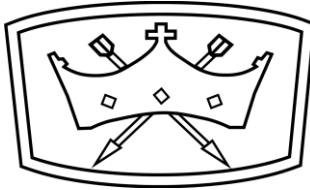


The Parish Church of  
**St. Edmund the King**  
Northwood Hills



TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2023

INCUMBENT

The Rev'd Michael Miller  
St. Edmund's Vicarage  
2 Pinner Road  
Northwood Hills  
Middlesex  
HA6 1QS

BANK

CAF Bank Ltd  
25 Kings Hill Avenue  
Kings Hill  
West Malling  
Kent  
ME19 4JQ

INDEPENDENT  
EXAMINER

The Rev'd David Green  
Gowers Ltd  
The Old School House  
Bridge Road  
Hunton Bridge  
Kings Langley  
Herts  
WD4 8SZ

Registered Charity No. 1169098

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## **Annual Meeting of Parishioners 2024 – Agenda**

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Approval of Minutes of 2023 Meeting of Parishioners
3. Election of Churchwardens for the year 2024 – 2025

## **Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2024 - Agenda**

1. Approval of Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on Sunday 26th March 2023
2. Matters arising from those minutes
3. Notification of any other business
4. Vicar's report
5. Consideration of Statutory Reports:
  - Annual Report for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023 including the revised Church Electoral Roll for 2023
  - Report of the proceedings of the Deanery Synod
  - Parish Accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023
  - Report upon the Fabric of the Church
6. Report from the Fundraising Committee
7. Election of representatives to the Parochial Church Council, 3 for a 3 year term and 1 for a 1 year term.
8. Appointment of Sides People
9. Appointment of Independent Financial Examiner to the P.C.C.
10. Presentations from Parish organisations
11. Any other business
12. Closing Prayer followed by a brief PCC Meeting

# **Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Parishioners**

HELD IN THE CHURCH ON SUNDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2023

**PRESENT:** Fr Michael Miller in the Chair

**1. Apologies for Absence**

None

**2. Approval of Minutes of 2022 Meeting of Parishioners**

Proposed by Marjorie Pimm, seconded by Margaret Forsyth

Carried unanimously.

**3. Election of Churchwardens for the year 2023 – 2024**

Steven Castle - proposed by Carol Diggins, seconded by Andy Roberts

Isaac Odeyemi – proposed by Wendy Jones, seconded by Anita

Nicholas

Carried unanimously and duly elected

Meeting closed 11:16

# **Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

HELD IN THE CHURCH ON SUNDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2023

**ATTENDANCE:** 41

**1. Approval of Minutes of APCM held on Sunday**

Proposed Ian Dawson, seconded by Connie Ambrose

**2. Matters arising from those minutes**

None

**3. Notification of any other business**

None

**4. Vicar's report**

Father Michael gave a summary of Church activities over the past year and thanked everyone who has participated in the running of the Parish.

## 5. **Consideration of Statutory Reports:**

- Annual Report for the year ended 31st December 2022 including the revised Church Electoral Roll for 2022.
- Report of the proceedings of the Deanery Synod Parish
- Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2022
- Report upon the Fabric of the Church

These had previously been distributed electronically and in hard copy. No comments or questions arose

## 6. **Report from the Building and Fundraising PCC Sub-Committee**

In 2022 we held the following events

Bonus Ball £330, Plant Sale £1,060, Film Evening £329, Platinum Jubilee Lunch £151, Summer Fair £1,698, Book Sale & Eco Fair £469, Quiz Evening £491, Christmas Bazaar £2,258, Christmas Tree Festival £355 (£281+£74 in cash donations), Bring & Buy Sales (11 in total) £1,715, Total £8856

I (Steve Castle) would like to thank committee members Fr Michael, Carol Diggins, James Mair, Clare Moses and Sarah Wilson for their help in organising these events, and the wider St Edmund's congregation for their support in running and participating in these events. In addition to raising a lot of money the events brought in people from outside our congregation which is an important part of our mission to the people of our parish. *Steve Castle, Sub-Committee Chair*

## 7. **Election of 3 representatives to the PCC for a three-year term**

Nominations: Mark Hammond; proposed by Ann Hughes, seconded by Sarah Parnaby. Daniel Hansen; proposed by Peter Heath, seconded by Simon Wilson. Amanda Roberts; proposed by Margaret Forsyth,

seconded by Ian Dawson. As there were no further nominations, all were duly elected.

8. **Election of 2 representatives to the Harrow Deanery Synod**

Nominations: Sarah Parnaby; proposed by Steve Castle, seconded by Marjorie Pimm.

Father Michael asked if anyone else would like to stand but nobody volunteered leaving one post vacant.

9. **Appointment of Sides People**

Margaret Forsyth, Hilda Greenfield, Colin Kirby, Carolyn Mount, Richard Mount and Marjorie Pimm were appointed Sides People.

10. **Appointment of Independent Financial Examiner to the P.C.C.**

The PCC nominated Father David Green of Gowers Ltd as the examiner. Vote carried unanimously.

11. **Presentations from Parish organisations**

The presentations have been distributed in both written and electronic forms. No further comments were made.

12. **Financial Report**

These had previously been distributed electronically and in hard copy. James Mair gave a brief summary. No further comments or questions ensued.

13. **Electoral Roll 2022**

The role now stands at 85 people.

14.. **Any other business**

None

Meeting ended 11:44

# PCC of St Edmund the King, Northwood Hills

## **Trustees' Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council for the Year 2023**

### **Aim and Purposes**

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

### **Objectives and Activities**

The Church of St Edmund the King, Northwood Hills, is a Christian community seeking to share the Good News of Jesus Christ in the diverse context of our parish and its surrounding areas.

First and foremost, we're a group of people committed to worship, and at the heart of our life here is our meeting with Jesus in Word and Sacrament. As we journey together, we aim to provide opportunities for growth and fellowship for people of all ages, and strive to reach out in love to the parish we serve.

Part of the Diocese of London, our Liturgy and devotional practice reflects the Anglo-Catholic tradition of the Church of England, whilst striving to offer a home to all who seek a deeper life with God in Christ Jesus.

### **Who we are.**

The PCC is registered charity number 1169098 with the Charity Commission in England and Wales. Registration with the Charity Commission was completed in September 2016, the PCC having previously been excepted from registration. Members of the PCC are



either ex officio or are elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

During the year the following served as members of the PCC:

*Incumbent*                      The Rev'd Michael Miller

*Churchwardens*                Steven Castle (*Vice Chair*)  
Isaac Odeyemi

*Representatives on*          Sarah Parnaby  
*Harrow Deanery Synod*

*Elected members up*        Christopher Ambrose  
*up to the APCM 2023*        Helen Collier  
Carol Diggins  
Mark Hammond  
James Mair (Treasurer)  
Clare Moses (PCC Secretary)  
Anita Nicholas  
Indrani Prabhu  
Andrew Odeyemi

*Elected members*            Christopher Ambrose  
*after the APCM 2023*        Carol Diggins  
Mark Hammond  
Daniel Hansen  
James Mair (Treasurer)  
Anita Nicholas  
Andrew Odeyemi  
Indrani Prabhu  
Amanda Roberts (PCC Secretary)

### **Sides People**

We are grateful to the following Sides People who, elected at the 2023 APCM, have assisted in welcoming people to worship on Sundays and weekday festivals and who receive and assist in recording the offertory:

Margaret Forsyth, Hilda Greenfield, Colin Kirby, Carolyn Mount  
Richard Mount, Marjorie Pimm.

## **Recording our Membership**

PCC membership is drawn from the church Electoral Roll, and all those on the roll are entitled to vote in the election to places on the PCC.

At the 2023 APCM there were 91 on the roll, compared with 85 the previous year.

Average weekly attendance was 74 and average Sunday attendance was 53. During the year 66 services were live-streamed on our YouTube channel and received an average of 54 views.

## **PCC Meetings**

In 2023 the PCC met on 6 occasions with an average attendance of 8. The PCC receives reports from the Incumbent on pastoral matters, from the Treasurer on the accounts, from the Churchwardens on Fabric and the Building & Fundraising Sub-Committee at each of its meetings. Safeguarding and Eco-Church are standing agenda items. In 2023 the Standing Committee met 5 times. The membership of this committee comprises the Incumbent, the Churchwardens, PCC Secretary and Treasurer. It transacts PCC business between meetings (subject to directions of the PCC) and draws up the PCC agenda.

## **The Year in Review**

2023 began with many parishioners involved in Arrow Players' production of the St. Edmund's Pantomime, 'Humpty Dumpty', which raised funds for the church and provided wonderful family entertainment for the parish and beyond.

All-Age Eucharists continued on the first Sunday each month – these were well attended and provided a slightly shorter service with more

contemporary music and hymns, colourful orders of service, a more visual address, different styles of prayer and were attended by the whole congregation including Sunday School.

The season of Lent began in February. Our Lent appeal raised funds for “The Felix Project”, a London-based food charity and “Mozambique Trauma Support”, a partnership between the Diocese of London and the Mozambique Angola Anglican Association who are working to train leaders who can provide pastoral care and support for those who have been displaced by the violent insurgency. Our Lent course was “From Now On” by The Rev’d Rachel Mann which was based on the film “The Greatest Showman”. The course continued to form a key part of our teaching and the sessions over 5 weeks were well attended.

Our Sung Eucharist on Mothering Sunday was well attended by the regular congregation and members and families of our Scout Group.

The highpoint of the liturgical year was, as always, our celebration of Holy Week and Easter as we lived through the key events in the story of salvation. Our worship in Holy Week included the celebration of the Eucharist with an Address each day, The Mass of the Lord’s Supper followed by The Watch of the Passion on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday Meditation followed by the Good Friday Liturgy, The Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday and the Blessing of the Easter Garden and Sung Eucharist on Easter Day. These were poignant and well-attended services culminating in a truly joyful celebration of the resurrection of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. In stark contrast to the joy of Easter Day we learned with great sadness on Easter Monday that our Curate, The Rev’d Helen Hutchins had died on Easter Day.

In May we celebrated the Coronation of King Charles III with a Vigil of Prayer on the eve of the Coronation and with a celebration of the Eucharist with special prayers and readings on Coronation Day. A “Big Lunch” barbeque was held after the Sunday Eucharist on the Coronation weekend which was well attended by the congregation and from people in the local community. We enjoyed St Edmund’s Drama Group, Arrow

Players', production of The Importance of Being Earnest and had a successful Plant Sale in support of our Raise the Roof appeal. Our annual Parish boundary walk with stops for prayers "Beating the Bounds" was well attended and enjoyed.

St Edmund's continued to host and support concerts and events for Community ConneX (formerly Harrow Mencap) throughout the year.

In June we enjoyed a fish and chip supper and sing-along film evening "The Sound of Music". Our Summer Fair was blessed with fine weather and brought in people from across the community.

The Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary was joyfully celebrated in August. We were joined by Fr Richard Norman, the Vicar of St Mary-the-Virgin, Kenton, who was our guest preacher. The service was followed by a barbeque and homemade puddings in the Vicarage garden.

In September we hosted a breakfast for Home-Start Hillingdon volunteers who were walking a half marathon in the Borough to raise funds for their charity who support and train volunteers who help families struggling with issues including isolation, mental health, multiple birth and disabilities. Our Women's Guild celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and continued to provide a rich programme of events each month throughout the year. Our Book Sale and Eco-Fair raised money for our roof appeal and brought in people from the local community.

Harvest Festival was celebrated at the beginning of October with an All-Age Eucharist which was well-attended and followed by a meal in the Hall. Gifts and cash donations were given to New Hope who provide services to the homeless in Watford and the surrounding area. At the end of October, pilgrims from St Anselm's in Hatch End and 5 from St Edmund's travelled together to the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham to join other pilgrims for a weekend of prayer and devotion.

Remembrance Sunday was a solemn occasion during which we remembered the heroic World War I nurse Edith Cavell. The service was

well attended by the Uniformed Organisations alongside their parents and regular congregation. That afternoon the annual Memorial Service provided a chance for both regular and occasional worshippers to join together in a friendly environment and reflect upon the loss of loved ones.

Our Patronal Festival was celebrated on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> November, the eve of St Edmund's Day, with a Sung Eucharist. We were joined by our guest preacher, the Rev'd Catherine Pickford, Archdeacon of Northolt. A wonderful meal was enjoyed together after the service.

During Advent we held a successful Christmas Bazaar and Christmas Tree Festival, both of which brought in many people from the local community who don't normally come to Church. We also hosted Pinner Wood School's Carol Service. Our own Festival of 9 Lessons and Carols was a wonderful occasion which was followed by a joyful Blessing of the Crib Service on Christmas Eve, Midnight Mass and a celebration of the Eucharist with Carols on Christmas Morning.

During 2023 we held 1 baptism, no weddings and 6 funerals in Church.

## **Financial review**

After the experiences of recent years, 2023 saw circumstances gradually return to a more usual, if 'new' normal. However, as in Financial Reviews for recent years, there is still the need to explain some of the figures in the accompanying accounts, especially when compared with the figures shown for 2022.

For the third year in succession the effect of the "Raise the Roof" project still complicates the presentation of the results, most notably on page 3 of the Financial Statements, which shows the summary figures for the year. The differences arising between the two years start to become clearer with the detailed figures for income and expenditure on pages 4 and 5.

## INCOME

As mentioned in recent Financial Reviews, the reduction in the ordinary regular giving, (shown over the first four lines of page 4 and which therefore excludes the many other types of donations received), isn't a surprise, given the changes in the congregation and the need to raise money to fund the roof project over recent years. All giving, whatever its size or nature, is always greatly appreciated, but as our last Stewardship Renewal Programme was in November 2020, it is clear that it is appropriate that in 2024 another appraisal of our regular giving is needed. In this respect, the ability for some to be able to sign up to allow Gift Aid to be added to their giving is of considerable benefit, since it increases the total St. Edmunds receives by 25%.

The apparent dramatic reduction in 2023 of the donations described as "Recurring grants" (*line 0401*) is also unsurprising. Having completed Phase 1 of the "Raise the Roof" Project during the latter part of 2022, 2023 only had various preliminary investigations undertaken into the scope of works required for Phase 2 of the project. Consequently, our fundraising activities have continued, albeit on a different scale, but the PCC very gratefully acknowledges the receipt of an extremely generous anonymous donation in 2023 towards the funding of Phase 2 of £6,250 (including Gift Aid recovered). It should also be noted that within the figure received in 2022, £25,000 was specifically donated by Arrow Players, effectively in advance, towards Phase 2. Including both of these amounts, by the end of 2023 the total amount raised towards Phase 2, less interim expenditure, was £63,440, as reflected by combining the "carried forward" totals for the first and last lines on page 11.

No one-off grants were received in 2023. (Those received in 2022 both came from the London Diocese and were specifically for the "Raise the Roof" project (£9,000) and a special energy costs grant of £2,641).

On the other hand, in 2023, we were fortunate to receive an unrestricted legacy of £10,000 from the Late John Peters. The PCC is extremely grateful for this generous amount and has re-designated its use towards the future

costs of funding other major maintenance work as referred to in the accompanying Fabric Report.

Turning to “Church activities”, the return after the COVID years of the St. Edmund’s Pantomime in January 2023, in conjunction with Arrow Players, resulted in nearly £1,600 of income. The retiring collections after the performances also raised £831 for “Raise the Roof”.

Church Hall lettings income increased again in 2023, this time by nearly £7,500 to £47,944. This represents around 51% of the total unrestricted income received in 2023, up from 37% and 44% in 2021 and 2022 respectively. As has been said before, this continues to emphasise the importance of this key source of income to St. Edmunds, since without an operational church hall, our day to day finances would not be sustainable. It also helps to bring many people into contact with St. Edmunds as part of the local community and underlines the importance of Phase 2 of the “Raise the Roof” project, which includes the necessary replacement of the church hall roof.

“Other trading activities” primarily refers to the monies raised by the various Church events held throughout the year, which continue to be in aid of the “Raise the Roof” project. They include the Plant Sale, Summer Fair, Christmas Bazaar, the regular Bring & Buy Sales and many other events. In total, these raised £9,506 less the associated costs of the events, which totaled £1,733 as shown at the bottom of page 4 under the first section of Expenditure (*line 1730*). (For 2022 the income raised from the various church events was £10,274 and the associated costs were £1,470.)

The table below shows the net monies raised by each event in 2023:

Bonus Ball	£280	Eco and Book Fairs	£803
Bring & Buy Sales	£1,399	Film Night	£333
Christmas Bazaar	£2,317	Plant Sale	£989
Christmas Tree Festival	£283	Summer Fair	£1,369

It is also pleasing to report that the income derived from the use of the “easyfundraising” and “Amazon Smile” giving schemes to support St. Edmunds was £187 in 2023 (2022: £253). Unfortunately, during 2023 Amazon withdrew their scheme, hence why the total received in 2022 was higher.

Our thanks and appreciation go to everyone involved in all the above continuing activities.

Whilst the increasing interest rates may not be welcome to many people who are having to cope with the continuing increases in the costs of living, for St. Edmunds it has meant that our investment income has seen a sharp increase after several years of much lower returns. For 2023 it totalled £4,535, an increase of over 168% on that received in 2022!

#### EXPENDITURE

As shown on page 5, the total expenditure for “Church activities” in 2023 was slightly more than in 2022 at £96,851 (2022: £95,286); out of this figure our Common Fund payments to the London Diocese represented £50,000 (2022: £54,000).

Although the overall change year on year isn't that large, within the figures there are several noticeable items, both positive and negative, which require mentioning.

In total, the major reductions within the costs were around £10,600 as follows:

- Common Fund (*line 1901*), as noted above, was £4,000 less in 2023, due to concerns about rising costs etc. in 2022 occurring at a time when our available Free Reserves were at a much reduced level.
- Administration costs (*line 2360*) reduced by £4,659 during 2023, but this was primarily due to the 2022 figure including £4,553 of expenditure on replacing the office photocopier (£1,956) and



£2,597 on replacing other equipment which was covered by insurance monies.

- Gas charges, (split between the Church and Hall on *lines 2410 and 2510*), which in 2023 were, respectively, around £500 and £1,500 lower due to an overestimation of the expected increased costs for 2022.

Of the many individual cost increases in 2023, the main ones were:

- Vicarage expenses (*line 2130*) which includes £2,600 for redecoration costs, something that hadn't been done for many years and which, therefore, shouldn't be necessary again for several years to come.
- Church maintenance (*line 2330*) increased in 2023 primarily due to the need for repairs to the church window concrete sills costing £2,218 and £3,833 for the new safety handrail at the side of the church car park. In respect of the latter, the PCC gratefully acknowledges the generous anonymous specific donation of £2,500 (including Gift Aid recovered) towards the cost.

Finally for expenditure, as shown at the end of page 5, is "Other expenditure". This represents the final adjustment to the "Raise the Roof" Phase 1 costs of £203 and further preliminary costs for Phase 2 of £3,358.

In summary for 2023, from the more detailed breakdown of the funds and figures on page 4 the total Unrestricted income was £93,143 (for 2022 it was £90,857) and on page 5 the total Unrestricted expenditure was £86,161 (for 2022 it was £90,223). These then give a surplus on the General Fund of £6,982 (for 2022 it was only £634).

Returning to (the middle part of) page 3, the annual revaluation of Investments (which are shown under Fixed Assets on the Balance Sheet on page 8) to their market values at 31 December 2023 in total increased their value by £1,188. This reverses around 25% of the losses in value experienced in the previous two years, though it primarily affects

investments held for Restricted Funds, such as those for Clean Water and for Overseas Aid, rather than the General Fund.

After accounting for the gains on the revaluation of investments, as shown at the end of page 3, the total overall Funds at 31 December 2023 have increased by £30,008 to £162,007 (2022: a decrease of £63,089 to £131,999). The analysis of the balances across the various funds at the end of 2023 is shown on the lower half of page 10 of the Financial Statements, whilst the overall movements on the individual funds in 2023 are shown on page 11 (2022: page 12).

Of the total funds held at 31 December 2023, as shown on page 9, £14,038 is held in unrestricted funds, with Designated Funds having £25,062, and £122,906 held in Restricted Funds. (For 2022 the respective figures were £7,056; £18,243 and £106,699).

Pages 6 and 8 provide details of the balance sheet at 31 December 2023. It should be noted that during 2023 the monthly repayments to the London Diocese for their interest free loan commenced. This loan was received in connection with the Phase 1 roof project in 2022. By the end of the year £1,500 had been repaid, with the remaining balance of £7,500 due to be repaid over the following 30 months. In the accounts, this liability is split according to what is repayable over the coming 12 months (£3,000) and what is due after then (£4,500).

#### RESERVES POLICY

In order to maintain cashflows and provide for emergency expenditure, it is PCC policy to try to maintain sufficient balance on free reserves (net current assets) to cover three months' normal unrestricted expenditure, around £25,000. At the end of 2023 the balance on the free reserves was £39,100 (2022: £25,299).

Longer term major projects are subject to specific fundraising exercises as deemed appropriate.

Short-term investment fund balances are usually placed with the CBF Church of England Deposit Fund, whilst longer term investments are mainly held in CBF Church of England Fixed Interest Accounts.

As referred to earlier, in 2023 the General Fund 'ordinary' income exceeded 'ordinary' expenditure by £6,982 (2022: £634). At the end of year the General fund was £14,038 (2022: £7,056), which is still on the lower side of what it would be preferable to have available going forward, but is a considerable improvement upon earlier years.

However, this 'change of fortune' during 2023, together with the knowledge that our 2023 Common Fund payment had been reduced by £4,000, enabled the PCC to commit to increasing our 2024 Common Fund Offer by £2,500 to £52,500. This was in response to the request from the London Diocese for increased offers, due to the continuing rise in costs for their support activities across all the parishes of the London Diocese. Nevertheless, it should be noted that our 2024 Common Fund Offer is still well below the Diocese's 2024 Standard Parish Cost of £91,300. It is also considerably lower than our Common Fund payments in 2020 and before, indicating that we continue to be a 'net recipient' according to the London Diocese's calculations.

Of course, 2024, (and beyond), will also see the continuing need to fund raise for "Raise the Roof" and, no doubt, with the potential for some costs to rise further, it will be yet another financially challenging year.

Finally, the PCC wish to place again on record our very grateful thanks for the continuing extraordinary generosity of all of the supporters of St. Edmunds throughout what are still financially difficult times for everybody.

James Mair, Treasurer

## **Fabric Report**

### **1. Condition of Buildings**

The Hall and Lady Chapel pitched roofs continue to deteriorate with some rainwater ingress occurring. Significant electrical work is required before the next inspection in August 2026. Condition of the Hall kitchen continues to deteriorate and requires refurbishment.

## 2. Service and Maintenance

The annual inspections of all central heating boilers were carried out in March 2023 with no issues found. Gas Safe certificates were received. Fire extinguishers were serviced in March 2023 with no issues found. Emergency lighting was successfully tested in March 2023.

## 3. Major Works

There were no Major Works undertaken in 2023.

## 4. Other Activities.

Minor maintenance works during the year has included:

- External concrete repairs completed to Church and Vestries as recommended in Quinquennial Inspection Report
- Low brick wall repaired at front of Church and Hall
- Paving slab replaced outside West Door
- Paving slab steps stabilised in Garden of Remembrance
- Damaged drain replaced at lower end of Church carpark
- Organ fault (cipher) corrected
- External lighting converted to LED (except fluorescent tubes in canopies at front)
- Church carpark handrail installed as recommended in Quinquennial Inspection Report
- Church carpark lighting improved
- Guttering cleared and flat roof cleared of debris
- General garden maintenance

More detail on all the above and other minor maintenance works is recorded in the Fabric Reports to PCC which are held electronically. These are available for inspection upon request via any member of the PCC Standing Committee.

The Churchwardens would like to thank everyone who has helped with maintenance activities and particularly on the Gardening Day. We are grateful to Colin Kirby who continued to mow the lawns, to Mike Godden for assistance with various items of maintenance work and to Jenny Jones, Mike and Peter Gant, and all who have tended the grounds throughout the year.

## 5. Future Projects

Focus will remain on addressing the urgent items listed in the 2018 Quinquennial Inspection Report and the C3 Improvement items listed in the 2021 Electrical Inspection Report.

Steven Castle, Churchwarden

## **Harrow Deanery Synod**

The Deanery Synod met for three sessions during the year with a time of worship led by the host church or school, who were invited to give a profile of the parish or school and its mission and ministries before the Synod prayed for them. Hosts also kindly provided refreshments. At each meeting reports were tabled or presented on the recent sessions by those elected to the Diocesan and General Synods. There was also a short business meeting held using the Zoom Software. During the year a new triennium started, and elections were held in preparation for the opening meeting.

The first meeting was held on 8 February at St Alban's North Harrow with the theme of "Modern Slavery – what is it and what can we do about it?". Pattie Gercke, Development Worker for the Compassionate Communities Team of the Diocese, gave a presentation on Modern Slavery. Modern Slavery is a serious crime in which people are coerced or deceived into a situation where they are exploited for the purpose of making a profit. The offence is punishable by up to life imprisonment under the 2015 Modern Slavery Act. She described the various forms of slavery, the victims, the signs to look out for, the resources available, and what we in the parishes can do about it. She then answered questions.

At the Parish APCMs new lay representatives on the Synod were elected. Elections were made for the Triennium. John Dolling was elected as Lay Chairman; Robert May as Secretary; David Green, Barry Hingston, Ajay More and Emma Webber as Clergy Members of the Standing Committee; Mary Abbott, Toby Partridge and Clive Scowen as Lay Members of the Standing Committee; Derek Taylor-Mew as Independent Examiner; John Spencer as Representative on Bereavement Care Management Committee and Clementina Pagano as Foundation Governor of St John's School Stanmore. The three representatives on Harrow SACRE (Standing Advisory Committee for Religious Education) had agreed to continue and were confirmed (Revd James Power, Alison Stowe, and Mary Abbott).

A meeting to discuss Synod business was held using the Zoom software on 15 June. Five applications for a grant from the Deanery Mission Fund had been received from St Mary's Kenton for notice boards, All Saints Harrow Weald for sound system improvements, St Peter's West Harrow for Messy Church equipment, Re:Generation Schools Work for equipment and materials and Holy Trinity Wealdstone for outreach events.

These were all approved. The Deanery Accounts for 2022 were received and approved, subject to Independent Examination. Toby Partridge was confirmed as the Deanery representative on the Area Finance Committee.

The triennium opened with the 4 July session, which was held at St Mary the Virgin Kenton and started with a Eucharist. Bishop Lusa Nsenga-Ngoy addressed the Synod and answered questions. Synod agreed to coopt the Headteachers of two Church of England Schools to be members of the Synod. – Jo Hester at St John's Stanmore and Daniel Norris at St Jerome's Harrow.

The third meeting was held on 23 November at Bishop Ramsey Church of England School Ruislip. Dr Hilary Macaulay, Headteacher, gave an introduction to the school and its vision and activities. These included three projects:- *The Big Feast* providing a different experience of worship; the *Willesden Area Church of England Choir Project* where over two days twelve schools in the Area worked with the London Gospel Community Choir; *Common Good Schools* which was designed through the lessons

and assemblies to get schools working with their community. Synod was then given fifteen minutes for conversation in groups to consider three questions:- *“What is your response to these projects?”*, *“What volunteering opportunities could your church offer for students in your community?”* and *“Do you have any other ideas for how your church community could link with your local schools?”*. Alison Stowe gave a report from Harrow SACRE (Standing Advisory Committee for Religious Education). Ann Lynes announced that she is stepping down as Area Dean and the Bishop will appoint a successor. A By-Election had been held to fill a vacancy for a Lay Representative of the Synod on the London Diocesan Synod. Noah Kelly of St Alban’s North Harrow had been elected to fill this vacancy.

Robert May, Honorary Secretary to Harrow Deanery Synod

## **Approval of the Annual Report by the Parochial Church Council**

The Annual Report set out on pages 8 to 23 were approved by the Parochial Church Council of St. Edmund the King, Northwood Hills on 5th March 2024 and will be proposed for adoption by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on 17th March 2024.



The Rev'd Michael Miller  
Chairman of the Meeting  
5th March 2024 (PCC)

The Rev'd Michael Miller  
Chairman of the Meeting  
17th March 2024 (APCM)

## **Reports from Church Organisations**

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Northwood (St. Edmund's) Scout Group**

We have had another busy and active year during 2023 continuing to provide a wide range of interesting, adventurous, and challenging activities for all our Scouts to enjoy. These experiences provide opportunities for them to develop new skills and self-awareness that will help them positively navigate the many life challenges ahead.

This year saw a move from the Scout Hut to temporary accommodation in the Church Hall and the Scout Hut at 1st Northwood whilst work is undertaken to replace our old hut with a new building. This was a bitter pill following on so soon after the end of lockdown with all its concomitant problems. Our grateful thanks as always go to the leaders, parents and trustees for their continued resilience and enthusiasm.

It is particularly gratifying to see our young leaders developing into fully fledged leaders having joined 2nd Northwood as Beaver Scouts many years ago. What better recommendation.

We give a special thank you to Mike Evans, our Treasurer, who has decided to stand down after 30 years of dedication to the Group. We are delighted that he has accepted the role as our President. It is also goodbye and thank you to Barry, our Auditor, who is retiring after many years of faithful service to the Group. We have a sub-committee dealing with the new hut project. Our thanks go to Phil Lee, one of our Cub Leaders, who has kindly volunteered to use his project management skills to lead on this. Our original plans have been scaled back due to rising material and building costs. The revised plans have been submitted to Hillingdon Council for approval, and we are also applying to the Diocese for a new lease.

As a Group we thank Christine Bennett, our District Commissioner, for giving us additional support whilst our role of Group Scout Leader remains vacant. Christine already puts many hours into scouting and should be



highly commended. We are also very grateful to Paul Spencer, District Chairman who is helping to guide groups through the recent rule changes.

Marjorie Pimm, Group Secretary

## **Arrow Players**

Our year started with the return of the St. Edmund's Pantomime after 2 years absence due to covid. Then pantomime was "Humpty Dumpty"; it was most successful, with many satisfied customers. The show made a profit of nearly £3200, of which the customary half-share was passed to the PCC. The retiring collection at the show was in aid of "Raise The Roof", the result was an astounding £831.15 (just over £1000 with Gift Aid) - more than £200 more than any other collection at previous Pantomimes. A big "Thank you" to everyone in our most generous audiences!

In May, we presented the classic Oscar Wilde play "The Importance of Being Earnest" - a play with some challenges - several settings, late Victorian costumes and dialogue that took much concentration to master. But in the end, another successful production, much enjoyed by our audiences.

From September to the end of the year, our main activity was the rehearsal and preparation of the 2024 St. Edmund's Pantomime "Little Red Riding Hood" - a new pantomime for us, written by Mike Warrick.

We awarded a 25-year Long Service Medal to Donna Bryk. We held our usual Annual Dinner, at Pinner Hill Golf Club, in February. We have enjoyed a number of social events, including a summer barbecue and visits to "Dinosaur Golf" and ten-pin bowling.

Our participation in Church activities included running our usual side-shows at the Summer Fair, construction of stalls for the Plant Sale, and Father Christmas and his Grotto at the Christmas Bazaar in November, and serving Sunday morning refreshments on each 5th Sunday of the month.

We have also made a number of contributions, both practical and financial, to the running of the Church, the Hall and the grounds, including the funding of the annual Church gardening day, and we also arranged for the large Christmas tree in the Church - the third (and last, for the time being) of our home-grown trees.

Mike Godden (Chairman)

## **Choir**

The choir's most important function continues to be in providing the music for the Sung Eucharist on Sundays, other major festivals and Holy Week services. One of the highlights of the year was undoubtedly the carol service with a number of memorable performances, including a new arrangement of my carol "The Holy Star".

In October the choir took part in the Harrow Deanery Choirs Festival at St John's, Greenhill. The theme of the service was "The Light of the World" and it included music by Tallis, Murrill, Wood and Harris. This year's Festival Evensong will take place at St Edmund's on Saturday October 12th as part of the church's 60th anniversary celebrations and it would be good to have as many people there as possible. The choir play an active role within the wider church and continue to run the Grand Draw stall at the Summer Fair and Christmas Bazaar. I would like to thank the dedicated members of the choir who make such a valuable contribution to services at St Edmund's. We are all indebted to them. I would particularly like to thank Simon Wilson for his unfailing support of the choir over many years and I wish him and Sarah all the best for the future.

We are always looking for new members. There is no audition and there is no requirement to be able to read music. We rehearse for forty-five minutes before the Sunday morning service – do speak to me for further information. I would also like to thank all those who help behind the scenes and for those who prepare tea after our afternoon rehearsals.

Mark Hammond, Director of Music

## **Eco-Church**

In March 2023 St Edmund's was given the Bronze Eco Church Award and during the rest of the year we have been working to maintain our initiatives and to begin looking towards the Silver award.

At the beginning of 2023 the team included Jenny Jones – Eco Champion, Sarah Wilson and Carol Diggins. We were joined at our October meeting by Amanda Roberts, Madeline Roberts and Wendy Jones. If anyone else would like to join the team please let one of us know.

A plan has been drafted to show the areas where we are likely to achieve the Silver award and the Eco Care Group will now try to implement some initiatives to achieve this. We have introduced recycling of food waste when we have church events that involve catering.

The Recycling Centre in the foyer is working well and we have been able to send over 100 Gently Used Bras and 100 spectacles to the appropriate recyclers. We are no longer able to recycle toothpaste but this has been replaced by recycling cosmetics. We have also collected enough printer cartridges to send off and photocopy toner cartridges are being taken to New Years Green Recycling Centre.

We are looking into cost effective ways of introducing recycled paper for documents and are encouraging double sided printing where appropriate. We would also like to introduce eco-friendly toilet paper in the foyer toilets.

We were able to sell some of the leaf mould we had made during the year at the annual Plant Sale as well as recycling plant pots and bowls.

At the Book Sale and Eco Fair we had stalls that encouraged mending, recycling and reusing of laptops, clothes and items sold on our bring and

buy stall. We also supported wildlife through the selling of bat, bird boxes and bug hotels which had been made by 2nd Northwood (**St Edmund's**) Scout Group, while a member of Harrow Conservation for Nature brought along some pond water for people to study.

Eco Church was represented at the Christmas Tree Festival with a tree designed and decorated by a member of the Eco Church Group. Thank you to Wendy Jones.

We would like to thank Sarah Wilson for all that she has done in getting Eco Church off the ground particularly in setting up the recycling centre and the bring and buy sales held every month. We wish her and Simon best wishes for their new life in Bristol.

Carol Diggins

## **Flower Guild**

Floral arrangements were created throughout the year to mark significant religious dates, anniversaries and festivals. As in 2022, use of both fresh and artificial flowers ensured a variety of blooms, colour and longevity for the displays, whilst keeping expenditure down. The commercial prices for fresh flowers in 2023 increased by around 35% on previous years. Use of artificial foliage and garden grown foliage/flowers was employed when possible.

The Guild was pleased to assist the Sunday School with the making of Mothering Sunday floral gifts, and had a stall at the Book Sale and Eco Fair event. The Christmas Bazaar decorations stall was successful, and we displayed at the Christmas tree festival.

With the semi-retirement of Elizabeth Wastell from the group, more volunteers are now required to join the team for 2024. No experience is necessary, and tutoring will be given. Please contact Glenda Greenfield on 07850 581 551 for more information.

Glenda Greenfield

## **Sunday School**

In 2023 we had a roll of 9 children. Our regular core of 4 have been joined by others who attend intermittently and two of our older members are now training to be Altar Servers. During the year we learned about the disciples of Jesus and how some of them were chosen. We also learned about the Parable of the Prodigal Son and we followed Jesus' journey in the desert and later what led up to Easter Day. We also learned about the Story of Noah and how he followed God's instruction to create the ark and protect the animals from the flood.

At St Edmund-tide we had a Horrible History lesson about how King Edmund became a saint and martyr. In Advent we acted out the Christmas Story and the children were keen to perform a short nativity play in church for which there is a video!

Sunday School joined in with the Christmas Tree Festival. One of the parents created the tree and was helped by the children who contributed wise men they had coloured.

We joined in with the Big Volunteer during the King's Coronation weekend by covering boxes for the presents we give to the families of Home-Start Hillingdon. This year 58 boxes were filled and delivered to Home-Start. We ran the toy stall at the Summer Fair and Christmas Bazaar.

In 2024 we have been joined by a member of the Youth Group who is undertaking his Duke of Edinburgh Award. He is volunteering with us and has quickly become a firm favourite with the children particularly after designing an obstacle course for them to complete when we talked about the challenges of life. We learned how Jesus can help us if we speak to him through prayer. A big thank you to Sarah Wilson who has run Sunday School with me over the last few years. Sadly she is not able to be with us so often, now that she has moved, but will still be coming along when she

can. Aline Hammond-Gilles and Shannon Jones have kindly agreed to help out when needed.

Carol Diggins, Sunday School Leader

## **Youth Group**

Youth Group ran in the Hall and met 7pm – 9pm every fortnight during term time. The leadership of the Youth Group continued to benefit from Madeline and Oscar Roberts' continued assistance as valuable Young Leaders. The number of children attending remained steady throughout the year with a slight reduction towards the end of the year. Activities included pool, air hockey, football, dodge-ball, table tennis, bomb-ball, table football, and a film evening, once again complete with hot dogs and popcorn. The Youth Group also supplied a mini Christmas Tree for the Christmas Tree Festival.

About half of the Youth Group members worship at St Edmund's – we remain open to anyone between the ages of 10 and 16 of any faith or none.

I am very grateful to Fr Michael for joining us each week, running sessions when I have not been available, and to the helpers Carol Diggins, Aline Hammond-Gilles, Sarah Parnaby and Jo Wilson, without whom the group could not run. I would also like to pay particular tribute to Madeline Roberts for her dedicated support every week.

Steven Castle, Youth Group Leader

## **'The King' Parish Magazine**

The magazine has been published each month on the last Sunday of each month during 2023. The Editor receives the material within 14 days of publication. This then is sent to Mike Godden who prepares the items for printing. He also adds a couple of interesting articles, some derived from a publication called 'The Parish Pump' which is supplied to parishes who produce a magazine. The latter is received by Terry Diggins and sent on to

Mike. The draft returns to the Editor for checking and is then sent to Steve Castle for publishing on the website and to Mark Hammond for publishing within the weekly e-Newsletter which has 92 subscribers. Steve also produces the magazine in print and collates them. Some are placed at the back of church for those without internet access. Others are posted to past members of St. Edmund's who have moved away and the remainder are delivered to local people. Approximately 40 copies are printed each month.

Many thanks are due to our regular contributors, Father Michael, Sarah Parnaby and Mike Godden, also to Mike and Steve for their sterling work on the production and distribution. Finally, many thanks to you dear reader! The effort of all mentioned above would not occur without you! The Magazine is a part of the effort of all at our church to reach people and persuade them to come to join our friendly community.

Jenny Jones, Honorary Editor

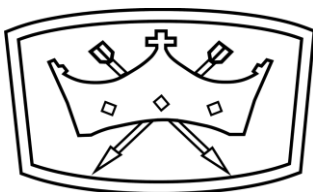
### **Women's Guild**

The Women's Guild meets on the 2nd Tuesday of each month, with a few exceptions. We have a loyal membership and enjoy a varied programme followed by tea. In March Colin Richards gave a most interesting talk on Pinewood Studios. In June David Steward our Panto Pianist entertained us. August saw us celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Women's Guild with a splendid cake and beautiful floral display. In September Glenda Greenfield held us spellbound with an account of her expedition to the Galapagos. The year ended with a Carol Concert led by Peter Heath and was followed by a festive tea. Our members are all supportive of each other and really enjoy meeting once a month.

Connie Ambrose, Women's Guild

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.



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.

