

THE

KING

SEPTEMBER 2025



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 BANNS OF MARRIAGE -
 please telephone the Vicar.

OFFICERS

Churchwardens	Mr. Steve Castle 3a Willows Close, Pinner HA5 3SY (020) 8868 0482 Mr. Isaac Odeyemi <i>e-mail</i> churchwardens@stedmundtheking.org.uk
Hon. Secretary	Mrs. Amanda Roberts <i>e-mail</i> 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
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Safeguarding Officer	Ms. Frederica Pratley-Lovegrove 07981 327 678

ORGANISATIONS

Flower Guild	Mrs. Glenda Greenfield <i>e-mail</i> 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 Warrick 07813 618 225
Youth Group	Mr. Steve Castle 3a Willows Close, Pinner HA5 3SY (020) 8868 0482
Scout Group	Mrs. Karen Retter 07984 662 588
Brownies	Nicola Setterfield e-mail brownies6northwood@yahoo.co.uk 07742 886 758

MAGAZINE

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

OCTOBER 2025



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

OCTOBER MAGAZINE

*All contributions for
the October Magazine
to be with Jenny Jones by
Friday 19th September
020 8866 7173
jonesjennye@googlemail.com*

*The October Magazine
will be available
from Sunday 28th September*

FR. MICHAEL'S LETTER

Dear Friends

As September dawns and the summer holidays draw to a close, it's often a time for fresh beginnings and renewed purpose. The warmth and brightness of recent months seem to linger, but there's a gentle shift in the air, hinting at autumn's approach. This season of change invites us all to reflect on the world around us and the paths we choose as a community.

It is impossible to ignore the challenges that face our world at the moment. From conflict and unrest in different corners of the globe, to the growing effects of climate change and economic uncertainty much closer to home, it sometimes feels as though the foundations of our lives are being tested. News headlines can weigh heavily on our spirits, and the pace of change may leave many feeling anxious or disheartened.

Yet, even amid uncertainty, we are reminded of God's enduring presence and the call to be a people of hope. Our faith encourages us not to turn away from the world's needs, but rather to respond with compassion, integrity, and prayerful action. Each small act of kindness, each moment of patience, and every shared burden makes ripples that extend far beyond what we can see.

One wonderful example of hope and new beginnings in our own Parish is the launch of our Squirrel Scout group this month. The Squirrels - the youngest section of the Scouts' family - offer children aged 4-6 a space to explore, play, and learn together in a safe and nurturing environment. This new group is a testament to the spirit of service that runs through our community. I would like to thank everyone involved in making this possible, from the dedicated leaders and volunteers to the families who are entrusting them with their children's first adventures with the Scouts. I would also like to thank our existing leaders of the Beaver Scout, Cub Scout and Scout sections whose dedication and commitment enriches the lives of the young people in their charge and helps them have a good foundation to build on as they grow to adulthood. In light of some of the terrible things that teenagers have been involved in over the last few weeks the Scout movement along with the Church have an important role to play in the development of young people and enabling them to grow into good citizens.

As we support the Squirrels on their exciting journey, may we all be inspired to approach the coming months with a sense of curiosity, openness, and gratitude. Let us continue to pray for peace and healing in our world, to care for one another in these unpredictable times, and to seek out new ways to build up our parish life together.

With every blessing for September and the season ahead.

Fr. Michael

CALENDAR AND PRINCIPAL SERVICE READINGS SEPTEMBER 2025

Principal Service - Sung Eucharist at 10.00 am every Sunday

7 SUN 12th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Deuteronomy 30.15-20, Philemon vv. 1-21, Luke 14.25-33

11.15 am Bring and Buy Sale

14 SUN HOLY CROSS DAY (13th Sunday after Trinity)

Numbers 21.4-9, Philippians 2.6-11, John 3.13-17

21 SUN 14th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Amos 8.4-7, 1 Timothy 2.1-7, Luke 16.1-13

22 Mon St. Matthew, Apostle (*transferred from Sunday 21st*)

Proverbs 3.13-18, 2 Corinthians 4.1-6, Matthew 9.9-13

28 SUN 15th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Amos 6.1a,4-7, 1 Timothy 6.6-19, Luke 16.19-31

29 Mon St. Michael and All Angels

Revelation 12.7-12, Hebrews 1.5-end, John 1.47-end

OTHER DIARY DATES

Sunday 5th October 11.00 am Harvest Thanksgiving
followed by Harvest Lunch

Saturday 11th October 6.30 pm Harrow Deanery Choirs' Festival,
at St. John the Evangelist, Stanmore

Saturday 18th October 6.00 pm "Raise the Roof" Quiz Evening

Sunday 19th October Dedication Festival

Monday 3rd November 7.00 pm All Souls' Day Requiem Sung Eucharist

Sunday 9th November Remembrance Sunday

Sunday 16th November 3.00 pm St. Edmund's Patronal Festival
followed by Afternoon Tea

Thursday 20th November St. Edmund's Day

Saturday 29th November 11.30 am Christmas Bazaar



HARVEST 2025 AT ST. EDMUND'S

HARVEST THANKSGIVING SERVICE

11.00 am Sunday 5th October

Followed by Harvest Lunch in the Hall



BRING - AND - BUY SALE

**1st SUNDAY OF
EACH MONTH**

11.15am IN THE HALL

Part of our Eco Church Project

SUNDAY SCHOOL



at St Edmund's Church

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

St. EDMUND'S WOMEN'S GUILD

The next meeting will be
at 2.30 pm on Tuesday 9th September
when Mark Hammond entertain us
with music and a talk on Musical Connections
followed by refreshments. All are welcome.

St. EDMUND'S YOUTH GROUP

will resume meetings in September, usually every 2 weeks
on Wednesdays during term time;

7.30 - 9 pm, in the Hall. Open to all aged 10-16.

Contact Steve Castle on 020 8868 0482 for information.

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

COULD YOU SAVE ANY POSTAGE STAMPS?

Olive Fairclough has been collecting postage stamps for several years so that they can be sent to the Royal National Institute of Blind People. These are then put up for auction to Stamp Collectors and the money generated is used in many ways, including providing training dogs as companions, etc. There is a box on the shelf on your right as you enter the church. Stamps from all parts of the world are used as are the ones from our country. If the stamps have any extra markings around it please include it with the stamp - sometimes it is more valuable.!

WALSINGHAM PILGRIMAGE

St. Anselm's, Hatch End and St. Edmund's, Northwood Hills

We are again this year going on our joint parish pilgrimage to Walsingham. We'll be meeting at St. Edmund's at 10 am Friday 24th October and return early evening on Sunday 26th October. The cost will be £182 (full board).

If you would like to join the pilgrimage please complete a form available at the back of Church and return it to Fr. Michael, Steve Castle, or scan and send directly to Fr. David Green (his email address is on the form).

If you have any questions, or would like to know more before deciding, please have a word with Fr. Michael.

HARROW DEANERY CHOIRS' FESTIVAL 2025

**Saturday 11th October at 6.30 pm
at the Church of St. John the Evangelist, Stanmore**

The Festival this year explores, in scripture and music,
the theme "Heirs Of The Kingdom".

At its heart is a series of six Bible readings
whose message is amplified by choral and congregational music.

The choirs offer psalmody, three lively and attractive anthems
including 'But thanks be to God who giveth us the victory' from Handel's
Messiah alongside - and in complete contrast -
'God so loved the world' from Stainer's Crucifixion.

The congregation sings five lovely hymns and joins in the spoken responses
that follow each of the readings.

This promises to be a very special occasion.

Do come, not just to support your choir members,
but to be part of an enriching act of worship, which should last about an
hour.

There is free on-street parking nearby,
and buses 340 and H12 stop outside the church.

RAISE THE ROOF UPDATE



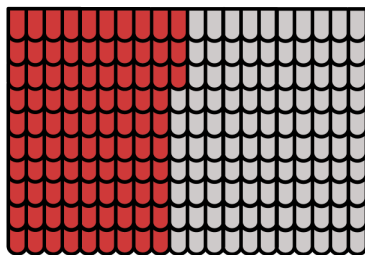
Just a reminder that Arrow Players will be holding a Quiz Evening in aid of Raise the Roof. Tickets will be on sale from the beginning of September. Please put the evening of Saturday 18th October in your diary! Glenda Greenfield has been busy putting together the questions and the evening will include a ploughman's supper, dessert and a raffle.

Some more good news to report: Terry Diggins has been busy in front of the computer processing the last quarter's Gift Aid claim and as a result we can colour in another tile on our virtual roof.

It's another reminder that, if you're a UK taxpayer, we can claim basic-rate tax relief on your donations which boosts it by 20%. Thank you to everyone for your generous donations so far.

Personal Donations: An Appeal

If, after prayerful thought and consideration, you feel able to make a personal donation towards the Hall and Lady Chapel roof replacement, it would be greatly appreciated.



£93,000 raised £107,000 to raise

Donations may be made in several ways:

- by bank transfer to our account with CAF Bank (preferred method, as we receive the whole amount with no fees taken):
 - account name: PCC of St. Edmund The King, Northwood Hills
 - sort code: 40-52-40
 - account number: 00017222
 - optional reference "Raise the Roof"
- by online donation via credit or debit card or PayPal by clicking the "Donate here" button on our website: www.saintedmundschurch.org.uk
- by cheque, made payable to PCC of St. Edmund The King (with "Raise the Roof" written on the reverse, please). Cheques may be sent to The Treasurer, St. Edmund's Church, 2 Pinner Road, Northwood. HA6 1QS.

Thank you again for your continued support.

With my best wishes,

Steve Castle

Greetings to you all. I hope your summer has been peaceful and relaxing, in spite of the very hot spells. I know some of you have been working throughout: I hope it hasn't been too stressful.

On Tuesday 22nd July, the Rev. Ninus Khako, who has been involved in two of our services along with his young son, Christian, was installed as Vicar of All Saints' Church, Harrow Weald, with which we have another connection: some members of their choir used to come and sing with us for our big choral services under Nora Wood's direction.

It was a service which I felt represented the best of the Church of England as an institution. Our Area Dean, Matthew Stone, welcomed those present, and after a hymn and the Confession came the Presentation of the new Parish Priest by the Patron (the Rev. D. Stevenson). The Commendation of Fr. Ninus to All Saints was then given by a Churchwarden of his previous parish (St. Alban's North Harrow), after which there was the Declaration of Oaths - when the priest agrees to all that Church and Monarch expect of him. This was followed by the Ministry of the Word.

In his sermon, Bishop Lusa referred to the Gospel, which was about Mary Magdalene meeting Jesus in the garden after His Resurrection. Breaking into song a few times (he has a lovely voice!) he reflected on how we search for God, and how when He finds us, He names us and makes us into a New Creation, called to witness to the Truth, even while continuing to seek and to listen.

Then the Bishop presented Fr. Ninus with the 'Cure of Souls' in his new parish, and blessed him. Fr. Ninus was then installed as Vicar (no screwdrivers involved!) and rang the church bell to signify the start of his ministry there. Following this solemn moment, we all affirmed our commitment to the task of Ministry. After Communion, the joined choirs of All Saints' and St. Alban's churches sang the lovely version of Psalm 23, 'Brother James's Air' by Gordon Jacob.

There was a variety of guests from other churches, including a Bishop from the Syriac Orthodox Church (of which Ninus used to be a member) and a priest of the Mar Thoma Church which uses All Saints' church building on Sunday afternoons. The Mayor and other civic dignitaries were also present. I loved the fact that the broad range of the Church of England was represented (the church was packed) and that the service mixed ancient ritual with a lively challenge to all of us. A fine spread was laid on for the reception afterwards and there was an opportunity to meet old friends and new. We wish Fr. Ninus and his family much happiness in their new parish.

On Sunday 27th July, as Fr. Michael was away, Fr. Stuart Natrass of Pinner Parish Church presided at our Eucharist. In his address he gave a simple, powerful exposition of the Lord's Prayer, showing how it introduced a new way of life. When he looked at the words 'Give us this day our daily bread', Fr. Stuart was fierce in his condemnation both of the starvation in Gaza and of our need in this country for food banks. When he reached 'Lead us not into the time of trial/temptation', he warned us

in true prophetic style that we would be tested in the near future by the pressure of extremist politics.

Fr. Stuart also reminded us that in this same Gospel passage, Jesus encourages us to be persistent in our prayers in order for God's Kingdom to come on earth. He gave us much food for thought.

St. Edmund's was also fortunate to have Fr. Mike Still from St. Mary's, Kenton taking the service on Sunday 3rd August, but I wasn't present because on July 28th my own very busy but enjoyable summer travels began. First, I attended my Classics Teachers' Summer School as usual, this year in lovely Monmouth. I found it stimulating as ever, and particularly enjoyed the New Testament Greek group, in which we studied part of Acts in the original Greek. (As I've said before, it's an exciting read!) The company on these courses is very pleasant and supportive, with a large age-range.

My next visit was to the villages of Nailsea and Backwell, near Bristol, where Frank and I stayed with his cousin and family. A beautiful view from their window framed the lovely old country Church of St. Andrew, where we attended a service on Sunday 3rd August. It was called an 'Informal Communion' (not an every-week occurrence) and was not unlike our All-Age Service, except that the worship songs appeared on a screen and were arranged in blocks of 2 or 3 songs, as in the Charismatic tradition. A nice touch was the opportunity for a bit of informal discussion after the sermon. Apart from these differences, the liturgy was similar and the priest was robed. The clergy and congregation were very friendly and welcoming. We offered them greetings from St. Edmund's.

Next, we were off to Llandaff Cathedral in Cardiff to sing the services for a week, while their choir was on holiday. Our choir, *Cantores Vagantes* (the Wandering Singers) is quite large, and made up of people from all over the country, as well as a few from abroad: Norway and Kenya were represented this year! We had a hard-working but enjoyable time tackling a large amount of music, and were treated well by the Cathedral staff. We also got a lot of exercise, as it's a hilly area, and the Cathedral is down in a hollow, so a lot of steps were involved!

Also hilly is the city of Durham, which was our final leg of the journey. We took a train from Cardiff to Manchester by a beautiful route through Herefordshire, Shropshire and Cheshire, and then travelled to Durham on the Trans-Pennine Railway, another attractive route. Our main aim in visiting this lovely city was to catch up with my cousin Judith and visit her sick husband - but we also managed to get to one Evensong at the Cathedral, where the visiting choir was from St. Mark's Cathedral, Seattle, USA. They sang beautifully, and the canticles were ones I'm particularly fond of: Herbert Howells' Gloucester Service.

Hardly had our feet touched the ground of Pinner on Thursday 15th August, when we hurtled out to St. Edmund's to sing at the Mass of the Assumption of Our Lady. This was a sumptuous service, with a host of joyful hymns of praise. The Communion Motet was the uplifting 'Song of Mary', a version of the Magnificat by Richard Shephard.

It was good to have our Friend Fr. David Green assisting at the service and reading the Gospel. Fr. Michael in his sermon spoke of the wonderful example of Mary as the first Christian, and of how she always points us to Jesus - which is what we should do for others. Through her Assumption (being taken up into Heaven), she also points us to the Resurrection, not just of Jesus but of all of us. We were reminded of how she submitted her will to God, which led to her seeing great suffering but also the great joy of God's promise of Resurrection coming true. 'Do whatever He tells you', she says to the servants at the Wedding at Cana - a meaningful command to us all.

After the service, we enjoyed a delicious barbecue in the Vicarage Garden. Many thanks to all who arranged this, and who prepared and served the food. It was a memorable evening.

And finally .. we congratulate Steve Castle on his 50th birthday, celebrated on 28th August, and thank him heartily for all he does for us here at St. Edmund's.

All the best to teachers and students starting a new term, and to all those returning to work after their holiday.



THE AGRICULTURAL YEAR

The Jewish and Christian Scriptures give eloquent expression to the creative power and wisdom of God. It is therefore a natural instinct for worshipping communities to develop patterns of worship and prayer around the agricultural year. Of course, there were dangers, and the same Scriptures bear witness to concerns about the idolatry of fertility cults and the worship of created things rather than the creator. Nevertheless, ancient society lived close to the land, and it is no surprise that the ancient Jewish festivals of Passover and Unleavened Bread, Weeks and Tabernacles all have agrarian roots. The Christian tradition, too, has assimilated, but with differing emphases and in different times and places, particular agricultural festivals. Much of this is bound up with the need to provide food to sustain human life, and the accompanying sense of a proper humility before God as source of all things, gratitude for his goodness, and responsibility for stewarding the resources of the earth. In more recent years, it has become abundantly clear that although the majority of people in many parts of the world no longer have direct involvement with agriculture, we are all just as dependent on its produce as we ever were.

CREATION

The Creation, as described in Genesis Chapter 1, tells how mankind should approach the agricultural provision of the sustenance for its earthly life. The Common Worship Lectionary provides readings to explore biblical traditions concerning Creation. These are for use on the 2nd Sunday before Lent, which, falling in early Spring, provides a timely agricultural link.

PLOUGH SUNDAY

The observance of Plough Sunday on the First Sunday of Epiphany goes back to Victorian times, but behind it there is a much older observance, associated with the first working day after the twelve days of Christmas, hence 'Plough Monday' in some places. In mediæval times some ploughs were kept in the parish church, and some churches kept a 'plough-light'. In days when work was scarce in winter, the observance looked forward to the time of sowing with the promise of a harvest to come. Some Christian communities have reintroduced it as a focus for asking a blessing on human labour, on the plough, and on the seed near the start of the calendar year.

ROGATIONTIDE

The Rogation Days (from the Latin *rogare*, 'to ask') are the three weekdays before Ascension Day. However, in practice, many churches have observed Rogation on the preceding Sunday, the 6th Sunday of Easter. The Prayer Book Gospel includes the words of Jesus, 'Whatsoever ye shall ask for in my Name, he will give it you' - words associated with the heavenly intercession of the ascended Christ.

Originally, the Christian observance of Rogation was taken over from Græco-Roman religion, where an annual procession invoked divine favour to protect crops against mildew. The tradition grew of using processional litanies, often around the parish boundaries, for the blessing of the land. These processions concluded with a mass. The Rogation procession was suppressed at the Reformation, but it was restored in 1559.

The poet George Herbert interpreted the procession as a means of asking for God's blessing on the land, of preserving boundaries, of encouraging fellowship between neighbours with the reconciling of differences, and of charitable giving to the poor. The tradition of 'Beating the Bounds' has been preserved in some communities (including ours), while others maintain the traditional use of the Litany within worship.

In more recent times, the scope of Rogation has been widened to include petition for the world of work and for accountable stewardship, and prayer for local communities, whether rural or urban.

LAMMASTIDE

Lammas or 'Loaf-mass' is an English feast in origin, held on 1st August as a thanksgiving for the first-fruits of the wheat harvest. Traditionally, a newly baked loaf from the wheat harvest was presented before God within the mass of that day. While the ceremony ceased at the Reformation, reference to Lammas Day continued in the Prayer Book calendar, and the practice has been revived in some places in more recent years. The tradition of giving thanks for the first-fruits need not be limited to 1st August, and churches are at liberty to decide when to hold such a celebration. The Lammas loaf should ideally be baked by members of the congregation, using local produce wherever possible. Other small loaves or buns, in the tradition of 'blessed bread', may be distributed to the congregation. Part of the Lammas loaf may be used as the eucharistic bread on this occasion. Readings for the day concern the offering of the first-fruits and the bread of life.

HARVEST THANKSGIVING


Harvest Thanksgiving is a more modern addition to the church calendar. Its origins are usually traced to the adaptation in 1843 of Lammas Day by Rev. R. S. Hawker, a parish priest in Cornwall. He chose the 1st Sunday in October as a Christian response to coincide with the traditional but largely secular 'harvest home' celebration, but there is some evidence to suggest that a thanksgiving for the harvest was already a relatively widespread practice. An annual church celebration of the harvest certainly established itself rapidly with great popularity and was first recognised officially in the Church of England in 1862. Since then, many local traditions for the celebration have developed. An Act of Thanksgiving is held, accompanied by the tradition of bringing to church gifts of fresh produce and other foodstuffs.

PRAYER IN TIMES OF AGRICULTURAL NEED

*From Common Worship, a prayer for seasonable weather,
for use in times when heavy rain or flooding or lack of rain prejudices the crops,
or when severe or extreme weather endangers the harvest and the welfare of animals :*

O God, our heavenly Father,
who by your Son Jesus Christ
have promised to all those who seek your kingdom and its righteousness
all things necessary to sustain their life:
send us, we entreat you, in this time of need,
such favourable weather that we may receive the fruits of the earth,
to our comfort and to your honour; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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



ST. EDMUND'S FLOWER GUILD

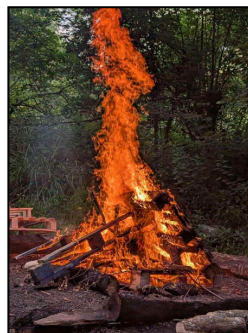
Would you like to be part of the team that
prepares flower arrangements
for the Church?

We are looking for volunteers
to join the team
No immediate experience is required -
learning on the job is all part of the fun.

If you would like to find out more,
please talk to Glenda Greenfield -
07850 581 551.

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

All sections have had a busy summer term, completing challenge and activity badges, and spending as much time as possible outside. There have been many visits to Activity Centres, and the ever popular weekend District Family Camp at Phasels Wood took place in June, with opportunities to participate in many exciting activities, including a cresta run, climbing, archery, zip wire, inflatable slide and tunnelling - one leader managing to get stuck, requiring skills and ingenuity from fellow leaders to pull him out, amidst much laughter.



Towards the end of term, Cubs and Beavers hiked to Ruislip Woods and built shelters and dens. The Cubs' brief was to build something that all team members could fit into safely. Beavers built hedgehog winter shelters off the paths. There were some very impressive constructions, and all aims were achieved.



NEW BEGINNINGS – SQUIRREL SCOUTS

Following the successful re-launch of the Beaver Colony, we are opening a Squirrel Drey in the Church Hall for children 4 and 5 years old

Tuesdays 5 pm - 5.45 pm, starting on 16th September.

If you know anyone who may be interested in joining, please pass on these details.

Further information from Karen Retter on 07984 662 588.

We wish this new venture every success.

Marjorie Pimm

14th SEPTEMBER - HOLY CROSS DAY

On the Festival of Holy Cross Day (or “The Exaltation of the Holy Cross”) the Church of England celebrates the Cross as a symbol of triumph, as the sign of Christ’s victory over death. Holy Cross Day originates from the work of Helena, the mother of a Roman Emperor Constantine. She was a devout Christian, and after her son was converted, they agreed that she should travel from Rome to Israel, and seek out the places of special significance to Christians. Much of Jerusalem had been destroyed by the Romans around AD 135, but Helena eventually located what she believed to be the sites of the Crucifixion and of the Burial (and modern archæologists think she may well have been correct). The sites were so close together that she built one large church over them - the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. That Church, built in honour of the Cross, was dedicated on 14th September AD 335.

During the construction of the shrine, and a relic believed to be the Cross was discovered. Claims by the Church of Jerusalem to have the cross date from the mid 4th century, and the pilgrim Egeria mentions a feast commemorating the discovery of the cross in Jerusalem in the late 4th century. The feast has also been associated with the exposition at Jerusalem of the cross by the Byzantine Emperor Heraclius (575-641). He recovered the relic from the Persians, who took it from Jerusalem in 614 when they destroyed the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. Although the authenticity of alleged relics of the cross may be questionable, Holy Cross Day provides an opportunity for a joyous celebration of Christ’s redeeming death on a cross.

The Festival thus commemorates Christ's self-offering on the cross for our salvation. The Eucharistic Preface for Holy Cross Day recalls that Christ “was lifted high upon the cross that he might draw the whole world unto himself” and prays that “we, who glory in the mystery of our redemption, may have grace to take up our cross and follow him” The themes of Holy Cross Day are powerfully expressed by the hymn “Lift high the cross”.

St. Helena herself is commemorated in the Church of England on 21st May. The island of St. Helena, a British Overseas Territory in the South Atlantic, is named in her honour, the island being said to have been first discovered, depending on which source you believe, either on her feast day (21st May), or on 3rd May, being the Roman Catholic feast day of the Finding of the True Cross by St. Helena in Jerusalem.

Adapted from material supplied by www.parishpump.co.uk



ARROW PLAYERS

present



A QUIZ EVENING

in support of "Raise the Roof"

SATURDAY 18th OCTOBER

at St. Edmund's Hall

Tickets - £10 per person

**Includes Ploughman's Supper, Dessert
and Tea/Coffee/Squash**

Bring your own other drinks

Ploughman's options -

Ardennes pate or Mushroom pate or Cheddar or Stilton

Dessert options -

Lemon Curd Meringue Roulade or

Chocolate Brownie (vegan/gluten free) or Fruit Salad

Hall opens at 6.00 pm

Ploughmans at 6.30 pm

Quiz starts at 7.00 pm

A raffle will be held in aid of Raise the Roof

Tables/teams of between 6 and 8 people.

Form your own team or join with others on the night.

Admittance by ticket only

Tickets available from Steve Castle -

Call/text/Whatsapp 07710 151 910

or e-mail steven.castle@arrowplayers.org.uk

HYMN OF THE MONTH

Mike Godden

Here is a hymn that celebrates the divine revelation and the joyous experience of encountering God's glorious presence. It invites us to reflect on the beauty and wonder of that revelation and to respond with gratitude and praise.

Bright the vision that delighted
Once the sight of Judah's seer;
Sweet the countless tongues united
To entrance the prophet's ear.

Round the Lord in glory seated
Cherubim and seraphim
Filled His temple, and repeated
Each to each the alternate hymn:

'Lord, Thy glory fills the heaven;
Earth is with its fullness stored;
Unto Thee be glory given,
Holy, holy, holy, Lord.'

Heaven is still with glory ringing,
Earth takes up the angels' cry,
'Holy, holy, holy,' singing,
'Lord of hosts, the Lord most high.'

With His seraph train before Him,
With His holy church below,
Thus unite we to adore Him,
Bid we thus our anthem flow:

'Lord, Thy glory fills the heaven;
Earth is with its fullness stored;
Unto Thee be glory given,
Holy, holy, holy, Lord.'

The text of the hymn, based on Isaiah 6.1-6, was written in 1837 by Rev. Richard Mant (1776 – 1848). He was born at Southampton, where his father, also Richard Mant, was headmaster of the King Edward VI School. He was educated at Winchester College and at Trinity College, Oxford. He was ordained on New Year's Eve, 1801, initially holding a curacy from 1802 at his father's church of All Saints' in Southampton (which was destroyed by bombing in WW2). He was then appointed Vicar of St. Peter ad Vincula ("St. Peter in chains") in Coggeshall, Essex in 1810, and in 1816 he became Rector of St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, in London. In 1820 he became Bishop of Killaloe and Kilfenora, in south-west Ireland. In 1823 he was made Bishop of Down and Connor, and from 1842 was the Bishop of Down, Connor and Dromore when the two Dioceses were united. He was a prolific writer, his major work being a *History of the Church of Ireland*.^[2]

The tune usually used for the hymn is "Laus Deo" (*Praise be to God*), composed in 1853 by Richard Redhead (1820-1901). He was born at Harrow and was a chorister at Magdalen College, Oxford. In 1839, at the age of 19 he was invited to become organist at the Margaret Street Chapel in London (which was rebuilt as All Saints' Church in the 1850s). Greatly influencing the musical tradition of the church, he remained in that position for 25 years as organist and an excellent trainer of the boys' choirs. Redhead and the church's rector, Frederick Oakeley, were strongly committed to the Oxford Movement; together they produced the first Anglican plainsong psalter, *Laudes Diurnae* (1843). Redhead spent the latter part of his career as organist at St. Mary Magdalene Church in Paddington.





AFTERNOON CHRISTMAS CONCERT FOLLOWED BY CHRISTMAS TEA

3.30 pm Saturday 6th December 2025
at St Edmund's Church, Pinner Road, Northwood HA6 1QS

JS Bach Cantata, Sleepers Awake! and Carols

Tickets £17 on the door or from a choir member (under 12s free)

The choir meets every Tuesday from 8 pm to 10 pm
at Ruislip Methodist Church Hall, Ickenham Road, Ruislip HA4 7BZ.

New members are welcome - no audition required.

More details on our website: www.eastcote-ruislip-choral.

COME AND SING

Do you like four-part singing? Then join us to sing

Handel's Messiah choruses

2 pm to 5 pm Saturday 24th January 2026,
followed by short performance at 5.00pm

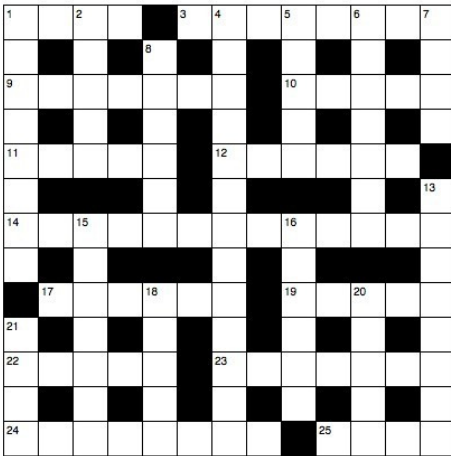
at Ickenham United Reformed Church,
Swakeleys Road, Ickenham UB10 8BE

Cost is £15, including music, tea and cake

Music: Handel's Messiah (Watkins Shaw Edition) - Music provided

Tickets on the day; enquiries to 01895 904556

SEPTEMBER CROSSWORD



ACROSS

1. 'A little later someone else saw Peter and said, "You — are one of them"' (*Luke 22.58*) (4)
3. Giving (*1 Peter 2.5*) (8)
9. They came to Jerusalem seeking an infant king (*Matthew 2.7*) (3,4)
10. 'An athlete... does not receive the victor's crown unless he competes according to the — ' (*2 Timothy 2.5*) (5)
11. Pacifist, temperance advocate, open-air preacher, leading 20th century Methodist, Donald — (5)
12. 'Come quickly to — — , O Lord my Saviour' (*Psalms 38.22*) (4,2)
14. 'The God of Abraham, — — — , the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus' (*Acts 3.13*) (5,3,5)
17. Sear by intense heat (*Revelation 16.8*) (6)
19. 'It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust — — ' (*Psalms 118.8*) (2,3)
22. Goods (*Nehemiah 13.15*) (5)
23. i.e. train (anag.) (7)
24. Surrounding area (*Luke 24.50*) (8)

25 'Righteousness will be his — and faithfulness the sash round his waist' (*Isaiah 11.5*) (4)

DOWN

1. Elegant and creative (*Exodus 31.4*) (8)
2. 'Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all — , but we will all be changed' (*1 Corinthians 15.51*) (5)
4. 'I delight to see how orderly you are and how firm your — — — is' (*Colossians 2.5*) (5,2,6)
5. Enlist (*2 Samuel 24.2*) (5)
6. Of the Muslim faith (7)
7. Sharp intake of breath (*Job 11.20*) (4)
8. Woven cloth (*Ezekiel 16.13*) (6)
13. Plentiful (*Romans 5.17*) (8)
15. CIA char (anag.) (7)
16. Paul and Silas stopped him committing suicide after an earthquake in Philippi (*Acts 16.27-28*) (6)
18. An ingredient for making incense for the Lord (*Exodus 30.34*) (5)
20. Episcopal headwear (5)
21. Inhabitant of, say, Russia, Ukraine, Poland, Slovakia or Bulgaria (4)

August Crossword Solution

