 12.2*) (6)

DOWN

1. 'The blind receive sight, the lame walk, the — hear, the dead are raised' (*Luke 7.22*) (4)

2. Conduct (*Colossians 1.21*) (9)
3. In the Catholic and Orthodox traditions, the body of a saint or his belongings, venerated as holy (5)
4. 'Like a — of locusts men pounce on it' (*Isaiah 33.4*) (5)
5. Very old (*Genesis 44.20*) (4)
6. In Calvinist theology, one predestined by God to receive salvation (5)
10. How Nicodemus addressed Jesus when he visited him one night (*John 3.2*) (5)
11. Sea (*Psalms 148.7*) (5)
12. 'I will — you, my God the King; I will praise your name for ever and ever' (*Psalms 145.1*) (5)
13. One of the groups of philosophers that Paul met in Athens, who disagreed with his teaching about the resurrection (*Acts 17.18*) (9)
14. Barred enclosure (*Ezekiel 19.9*) (4)
15. 'Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in — with the Spirit' (*Galatians 5.25*) (4)
18. Cares (anag.) (5)
20. Garish (*Ezekiel 16.16*) (5)
21. 'So God said to Noah, "I am going to put — — to all people"' (*Genesis 6.13*) (2,3)
22. Just (*2 Corinthians 6.13*) (4)
23. 'The — of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge' (*Proverbs 1.7*) (4)

April Crossword Solution

