

THE KING

DECEMBER 2025



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

THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. EDMUND THE KING

NORTHWOOD HILLS

VICAR

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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

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Women's Guild	Mrs. Hilda Greenfield 01923 823 134 Mrs. Connie Ambrose 01923 825 524
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Youth Group	Mr. Steve Castle 3a Willows Close, Pinner HA5 3SY (020) 8868 0482
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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

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This magazine is published online at www.saintedmundschurch.org.uk
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If you know someone who does not have internet access
and would like a printed copy of this magazine,
please contact Steve Castle at
steven.castle@saintedmundschurch.org.uk
giving their name and postal address
(having first obtained their permission to supply this personal information).

We publish a free weekly e-mail newsletter which contains links
to the latest edition of this magazine and to The Orbit pew sheet.

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JANUARY MAGAZINE

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

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

FR. MICHAEL'S LETTER

Dear Friends

As the nights get darker and the days shorter, I hope we will be drawn to the light of Christmas. Advent invites us to pause, reflect, and prepare for the coming of Christ, not just as a historical event, but as a living hope in our lives today.

The build-up to Christmas can be a stressful time with all the planning, shopping, decorating, attending services and possibly partying. In among all the busy-ness it is good to carve out moments of stillness and contemplation. Advent is a season of waiting, a time to nurture patience and openness in our hearts. Let us remember that the first Christmas was not celebrated in grandeur, but in humble surroundings, witnessed by shepherds and welcomed by angels.

For many the season can be both a joy and a challenge. Some feel the pain of loneliness, loss, or anxiety. As a parish, we have for the last couple of years supported Hillingdon "Home Start" by providing gifts for children and young people in the area who would receive little or nothing otherwise. This is a wonderful thing to do and brings much happiness to those who receive the presents. I hope this Christmas, as well as the material gifts, we can also share the gifts of friendship and compassion. The true spirit of Christmas is found in loving one another as Christ loves us.

Details of our Christmas services are elsewhere in the magazine, but include our traditional Carol Service, the Crib service on Christmas Eve as well as Midnight Mass and the Family Mass on Christmas day. If you know someone who might appreciate support with transport, or you can offer help do let us know.

During Advent we light candles on the Advent wreath reminding us that Jesus is the light that no darkness can extinguish. May this truth bring peace to our hearts and homes, and may we carry that light into the world, sharing it with everyone we meet.

With prayers for a blessed and joyful Advent and Christmas,

Fr. Michael

CALENDAR AND PRINCIPAL SERVICE READINGS DECEMBER 2025

Principal Service - Sung Eucharist at 10.00 am every Sunday

- 1 Mon St. Andrew, Apostle** (*transferred from 30 Nov*)
- 7 SUN 2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT**
Isaiah 11.1-10, Romans 15.4-13, Matthew 3.1-12
- 11 Thur 2.30 pm Women's Guild Carol Concert
- 14 SUN 3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT**
Isaiah 35.1-10, James 5.7-10, Matthew 11.2-11
- 21 SUN 4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT**
Isaiah 7.10-16, Romans 1.1-7, Matthew 1.18-25
6.30 pm Festival of 9 Lessons and Carols
- 24 WED CHRISTMAS EVE**
4.00 pm Blessing of the Crib Service
followed by Said Eucharist
11.00 pm Midnight Mass
Isaiah 52.7-10, Hebrews 1.1-4, John 1.1-14
- 25 THUR CHRISTMAS DAY**
10.00 am Eucharist with Carols
Isaiah 9.2-7, Titus 2.11-14, Luke 2.1-14
- 26 Fri St. Stephen, Deacon, First Martyr**
- 27 Sat St. John, Apostle and Evangelist**
- 28 SUN 1st SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS**
Isaiah 63.7-9, Hebrews 2.10-18, Matthew 2.13-23
- 29 Mon The Holy Innocents** (*transferred from 28 Dec*)
- 31 Wed New Year's Eve**
5.30 pm New Year's Eve Devotion and Benediction

OTHER DIARY DATES

Sunday 4 th January	The Epiphany
Saturday 10 th January –	St. Edmund's Pantomime –
Saturday 17 th January	"Hickory Dickory Dock"
Sunday 1 st February	The Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas)
Wednesday 18 th February	Ash Wednesday

ADVENT

Advent is a season of expectation and preparation,
as the Church prepares to celebrate
the coming of Christ in his incarnation,
and also looks ahead to his final advent as judge at the end of time.

THE ADVENT WREATH

The Advent wreath is a ring of evergreen cuttings such as holly, pine, yew, cedar, or ivy. It is not placed in Church as a sort of pre-Christmas decoration; it is there to represent the eternity of God and his endless mercy, which has no beginning or end. The green of the wreath is our faith in God, the hope of newness, of renewal, of eternal life.



Placed around the ring are five candles - three purple, one rose and one white. The first (purple) candle is lit on the 1st Sunday of Advent, and one further candle is lit on each subsequent Sunday. The rose candle is lit on the 3rd Sunday, to signify *Gaudete* (“Rejoice”) Sunday. Each of the four Sundays reminds us of those who prepared the way for Christ. In the middle of the ring is a fifth (white) candle, which is lit only at Midnight Mass and on Christmas Day, to represent the birth of Christ. All of these candles symbolise the light of God coming into the world through the birth of His son.

The traditional themes represented by the candles are:

Advent I	The Patriarchs
Advent II	The Prophets
Advent III	John the Baptist
Advent IV	The Blessed Virgin Mary

A PRAYER FOR ADVENT

Almighty God,
give us grace to cast away the works of darkness
and to put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life,
in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility;
that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty
to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal;
through him who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

SUNDAY SCHOOL



at St Edmund's Church

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



**BRING - AND - BUY
SALE**

**1st SUNDAY OF
EACH MONTH**

11.15am IN THE HALL

Part of our Eco Church Project

St. EDMUND'S WOMEN'S GUILD

The next meeting will be
at 2.30 pm on Thursday 11th December

Peter Heath will lead us in a Carol Concert
with Sarah Parnaby, soloist

followed by a Festive Tea. All are welcome.

St. EDMUND'S YOUTH GROUP

Meets 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



FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

The traditional telling
of the Christmas story
in words and music

6.30 pm Sunday 21st December
followed by seasonal refreshments

2026
2025

A SERVICE OF DEVOTION and BENEDICTION

for New Year's Eve

5.30 pm Wednesday 31st December
Prepare for the New Year in prayer



CHRISTMAS AT ST. EDMUND'S



SUNDAY 21st DECEMBER

6.30 pm 9 LESSONS AND CAROLS SERVICE

CHRISTMAS EVE

**4 pm BLESSING OF THE CRIB
and NATIVITY STORY**

followed by EUCHARIST (Said)

11.00 pm MIDNIGHT MASS

CHRISTMAS DAY

**10 am FAMILY EUCHARIST
WITH CAROLS**

NEW YEAR'S EVE

5.30 pm DEVOTION and BENEDICTION

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL NOTES

This month has been an interesting one for the PCC. Whilst the process of getting the Quinquennial Inspection up and running ticks over, we are continuing our look to the future by addressing our Mission Action Plan (MAP). A Mission Action Plan can be described as a strategic, prayerful process for a local church to define its future vision and the practical steps to achieve it.

As a PCC we posed questions for the wider St. Edmund's congregation to reflect on and answer anonymously; what brought you to St. Edmund's? Why have you stayed? What do you appreciate? What would you like to see more of? How can we reach more people? The questions were deliberately open to encourage the individual to answer on their own experiences of St. Edmund's and to facilitate a wide variety of answers.

Fr. Michael contacted Fr. Robert from St. Martin's Church, Ruislip and arranged an Away Day for our PCC at St. Martin's on 1st November. The day started with a Eucharist in the Lady Chapel, followed by home made cake and refreshments nourishing us spiritually and physically in readiness for our discussions ahead.

Interestingly the first topic was not about MAP per se, it was an exploration of The Bible and the Experience of Conversion using two different conversion experiences; Paul's (Acts 22.3-16) and Nathanael's (John 1.16-20), facilitated by Fr. Robert. What relevance to St. Edmund's MAP, you may well ask, as indeed I think several members of the PCC wondered as well! As we picked apart and discussed various aspects of the experiences along with our own, we concluded that most people don't have a significant conversion moment, however, they grow their faith over time. This I think was an invaluable lesson for our MAP; instant showy incidents may seem initially attractive but without the ongoing substance they lose meaning.

We then broke for lunch with the opportunity to wander through St. Martin's grounds to the local High Street followed by the communal eating of packed lunches and general conversation (with more cake of course).

The afternoon session was focused around the results of the Church Survey questions. We were fortunate that St. Martin's had logged and collated the results, going as far as creating pie charts for ease of understanding and provoking discussion. As you may expect, our warm welcome, community and social experiences came high on the list of why people came, stayed and appreciated St. Edmund's. What was more enlightening were some of the answers to what people would like more of, which inevitably included dislikes. As you would expect (and rightly so), these answers were delved into and on occasion lead to lively debates. Every member of the PCC takes their responsibility seriously, often with differing opinions, however having the space and time to reflect and explore these gives us a better understanding of who we are, what we do well and how we can improve. I do think the message we uncovered in the morning regarding growing our faith over time with meaningful acts and learning helped us stay focused on our decision making.

The Away Day finished with the washing up and the stacking of chairs, as you would expect any church meeting to conclude. However, that is not the end of the MAP or indeed the discussion, as we were able to reflect on the day in our PCC meeting the following week.

Again, I leave you with the message “to be continued”, as I encourage you all to look out for our Mission Action Plan and consider how you can support the PCC in fulfilling it, just as our Parish Prayer inspires us to do;

*O eternal Father,
help us to build up the Church in this parish
to the glory of your name, in honour of St. Edmund,
and for the hope and inspiration of all your people,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen*

Amanda Roberts, PCC Secretary



THE “LIGHTS OF LIFE” MEMORIAL TREE

The Christmas season can sometimes bring with it a keener sense of loss as we remember family and friends who are no longer with us.

The Lights of Life tree will be in the Church foyer from
Thursday 4th December to Monday 5th January

All are invited to place names of the departed on the tree
and record personal tributes in the Memorial Book

The tree will be blessed at the 10.00 am Eucharist
on Thursday 4th December, to which all are warmly invited.

Refreshments will be served after the Service.

The Church foyer and Lady Chapel will be open daily
from 9 am until 5 pm

RAISE THE ROOF UPDATE



At the time of writing, preparations are in full swing for our Christmas Bazaar, the profit from which will go to our Raise the Roof appeal. As we approach the end of the year I would like to offer my heartfelt thanks to everyone who has worked so hard to support the Bring and Buy Sale, Plant Sale, Summer Fair, Bonus Ball game, Quiz Evening and Christmas Bazaar. It has been quite a year packed full of very successful events which I hope have brought enjoyment alongside the valuable income. The way in which the whole St. Edmund's community pulls together to

support our major fundraising events continues to inspire me and reminds me to count my blessings to be a part of such a warm, friendly and hard-working congregation.

During the year, in addition to supporting our events, many of you have made generous personal donations to the appeal. May I, on behalf of the Fundraising Committee, offer my sincere thanks for your generosity. On that note...

Personal Donations: An Appeal

We can only reach our fund-raising target through a combination of prayer, collective fundraising events, grants and personal donations.

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.

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 support as we strive together to keep the Lady Chapel and Hall places of prayer and welcome for our community for generations to come.

With my best wishes, Steve Castle

THE WALSINGHAM PILGRIMAGE 2025

Jenny Jones

Walsingham is a village in North Norfolk. about 8- miles from Fakenham. It is well known as one of the important locations for pilgrims to visit. In 1061, the wife of the Lord of the Manor, Richeldis, prayed to Our Lady, who appeared in a vision in which Richeldis was transported to the house in Nazareth where an angel had appeared to Mary to tell her that she would carry a boy baby who would be Jesus, the son of God. Our Lady then asked that a copy of that house should be constructed in Walsingham. Once the house had been constructed, pilgrims began to arrive, not only from England, but from further afield. But when Henry VIII started the Reformation in 1538, Walsingham was destroyed. However, some of the items had been transferred to the Anglican Parish church and pilgrims still came to visit there.

In the 1920s the then Vicar of the Anglican church in Walsingham, Fr. Hope Patten, suggested that the original buildings should be re-built. One Holy Shrine was built within the area, assigned to Anglicans, and a second one was built, assigned to Roman Catholics. Today, other sects also are welcomed. Our visit was in the form of a Pilgrimage, to give us time to think about the life of Jesus while he lived on earth.

Members of St. Edmund's joined with others from St. Anselm's, Hatch End to stay at Walsingham from Friday 24th October to Sunday 26th October. We had a short service at St. Edmund's before setting off by cars to drive up to Walsingham. On arrival we were shown to the rooms we had been allocated. The first service we had was a welcome, which took place in the Holy House. Then we had time to relax.

I asked a few people to record their reactions to the weekend ...

"I must admit to enjoying every minute of the Parish Pilgrimages to Walsingham, from Blessing the Pilgrims at St. Edmund's until the departure for home. But perhaps the most poignant parts for me are the Sunday afternoon Sprinkling at the Well, the Procession of the Blessed Sacrament around the gardens, and Benediction in the Shrine."

"The first service was a welcome on the first evening, in the Holy House which was a representation of the house in which Our Lady received the message from the Angel that she was to bear Jesus. The next morning we were in the gardens to walk round the fourteen Stations of the Cross. Each Station had a suitable illustration and a prayer. For me it was the service that impressed me the most."

"On Saturday evening I had the honour of carrying the Ombrellino, a small canopy resembling an umbrella, to protect the Blessed Sacrament as we processed around the Shrine Church. After the procession we received Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, a powerful and deeply moving moment.

*And their eyes were opened, and they recognised him. And he vanished from their sight.
Luke 24:31*

The service concluded in silence allowing for a quiet period of adoration. I found this time to be extremely valuable; to be able to pause, reflect and give thanks was a real gift to me during the pilgrimage weekend."

December??? How did that happen? I do hope you are all well and not getting stressed by the pressures of the Christmas season: let's try and remember what it really means, and relax a bit! (Much easier said than done, I admit, but worth the effort, I think - for me, anyway.)

It was a delight to have Fr. Simon Cuff as our celebrant and preacher when Fr. Michael was in Walsingham, on October 26th. His sermon, although tantalisingly brief, gave a very valuable message: we were urged to look in the mirror each day to remind ourselves that we are loved. Good advice.

On Saturday 1st November we had a 'PCC Awayday' at St. Martin's, Ruislip, under the guidance of the incumbent, the Rev. Dr. Robert Chapman. We were aiming to revitalise our Mission Action Plan - which is actually all about all of us, and those we hope will attend St. Edmund's in the future. As you know, our Parish Prayer encourages us to 'build up the church in this parish' - and that's what we were discussing - with reference to those surveys you filled in recently! More information about our aims and plans will be shared with you all in due course, but you'll be pleased to learn that a large number of those who filled in the questionnaire think this church is friendly and welcoming. Keep it up, everybody!

We had a very good time at St. Martin's. It's a wonderful old church, so do visit it if you haven't yet. We received great hospitality, with splendid cakes supplementing our own packed lunches. Fr. Robert was a gracious host and led the day kindly and thoughtfully.

The following day, we celebrated All Saints with an All-Age Eucharist (the Mass for All Souls being moved to Monday 3rd). We were each given a phial of soapy liquid so that we could blow bubbles! Fr. Michael demonstrated how we chase happiness through things like money, entertainment and popularity - but eventually our 'bubbles' will burst, leaving nothing behind: only God is our true friend, and can satisfy our true needs.

During the Intercessions we were encouraged to blow our bubbles, and, as they rose upwards, to think of the myriads of saints to whom and through whom we send our prayers. The hymns were uplifting in their words, emphasising our unity with the saints in heaven, owing to the sacrifice and the brotherhood of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are grateful to Peter Heath for rehearsing us and playing at this service in Mark's absence.

On Tuesday 4th November, Fr. Michael and I attended Harrow Deanery Synod which was held at Holy Trinity Primary School in Northwood. When we arrived, we were treated to cake, and a concert! Pupils from Holy Trinity and St. John's, Stanmore were singing and playing instruments, and they went on to help lead our introductory worship with prayers and hymns.

We learned that Holy Trinity was one of a group of four Church of England Schools (including St. John's, Stanmore and BWI, Ruislip) called the Ecclesia Partnership.

The fourth school, St. Mary's, Norwood Green, is in a more deprived area. These schools do a marvellous job of providing an excellent education and social experience for the children, while teaching the Christian Faith in a real and vibrant way, as 'Faith in Action'. The schools share curricula, ideas and resources, while keeping their individuality. They also care for their staff. The speakers (Heads of School) were inspiring, and put us in a positive mood for the second part of the meeting which was entitled 'Interculturalism'.

We were given a presentation on this subject by four of the Deanery clergy. Important points were made regarding how we should make people from diverse ethnic and cultural groups not just welcome but feeling they belonged. We were reminded that we are called to 'make disciples of all nations'. We also need to live out ethnic harmony in our churches in these times of cultural tension, and attract seekers with this demonstration of love, and with the rich beauty of our ethnic mix, as well as learning from each other.

The session was a bit thin on practical ideas, though there were suggestions about the occasional use of hymns and prayers in other languages spoken by different members of the congregation, and efforts to draw people into social and teaching gatherings. But we'd really like to hear what you would like, in order to feel more involved with the community at St. Edmund's - to feel, if you don't already, that you really belong. All ideas welcome!

I was delighted at the number of young people who were present representing the uniformed organisations at the Remembrance Day service on Sunday 9th November. I found it a particularly moving occasion this year. Thanksgiving for the sacrifice of the war-dead mingled with a longing for peace, and for 'beauty for brokenness'. Fr. Michael reminded the Scouts that their organisations too had played their part in two World Wars by working in the fields, building air-raid shelters, helping with evacuation and in many other ways - and that all of us can continue to do our little bit in offering help and kindness to our communities, and to continue to pray for peace and harmony throughout our troubled world.

The choir sang the Contakion for the Dead, to the solemn Kiev Melody - particularly poignant, with the Ukrainian War still dragging painfully on. And the two Minutes' Silence, accompanied by images related to war and remembrance, seemed to me particularly silent this year. When will we ever learn?

The Memorial Service in the afternoon had a subdued but beautiful stillness about it, as we mourned the loss of those close to us, particularly those who had died this year. Fr. Michael spoke of the range of feelings thrown up by such a loss, which we need to acknowledge, but that we need to hang on to the truth that our God is God of the living, and that nothing can separate us from His love.

This month, I gave a talk to Women's Guild. Marjorie Pimm writes:

"On Tuesday 11th November, Sarah Parnaby gave a talk to The Guild entitled 'A Few of My Favourite Saints'. From an early age, Sarah became interested in the Northumbrian saints of the 7th century, and wanted to find out more about their origins, which is partly why she chose to go to Durham University, the area around which abounds in the names and history of the Northern

saints. Durham Cathedral contains the shrines of the Anglo-Saxon saints Cuthbert and Bede. Her talk centred on the lives of Aidan, Oswald, and Cuthbert.

Aidan, an Irish monk from Iona who was invited by King Oswald to establish a monastery at Lindisfarne and re-convert Northumbria to Christianity. He was known for his humility and missionary work.

Cuthbert, an Anglo-Saxon monk, who spent much of his life at Melrose and Lindisfarne, and was known for his piety and many miracles.

Oswald, King of Northumbria, a devout Christian, who was brought up in the monastery in Iona and used his influence when he became King to bring Christianity back to his people, which he achieved through Aidan.

What matters about these saints is not so much their miraculous powers and high status in the church, or their tough religious practices which increased their reputation for holiness, but the influence of their love, grace and zeal for sharing Jesus with others, which we all hope to aspire to and emulate.

Sarah's excellent talk was illustrated with some beautiful slides - many thanks to Frank and Steve for their technical support.

This was a most enjoyable afternoon, and we all learnt a lot. A huge thank you to Sarah for pulling it all together, and thank you, as always, to Team Catering for the sumptuous tea that followed."

Marjorie also reports on the latest concert by Trinity Orchestra:

'On Saturday 15th November, the Trinity Orchestra presented a concert of music by Wagner, Elgar, Walton & Sibelius. As is customary, there was a pre-concert talk about the music, given by their conductor, Owain Arwel Hughes.

"The concert began with Wagner's dramatic and emotional Overture, 'The Flying Dutchman', which sets the stage for his opera, depicting themes of redemption, love and the supernatural. This was followed by Elgar's delightful 'The Wand of Youth Suite No.2', bringing together some of Elgar's music about childhood, drawn from pieces he had written as a child for family dramas. The first half ended with Walton's majestic 'Orb and Sceptre' Coronation March, written for the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in 1953. The second half was devoted entirely to Jean Sibelius' Symphony No.1 in E minor.

As we have come to expect, Trinity Orchestra concerts are always of the highest standards. This concert did not disappoint. We are very lucky to have such talented musicians amongst us."

We celebrated the Feast of St. Edmund, our Patron Saint, on the afternoon of Sunday 16th November. Our preacher was Fr. Robert Chapman (who led our PCC Awayday). We had a full set of servers - and clergy! Fr. Robert's curate, Fr. Joe Grogan read the Gospel, and Fr. David Green from St. Anselm's, Hatch End joined in concelebration with Fr. Robert and Fr. Michael. Fr. Robert in his sermon referred to the Gospel reading which was quite a fierce one, about a grain of wheat having to 'die' before it could produce a good crop, and how those who serve him must 'hate' their lives in

this world in order to gain eternal life. It shows a picture of sacrifice which His audience must have found difficult. Yet the heart of the message is 'put God first' - as St. Edmund did, when, faced with violent opposition, he refused to give up his faith. We were reminded, too, that those who have suffered for their beliefs are remembered, whereas those who betray them through fear are not - and that Edmund's example should encourage us to stand by our faith.

At Communion the choir sang the dedicatory anthem 'Locus Iste' by Bruckner.

Afterwards a magnificent afternoon tea was provided by Glenda Greenfield and team. It was good to meet up with old friends and get to know others - including Kathryn Johnson, who joined us in the choir: thank you, Kathryn!

At the time of writing we look forward to our Christmas Bazaar on Saturday 29th November, just as Advent begins. Then there's the Eastcote and Ruislip Choral Society Christmas Concert at 3.30 pm on Saturday 6th December, in which Mark and some of our choir-members are involved, and the Women's Guild Carols at 2.30 pm on Thursday 11th November.

Please support (and hopefully enjoy!) our Service of Nine Lessons and Carols on Sunday 21st December, and the other Christmas services. The Blessing of the Crib at 4 pm on Christmas Eve will be as spirited as ever, accompanied by Harrow Concert Band - who are also giving a concert here on Saturday 13th December - and don't miss the lovely serene preparation for 2026 at our Service of Devotion and Benediction at 5.30 pm on New Year's Eve.

Happy Christmas, everyone!



It is with sadness that we mark the death of John Ewington on 19th October. John was a regular member of the St. Edmund's congregation from his early 20s. He was born in Harrow in 1943; his parents were Jack and Eve Ewington; he grew up in a house in Pinner Hill Road; he was educated at Downer Grammar School in Canons Park (now Canons High School). He qualified as a Chartered Surveyor in 1965 and worked as a buildings surveyor for Harrow Council. From 1965 to 1970 at St. Edmund's he was one of our Epistle Readers, he was a member of the Men's Society, and he was part of the floor polishing team.

In 1970 he went to Papua New Guinea to work as a teacher at a Church School, but was also very involved in various building projects. During this time St. Edmund's was able to contribute to his financial support. He also spent some time at a Franciscan monastery in Australia, becoming a lay member of the Order.

On returning to the U.K., in 1974 John entered Ordination training at Chichester Theological College, leading to being made Deacon in 1978 and being ordained Priest in 1979. He was a Curate at St. John's, Walthamstow from 1978 to 1981, during which time he met and married Sarah.

Then in 1981 he and Sarah returned to Papua New Guinea, to the small island of Bougainville, to continue his missionary work, returning once more to the U.K in 1987, when he was appointed Vicar of St. Saviour's, Westcliff, in Southend. His final move, in 1996, was to become Vicar at St. Mary's, Appledore, in Devon, retiring in 2011 to the village of Landkey, near Barnstaple. His last 'official' visit to St. Edmund's was as Guest of Honour and preacher at our Patronal Festival in 2003.

In addition to his Clerical duties, John was a most accomplished artist, an enthusiastic Morris Man, and he was totally devoted to Sarah and his 4 children.

Mandy and I visited John and Sarah at Appledore in 2006. It happened to be the day the town was celebrating the 150th anniversary of its shipyard .. John was due to go down to the harbour (dressed full pirate costume!) to paint portraits of those enjoying the celebrations. We accompanied him through the town ... John seemed to know everyone we passed, and kept popping in to shops and the pub to say hello to the folk. It was clear that not only was John highly popular in the town, but showed a great deal of pastoral care for his entire parish. This was again evident when we attended John's Thanksgiving Service on 4th November (with about 400 other people!) - many tributes were paid to his brilliance as a parish priest, not only from the people of Devon, but also from Westcliff.

We consider ourselves very lucky to have known John ... he was a really good bloke - to everyone he met. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.



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.

HYMN OF THE MONTH

Mike Godden

Most hymns used in the season of Advent are concerned with the coming of the Messiah, promised by God, foretold by the Prophets, expected by the people of Israel and heralded by John the Baptist. This hymn moves on to the Second Coming of Christ, portraying His return in glory, the gathering of His faithful, and the judgment of the world. It evokes a sense of awe, urgency, and anticipation, encouraging us to prepare our hearts and live in readiness for Christ's return.

Lo, He comes with clouds descending,
Once for favoured sinners slain;
Thousand thousand saints attending
Swell the triumph of His train:
Alleluia!
God appears on earth to reign.

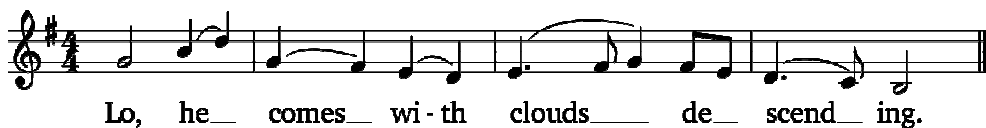
Every eye shall now behold Him
Robed in dreadful majesty;
Those who set at naught and sold Him,
Pierced and nailed Him to the Tree,
Deeply wailing,
Shall the true Messiah see.

Those dear tokens of His passion
Still His dazzling body bears,
Cause of endless exultation
To His ransomed worshippers:
With what rapture
Gaze we on those glorious scars!

Yea, Amen, let all adore Thee,
High on Thine eternal throne;
Saviour, take the power and glory,
Claim the kingdom for Thine own:
Alleluia!
Thou shalt reign, and Thou alone.

The text of the hymn was written by Charles Wesley in 1758, published in his "*Hymns of intercession for all mankind*"; it has its origins in a hymn "Lo! He cometh, countless Trumpets" written by John Cennick, a friend of both John and Charles Wesley, published in his "*Collection of Sacred Hymns*" of 1752.

The tune usually used for the hymn is called Helmsley. The tune appears to have a rather complicated history. Various sources suggest that it originated as either an old English folk tune, or as an Irish concert-room song, or as a Scottish melody, or derived from an 18th century Hornpipe. It was published in something like its current form in 1765 as "Olivers", named after its composer Thomas Olivers, a Welsh evangelist associated with the Wesleys. Subsequently, it appeared with alterations in a collection by Martin Madan, a preacher and chaplain, in the 1770s, with its current name, "Helmsley". Other sources claim that the tune was composed by Thomas Arne, composer of "Rule, Britannia". But finally, the Helmsley that we know today was an arrangement by Ralph Vaughan Williams in the 1906 "Hymns Ancient and Modern". But whatever its lineage, what we have now is a tune of fine majestic quality.





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By Mike Warrick



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Tickets £12

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January 2026

Saturday 10th & Sunday 11th at 3 pm

Thursday 15th & Friday 16th at 7.30 pm

Saturday 17th at 3 pm & 7.30 pm



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.org

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

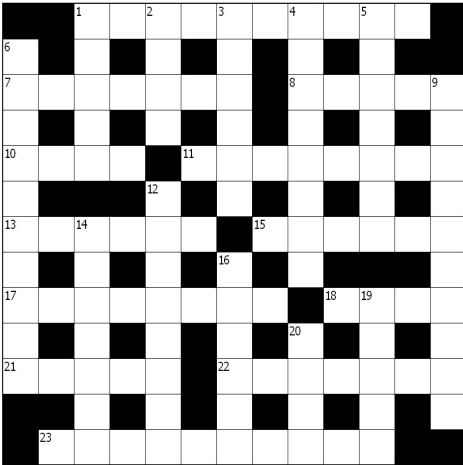
at Ickenham United Reformed Church,
Swakeleys Road, Ickenham UB10 8BE

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

DECEMBER CROSSWORD



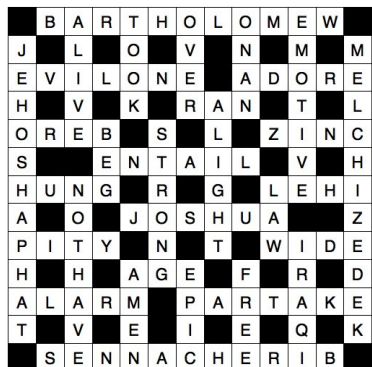
ACROSS

1. Provisional meeting place of God and the Jews (*Exodus 25.9*) (10)
7. David's third son, killed when his head got caught in a tree during a battle with his father (*2 Samuel 18.14,15*) (7)
8. They ruled much of the west coast of South America in the 15th and early 16th centuries (5)
10. Small deer of European and Asian extraction (4)
11. Seized control of (*Numbers 21.25*) (8)
13. Terror (*Luke 24.5*) (6)
15. First World War heroine shot by the Germans in Brussels, Nurse Edith — (6)
17. Stormy (8)
18. A bitter variety of this, together with lamb and unleavened bread, was the Passover menu for anyone unclean (*Numbers 9.11*) (4)
21. Arson (anag.) (5)
22. How John Newton described God's grace in his well-known hymn (7)
23. Habitation (*Isaiah 27.10*) (10)

DOWN

1. — and see that the Lord is good (*Psalms 34.8*) (5)
2. The wicked man flees though no one pursues, but the righteous are as — as a lion (*Proverbs 28.1*) (4)
3. One of the exiles, a descendant of Parosh, who married a foreign woman (*Ezra 10.25*) (6)
4. He escaped from Nob when Saul killed the rest of his family and joined David (*1 Samuel 22.19,20*) (8)
5. City and lake in Central Switzerland (7)
6. Offer your bodies as living —, holy and pleasing to God (*Romans 12.1*) (10)
9. Pouches carried by horses (*Genesis 49.14*) (10)
12. One who accepts government by God (8)
14. Aromatic substance commonly used in Jewish ritual (*Exodus 30.1*) (7)
16. He asked Jesus, 'What is truth?' (*John 18.38*) (6)
19. Are (*Romans 13.1*) (5)
20. You are to give him the name Jesus, because he will — his people from their sins (*Matthew 1.21*) (4)

November Crossword Solution



*The Church of St. Edmund the King has been serving
the Parish of Northwood Hills since 1934.*

*The Parish is in the Harrow Deanery of
the Willesden Episcopal Area of the Diocese of London*



*Edmund was the devout young King of the East Angles,
martyred by the Danes for his allegiance to Christ
in the year 869 when he was 29 years old.
The crown and arrows of the church crest
symbolise his Kingship and Martyrdom.*

