

THE

KING

AUGUST 2021



JESUS - The Bread of Life

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

WEBSITE: www.saintedmundschurch.org.uk

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SERVICES

All Services are currently streamed from our website.
In addition, the 10 am Sunday and 10 am Thursday Eucharists
can be attended in Church.

Please see our website for the latest information.

SPECTRUM ON SUNDAY (Sunday School)

continues each Sunday at 11.30 am via video conference.

Please contact Carol Diggins on 01923 825 434 for more information.

Arrangements for the SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (Confession),
BAPTISMS, FUNERALS, WEDDINGS, and BANNES OF MARRIAGE -
please telephone the Vicar.

OFFICERS

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ORGANISATIONS

SPECTRUM ON SUNDAY	Mrs Carol Diggins <i>e-mail:</i> diggins124@aol.com	01923 825 434
Flower Guild:	Mrs Rachel Windsor, 6 Chester Road, Northwood HA6 1BQ	01923 822 752
Women's Guild:	Mrs Hilda Greenfield Mrs Connie Ambrose	01923 823 134 01923 825 524
Badminton Club:	Messrs Peter & Mike Gant, Flat 7, 2 Lily Close, Pinner HA5 3JT	(020) 8868 4989
Arrow Players:	Mr Michael Godden	01296 631 975
Classic Concerts:	Mrs Marjorie Pimm, 2 Northwood Way, Northwood HA6 1AT	01923 821 869
Youth Group:	Mr Steve Castle, 3a Willows Close, Pinner HA5 3SY	(020) 8868 0482
Scout Group:	Mrs Karen Retter	07984 662 588

MAGAZINE

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

to the online edition of this magazine.

In the current circumstances, we are publishing on our website so that you don't miss out on the regular monthly issue.

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).

In this issue Fr. Michael resumes the publication of a monthly Letter.

If you would like to receive the Newsletter by e-mail you can subscribe 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 Sunday 10 am, Thursday 10 am and Saturday 10.30 am Eucharists continue to be celebrated with a congregation inside Church and online.

The Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday Eucharists remain online only for the time being.

Congregational singing has been reintroduced on Sundays.

The wearing of masks is encouraged but not compulsory.

In order to reduce the risk of virus transmission some doors and windows remain open during the service.

You are advised to wrap up warm if the weather is cold.

Communion continues to be given in one kind only.

The Peace is shared non-physically.

The Offertory Procession remains suspended, but collection plates are available near the Font.

All services will continue to be available online.

They can be accessed from the website www.saintedmundschurch.org.uk or via the weekly St. Edmund's Newsletter – see above for how to access the Newsletter.

FR. MICHAEL'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

I am writing this in the week following the UEFA cup final at Wembley, which saw the England team defeated after a penalty shoot-out. Although extremely disappointed that England did not manage to pull off a victory the majority of people were supportive of the team and were proud that they had performed well throughout the tournament. Obviously, there were incriminations and some pundits felt that the tactics of the manager Gareth Southgate had led to the last-minute defeat, but what shocked me was that the three players who had failed to score with their penalties received racist abuse on social media. This is intolerable behaviour and not what we should expect from a civilised society. The three young men who were subjected to this abuse were clearly devastated that they failed to score, but their team-mates were hugely supportive of them. I am no football fan and two of the players in question I had never heard of before, but I had heard of Marcus Rashford, who outside the game has done a huge amount during the pandemic, helping poor families to feed their children, and lobbying the prime minister regarding meals during school holidays. He is clearly a caring person and I have recently heard that other members of the team are good caring people. Certainly, there is no excuse for the abuse they received.

Sadly, racism is still around these days and as Christians we must do our utmost to stamp it out. Most of us would I am sure condemn any sort of prejudice but we all have what are called unconscious biases which are social stereotypes about certain groups of people that we form outside our own conscious awareness. These are not just around race but can be toward any social group. One's age, gender, gender identity physical abilities, religion, sexual orientation, weight, and many other characteristics are subject to bias. The important thing is to recognise these within ourselves and admit to ourselves that we have them and then strive to deal with them. We are all made in God's image and are his children. St. Paul tells us in his letter to the Galatians *'There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.'* Let us hope and pray that racism and all prejudice will become a thing of the past.

As the current restrictions are lifted, we are still awaiting the Church of England guidelines to be published when updated Government guidance for places of worship is received. The prospect of the lifting of legal restrictions will be both a relief and a cause of anxiety and there is likely still to be significant guidance. This will be communicated via the weekly newsletter as soon as it is known. In the meantime, please do stay safe and remember that even if you have been vaccinated there is still a small chance you can catch the virus and although the symptoms are milder, they are still very unpleasant.

You may be aware that our five-yearly inspection of the buildings showed up a great deal of essential and urgent work that needed to be done to the chapel, hall and foyer roofs. Steve Castle has done a tremendous amount of work together with an appointed architect to identify the most urgent work and estimates have been obtained. Although we do have some funds available for this work there is still a significant shortfall, and this will be communicated more fully in due course. I am very grateful for all that Steve has done and urge you to keep this project in your prayers so that we can find the funds and get the buildings watertight and functional to enable us to carry on with our mission to the parish.

There is much to pray about!

With Love and Prayers, *Father Michael*

Stained Glass Window
depicting St. Edmund

Chester Cathedral



photo by Mike Godden

CALENDAR AND PRINCIPAL SERVICE READINGS FOR AUGUST 2021

- 1 SUN 9th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**
Celebrant - Fr. Michael; Preacher - Mthr. Helen
Exodus 16.2-4,9-15, Ephesians 4.1-16, John 6.24-35
- 6 Fri The Transfiguration**
- 8 SUN 10th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**
Celebrant and Preacher - Fr. Michael
1 Kings 19.4-8, Ephesians 4.25-5.2, John 6.35,41-51
- 15 SUN** Eucharist at 11 am, followed by a Barbecue, for
THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
(11th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY)
Celebrant and Preacher - Fr. Michael
Revelation 11.19-16.6,10, Galatians 4.4-7, Luke 1.46-55
- 22 SUN 12th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**
Celebrant - Mthr. Helen; Preacher - Sarah Parnaby
Joshua 24.1-2a,14-18, Ephesians 6.10-20, John 6.56-69
- 24 Thur St. Bartholomew, Apostle**
- 29 SUN 13th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**
Celebrant - Fr. Michael; Preacher - Mthr. Helen
Deuteronomy 4.1-2,6-9, James 1.17-end, Mark 7.1-8, 14, 15, 21-23



**Sunday School at
St. Edmund's Church**

**S.O.S is closed for August
New class starts in September**

More information: 01923 825 434

SEPTEMBER MAGAZINE



All contributions for the September Magazine to be with Jenny Jones by

Friday 20th August

020 8866 7173

St. EDMUND'S

WOMEN'S GUILD

and

BADMINTON CLUB

MEETINGS

**are cancelled
until further notice**

**THE St. EDMUND'S YOUTH
GROUP**

**will meet occasionally
for special activities.
Contact Steve Castle
on 020 8868 0482
for information.**

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

has resumed some activities.

**Please contact Karen Retter on 07984 662 588
for information.**

**The Scout Group Beaver Colony has been relaunched
for children between 6 and 8 years old,
on Mondays from 5 pm to 6.15 pm in the Scout Hut.**

**If you know of any children interested
do encourage them to come along.**

**For more information email daniel.hall@scouts.org.uk
or call 07947 239146**

THE TRANSFIGURATION - 6th AUGUST

From material supplied by www.parishpump.co.uk

The Transfiguration - a Glimpse of Jesus' future Glory

The story is told in Matthew (17:1-9), Mark (9:1-9) and Luke (9:28-36).

It was a time when Jesus' ministry was popular, when people were seeking Him out. But on this day, He made time to take Peter, James and John, His closest disciples, up a high mountain. In the fourth century, Cyrillic of Jerusalem identified it as Mount Tabor (and there is a great church up there today), but others believe it more likely to have been one of the three spurs of Mount Hermon, which rises to about 9,000 feet, and overlooks Caesarea Philippi.

High up on the mountain, Jesus was suddenly transfigured before His friends. His face began to shine as the sun, His garments became white and dazzling. Elijah and Moses, of all people, suddenly appeared, and talked with Him. A bright cloud overshadowed the disciples.

Peter was staggered, but, enthusiast that he was - immediately suggested building three tabernacles on that holy place, one for Jesus, one for Moses, and one for Elijah. But God's 'tabernacling', God's dwelling with mankind, does not any longer depend upon building a shrine. It depends on the presence of Jesus, instead. And so a cloud covered them, and a Voice spoke out of the cloud, saying that Jesus was His beloved Son, whom the disciple should 'hear'. God's dwelling with mankind depends upon our *listening* to Jesus.

Then, just as suddenly, it is all over. What did it mean? *Why Moses and Elijah?* Well, these two men represent the Law and the Prophets of the Old Covenant, or Old Testament. But now they are handing on the baton, if you like: for both the Law and the Prophets found their true and final fulfilment in Jesus, the Messiah.

Why on top of a mountain? In Exodus we read that Moses went up Mount Sinai to receive the sacred covenant from Yahweh in the form of the Ten Commandments. Now Jesus goes up and is told about the 'sealing' of the New Covenant, or New Testament of God with man, which will be accomplished by his coming death in Jerusalem.

That day made a lifelong impact on the disciples. Peter mentions it in his second letter, 2 Peter 1:16 - 19 - invariably the reading for this day.

The Eastern Churches have long held the Transfiguration as a feast as important as Christmas, Epiphany, Ascension and Pentecost. But it took a long time for the West to observe the Transfiguration. The feast starts appearing from the 11th and 12th centuries, and the Prayer Book included it among the calendar dates, but there was no liturgical provision for it until the 19th century.

Creation Care - the Church's response to climate change

Throughout the Church of England we are being encouraged to think of the planet and to consider what we can do as churches and individuals to minimise our effect on climate change.

The church has set up a programme called Creation Care which makes a link between Christian teaching and the care of our environment. We are asked to join the Eco Church Scheme and complete an Eco Survey to see how we can make improvements to the church building and surroundings, raise awareness amongst ourselves and the local community through teaching and prayer, and generally improve the impact we have on the environment by showing that we are really taking care of God's Creation.

This is not a quick fix and the aim is to be carbon neutral by 2030. The PCC will be identifying what we are already doing, what immediate things we can put in place and what can be achieved over time. Once completed, the Eco Survey will tell us how we are doing and whether we are on our way to a bronze, silver or gold award.

The Willesden Area has set up a Creation Care Team to give advice and support to parishes. Each church has been asked to appoint a Creation Care Champion; Jenny Jones has agreed to be the first champion for St. Edmund's. She has a scientific background in biology, particularly plant life, and is passionate about conservation. I say the first champion because it's important that anyone who is interested can get involved. We would like to form a team of people to help achieve what we are being asked to do. Involvement might be practical or spiritual. If you are interested in joining the team please let Jenny know.



Hear the words of the Prophet Jeremiah ...

I brought you into a plentiful land to eat its fruits and its good things. But when you entered you defiled my land, and made my heritage an abomination. (*Jeremiah 2:7*)

How long will the land lie parched and the grass in every field be withered? Because those who live in it are wicked, the animals and birds have perished. (*Jeremiah 12:4*)

It will be made a wasteland, parched and desolate before me; the whole land will be laid waste because there is no one who cares. (*Jeremiah 12:11*)

... and those of Ezekiel ...

Is it not enough for you to feed on the good pasture? Must you also trample the rest of your pasture with your feet? Is it not enough for you to drink clear water? Must you also muddy the rest with your feet? (*Ezekiel 34:17-18*)

Greetings to you all. The summer is flitting fast! I hope people are managing/have managed this year to get a holiday break of some sort, however short, and however close to home.

I think I've mentioned before how life is full of a mixture of contrasting and sometimes paradoxical experiences: a combination of sun and storms, viruses and vaccines, overwork and unemployment - pain and joy. The last is a mixture I witnessed recently very strongly, and, for me at least, the joy unexpectedly won out.

A leading light of the Amici Singers (Pinner), Gareth Jones, was sadly diagnosed as having brain tumours. Somebody came up with the idea of the choir performing a surprise mini-concert in his garden for his birthday. (Frank was allowed to sing with us as the choir needed another tenor - he had the honour of doing so beside our local professional alto David Gould who was also tenor-ing on this occasion!) At our first practice in the lovely garden of one of the choir-members, we learnt that Gareth was back in the Michael Sobell Hospice because of a change in his condition. The future of the concert was unknown, especially as rain was predicted for the day (June 27th). So, we made a quick recording of our singing (which went surprisingly well) in case the event had to be called off.

We received permission the following week to perform for Gareth at the Hospice itself. His bed was wheeled down to the performing area, and on seeing us, his face lit up with amazement and delight. We sang five part-songs, by Ford, Elgar, Stanford and Vaughan-Williams, and a special setting of 'Happy Birthday' written by our conductor, Paul Jeanes.

I can say that it was a wonderful experience for all concerned. It was great to sing again in 5 parts, and to be together to support our dear friend, who was glowing with joy and said afterwards that it was the best day of his life! Gareth and his amazing wife Sian (a Commissioned Preacher at Emmanuel) have been supported, not just by fellow-singers, parishioners, friends and family, but, essentially, by their strong faith. This was somehow palpable when we saw them, ill as Gareth was, and exhausted as the family were. The whole event was an experience I shall never forget.

In early July St. Edmund's had two very special occasions of its own. First came Mother Helen's priesting at St. Barnabas, Ealing on 2nd July. Our on-the-spot correspondent writes:

'What an uplifting event in these troubled times was the Ordination of eight priests on a sunny evening in July! The service started with an utterly sublime rendering of the Magnificat (composed by C.V. Stanford, in G) from an excellent choir. This, one of the greatest hymns of praise there is, stirred our spirits in

preparation for the celebration to come. We were proud to have so much representation from the Northwood churches, from which four clergy were being priested. We were even prouder to witness our own Curate, Helen Hutchins, being presented to the Bishop by Steve Castle.

The sermon was given by the Rev. Steve Newbold, and was based on the Gospel reading about Matthew the tax-collector being called by Jesus. It was about the calling of the candidates, but also showed where the calling of someone you might not expect (like a greedy tax-collector) might lead. We are all called to call others, whatever their backgrounds.

It was a beautiful service, with more people than I have seen in Church for a long while, in spite of the sad restrictions on numbers. The choir sang some fine hymns celebrating God's grace and asking for His Holy Spirit's help in the work that all of us, not just the candidates, are called to do. (The hymn 'Lord, you give the great commission' (see below) is worth using as a personal prayer.) They also gave us an inspiring anthem (based on 'Come Holy Ghost') with the words: 'Ye shall have power'; and, after the rousing recessional hymn 'Lift high the Cross', the sound of the magnificent organ filled the lofty building with Vidor's glorious Toccata in F.

Afterwards, there was an elated and very friendly party atmosphere in the grounds, with bubbly wine and individual packets of cheese-biscuits. Guests carefully mingled with friends old and new. We had been made to feel very welcome, and people talked late. It was a night to remember.'



Sandwiched between this and Mother Helen's first Mass on 7th July, was our All-Age Service, which reminded us about all the wonderful things God has done for us through Jesus, and how we are called to pass on the message of His love to others.

The confession and first reading were confidently presented by Abigail, Joylene and Joash. Fr. Michael illustrated the necessity of openness to God's message, by filling two sports water-bottles, one with its top off, and the other with just the nozzle-cap

open. In the Gospel reading, Jesus was not accepted as a prophet in his home town, because they were not open to Him. Because the disciples were open to Jesus, they could successfully share the Good News with others who were also open.

The intercessions were presented by screen images, something I find both helpful and moving: so much can be conveyed by one picture, in a short time. I was particularly touched by the pictures of refugees, the sick and the old and lonely people, and I was comforted by the sight of the stairway to Heaven. Sometimes visual images touch the heart in a way that words cannot.

After the service, to make up for the postponement (owing to bad weather) of our 'Hymns and Pimms' session scheduled for that afternoon, we were given delicious cup-cakes which boosted our sugar-levels and made us all smile!

And as I write, I have just returned from Mother Helen's first Mass at St. Edmund's - another memorable and joyful occasion. Fr. Michael and Fr. Mark Arnold (Curate at St. John the Baptist, Pinner) assisted, and Fr. Paul Hullyer (vicar of St. John the Baptist) preached. It was a thoughtful sermon, emphasising God's calling everyone to His service, and the robust nature of His peace, as given by Jesus to His disciples after the resurrection (John Ch. 20 vv. 19-23).



Music included two of my favourite hymns, 'All my hope on God is founded' and 'O thou who camest from above', and at Communion Helen Collier sang beautifully 'The Lord is my shepherd' arranged by Howard Goodall. The post-Communion hymn was 'Sweet Sacrament Divine', and during the postlude - which was again the fabulous Widor Toccata - it was a great privilege to go up and receive a First Blessing from our new Priest.

It was lovely to meet some of Mother Helen's friends, including the Rev. Anna Dias who has also just been priested and is at St. Mary with St. Richard, Northolt - the parish where I grew up. We also managed to get a group photo at the West Door! I look forward to when things are easier and we can have a proper party for Mother Helen.

'LORD, YOU GIVE THE GREAT COMMISSION'

(Words by Jeffery Rowthorn, 1978)

Lord, you give the great commission:
'Heal the sick and preach the word';
Lest the Church neglect its mission
And the Gospel go unheard,
Help us witness to your purpose
With renewed integrity,
With the Spirit's gifts empower us
For the work of ministry.

Lord, you call us to your service:
'In my name baptise and teach'
That the world may trust your promise,
Life abundant meant for each,
Give us all new fervour, draw us
Closer in community,
With the Spirit's gifts empower us
For the work of ministry.

Lord, you make the common holy:
'This my body, this my blood';
Let us all, for earth's true glory,
Daily lift life heavenward,
Asking that the world around us
Share Your children's liberty;
With the Spirit's gifts empower us
For the work of ministry.

Lord, you show us love's true measure:
'Father, what they do, forgive';
Yet we hoard as private treasure
All that you so freely give.
May your care and mercy lead us
To a just society;
With the Spirit's gifts empower us
For the work of ministry.

Lord, you bless with words assuring:
'I am with you to the end';
Faith and hope and love restoring,
May we serve as you intend
And amid the cares that claim us,
Hold in mind eternity;
With the Spirit's gifts empower us
For the work of ministry. Amen.

Poetry and hymns are never very far apart, as we saw last month with the works of John Keble. Here is a magnificent example of another text that was originally written as part of a poem, and subsequently set to music for worship.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Praise to the Holiest in the height,
And in the depth be praise:
In all his words most wonderful,
Most sure in all his ways.2. O loving wisdom of our God!
When all was sin and shame,
A second Adam to the fight
And to the rescue came.3. O wisest love! that flesh and blood,
Which did in Adam fail,
Should strive afresh against the foe,
Should strive and should prevail; | <ol style="list-style-type: none">4. And that a higher gift than grace
Should flesh and blood refine,
God's presence and his very self,
And essence all-divine.5. O generous love! that he, who smote
In Man for man the foe,
The double agony in Man
For man should undergo;6. And in the garden secretly,
And on the cross on high,
Should teach his brethren, and inspire
To suffer and to die. |
|---|--|
7. Praise to the Holiest in the height,
And in the depth be praise:
In all his words most wonderful,
Most sure in all his ways.

The text was written by John Henry Newman. It was included in his *Verses on Various Occasions*, but more notably in his 1865 poem *The Dream of Gerontius* (later also set to music in its entirety in Elgar's Oratorio of the same name). The poem, written after Newman's conversion from Anglicanism to Roman Catholicism, explores his new Catholic-held beliefs of the journey from death through Purgatory, thence to Paradise, and to God. The above extract from the poem was first published as a hymn in the 1868 *Appendix to Hymns Ancient & Modern*.

Newman (1801-1890) was born in 1801 in the City of London, educated at Great Ealing School and Trinity College, Oxford and ordained into the Church of England in 1824. He was, with John Keble, a leading proponent of the Oxford Movement for the reinstatement of some older Christian traditions of faith and their inclusion into Anglican liturgy and theology. He was received into the Roman Catholic church in 1845, becoming a Priest, and in 1879 a Cardinal. He was Canonised by Pope Francis in October 2019.

The hymn is sometimes sung to the tune “Richmond”, but more often to “Gerontius”. The latter was written by by Rev. John Bacchus Dykes (1823-76) in 1861. John Dykes was born in Hull, but spent most of his later life in Durham. He wrote over 100 hymn tunes, notably “Nicaea”, used for the hymn “Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty”.

Praise to the Ho - liest in the height, and in the depth be praise;
 in all his words most won_ der ful, most sure in all his ways!

John Henry Newman
 c. 1844



JULY Crossword Solution

D	O	V	E		O	F	F	E	N	D	E	R
R	I	T	E			G	E	U				
A	L	C	O	H	O	L	L	O	S	E	S	
C	A	E	L		A	P		T				
H	O	R	A	M		O	P	H	R	A	H	
M					O	W			I	S		
A	R	C	H	B	I	S	H	O	P	R	I	C
S	H				O		R					O
	S	A	M	U	E	L		D	W	A	R	F
E	N	P			D		E	L		I		
L	A	C	K	S		I	M	A	G	I	N	E
I	E				E		L	K		L		
M	I	L	I	T	A	R	Y		R	E	V	D

SOME AUGUST CUSTOMS

*Please Note - for obvious reasons,
most of these customs are not taking place this year.*

Mike Godden

LAMMAS. 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.

YORKSHIRE DAY has been celebrated for over 35 years. It was created in response to the alterations to County boundaries in the 1970s. The Yorkshire Ridings Society organises gatherings at different Yorkshire locations each year, and at York city the Declaration of the Integrity of Yorkshire is read at each of the four Bars (city gates) of York. The declaration is read in each of the languages that have been significant in York's history : Latin, Old Norse, English and in Yorkshire dialect. 1st August was chosen as Yorkshire Day because it's also the anniversary of the 1759 Battle of Minden in Germany during the Seven Years War, when soldiers picked white roses (the symbol of Yorkshire) as a tribute to their fallen comrades.

(While on the subject of historic Counties being interfered with, what, I hear you cry, of Middlesex? Well, there is a Middlesex Day - it's on 16th May; see <http://www.middlesexfederation.com/trust/middlesex-day>)

MARY GIBSON'S MAUSOLEUM INSPECTION. Every 12th August for over 200 years, Mary Gibson's Mausoleum has been inspected in the churchyard of St. Nicholas in Sutton, Surrey. She left a bequest in her will to pay for the annual visit by the Rector to check for necessary repairs; legend suggests that this was connected to a fear of body-snatchers or burial alive. The inspection ceased for some years due to safety concerns and a lack of enthusiasm by the Church, but in 2015 it was revived and is once again a feature on the calendar of unusual events. A small procession makes its way across the churchyard including the Rector and a key-bearer with the mausoleum keys on a red cushion, before a short service explaining the origins of the custom and a few prayers. The mausoleum door remains open for a short while for visitors to peep inside, and an exhibition on the custom is displayed inside the church, while tea and biscuits are offered to all.

SANDWICH BARTLEMAS BUN RUN. St. Bartholomew's Day is celebrated in Sandwich, Kent by a special Patronal service in the chapel of the ancient Hospital of St. Bartholomew, followed by a race for children. The race is believed to represent the travels which pilgrims made in the past to holy sites, and the buns represent the fare they were offered on their journeys. The youngsters are given currant buns and adults receive St. Bart's Biscuits with the town coat of arms impressed on them.

LEIGH PARISH LANDS CANDLE AUCTION. The candle auction at Leigh, Dorset, is one of a handful of survivors of an ancient method of selling which involves the auctioneer taking bids whilst a candle burns; when the flame goes out whoever placed the last bid wins. It's believed to date back at least to the 17th century and was used originally to raise funds for Poor Relief and to maintain the parish cottages. In this case the property up for rent is two pieces of land - one a pasture for grazing from August until February, and the other a piece of woodland at Beer Mill Mead between October and February. A Trust administers the funds raised which are still used for the benefit of the villagers.

RIPON ST WILFRID'S FEAST PROCESSION. St. Wilfrid was the Abbot of Ripon and Bishop of York and was influential in the Early English Church. The Cathedral at Ripon is dedicated to him and every year his return to the town is celebrated with a parade led by an actor playing the Saint on his horse, followed by floats, musicians and dancers and the Wakeman of Ripon (see below). There are also fairground rides and stalls in the Market Square. Until recently Wilfra or Wilfrid Tarts (apple-and-Wensleydale-cheese pies) were available at a bakery in the town.

For hundreds of years, the Wakeman of Ripon has blown his horn daily in the Market Place. He dresses in a uniform with tricorn hat and blows three blasts at each corner of the obelisk in the square at 9 pm every day of the year. Originally, the Wakeman was appointed by the church to keep the peace, but is now appointed by the Mayor of the town. On days when the Mayor isn't at home the Wakeman also blows his horn at the Town Hall steps opposite the obelisk.

LUDHAM ST. BENET'S BLESSING. The Abbey of St. Benet (St. Benedict of Nursia) at Ludham, Norfolk was never officially dissolved during the suppression of the monasteries under Henry VIII; each year on the 1st Sunday in August an open-air service is held in commemoration and thanksgiving at the ruins. The Bishop of Norwich is the Abbot and the Vicar of nearby Horning is the Prior of St. Benet's and together they hold an ecumenical service at which all are welcome to attend. The officiating clergy arrive by Norfolk Wherry (the site is easiest approached by river) to meet the Brothers of St. Benet, members of a variety of local churches and the Salvation Army Band, who provide the music.

MARHAMCHURCH REVEL. The Feast of St. Marwenne falls on 12th August according to the Kalendar of the Celtic Church. The following Sunday is observed as Revel Sunday at Marhamchurch, near Bude in Cornwall, and on the next day, the Monday following the Feast, there takes place the Marhamchurch Revel, a survival into modern times of the mediæval festival. The Queen of the Revel, one of the school children of the village, elected by her fellows, is crowned by "Father Time" on the site of St. Marwenne's hermitage: there follows the Revel Procession around the village, led by the Queen riding on a white horse and followed by her attendants. The procession concludes at the Revel Field where the festivities (including Cornish wrestling, fancy dress competitions, dancing and Cornish food) take place; the Parish Church and Methodist Chapel join forces to honour the memory of the Patron Saint of Marhamchurch.

THE MARYMASS FESTIVAL at Irvine, Ayrshire, began during the 12th century, to celebrate the Feast of the Assumption with a parade featuring a Marymass Queen. Over the festival period there are many concerts, exhibitions, talks, competitions, entertainments including fireworks and a funfair. The festival lasts for 12 days in August; the main day is the second Saturday, known as Marymass Day or Traditions Day. In 1563 Mary Queen of Scots visited Irvine and ever since the parade has featured this Queen with her “Four Maries” and pages (the Four Maries were the Queen’s companions who all shared her Christian name).

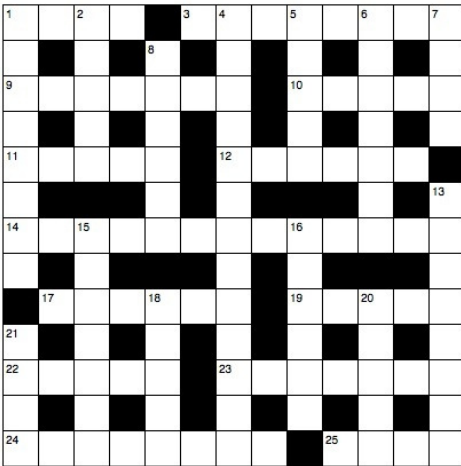
THE RIDING OF THE MARCHES at Sanquhar, Dumfriesshire, is an annual boundary marking event on the nearest Saturday to 18th August, that being the date of the town’s Royal Charter in 1598, with a cavalcade of around 100 led by the Cornet, his Lass and the Ensign. The Festival Queen is crowned, a Parade of floats processes through town around noon and sports and games are held in the afternoon at Lorimer Park. Other events are held in the build-up to the Main Day including sports, wreath laying and fancy dress. The festival usually ends with fireworks and a torchlit procession on the Sunday.

SCOURING THE WHITE HORSE. The White Horse at Uffington, Berkshire, is an ancient and enigmatic chalk hill figure on the downland above the village. Now in the guardianship of the National Trust, it has dominated the landscape for centuries. In earlier times it used to be “Scoured” every seven years amidst great festivities - hill figures need regular maintenance if they’re to stay white and pristine into the future. While the old custom has disappeared over time, a new one has arisen in its place and each year in July and on August Bank Holiday weekend volunteers make a contribution to posterity by helping to keep the horse clean and in good order.

RICHMOND SEPTENNIAL BOUNDARY RIDING. Beating the Bounds at Richmond in Yorkshire still takes place - but only every seven years. Ascension Day is the traditional time for boundary-marking customs to be carried out, but at Richmond it has been moved to August in order to allow schoolchildren to participate when they’re on their summer holidays. The parish of Richmond is a large one and the Perambulation around it is about 14 miles long, led by halberdiers, mace-bearers and officials including the Mayor. Proclamations are made by the Bellman en route and the Water Bailiff actually has to enter the waters of the River Swale twice where the boundary falls midstream. Coins are thrown for children at 5 points on the walk, and all who complete the course are entitled to a certificate!

EYAM PLAGUE SUNDAY. The last Sunday in August is Plague Sunday in the little village of Eyam in Derbyshire. In 1665 the villagers, led by Reverend Mompesson and his wife, bravely took the decision to cut themselves off from the rest of the world in order to contain an outbreak of bubonic plague, which killed over 250 of its inhabitants in a period of just over a year. Nobody was allowed in or out of the village and supplies were left at points on the boundaries, paid for with coins placed in vinegar to reduce the chance of passing on infection. The annual service remembering the sacrifice of the villagers is held at Cucklet Delph, where outdoor worship took place during the plague rather than in the closer confines of the parish church. Lockdown is not a new concept!

AUGUST CROSSWORD



ACROSS

1. Of Moses (6)
4. 'You have been weighed on the — and found wanting' (*Daniel 5:27*) (6)
7. Where Jesus performed the first of his miraculous signs (*John 2:11*) (4)
8. Roman emperor who ordered all the Jews to leave Rome (*Acts 18:2*) (8)
9. Member of a conservative Jewish party in the Sanhedrin which believed there was no resurrection (*Acts 23:8*) (8)
13. South London Mission (1,1,1)
16. Sure of one's own ability (2
Corinthians 11:17) (4-9)
17. 'At this the man's face fell. He went away — , because he had great wealth' (*Mark 10:22*) (3)
19. Airs used (anag.) (8)
24. 'The Lord is my — , I shall not be in want' (*Psalms 23:1*) (8)
25. 'He has sent me to — up the broken-hearted' (*Isaiah 61:1*) (4)
26. At or towards the rear of a ship (6)
27. Cross-carrying evangelist and world traveller, — Blessitt (6)

DOWN

1. Ridicule (*Luke 18:32*) (4)
2. Encased in strapped-on light shoes (*Song of Songs 7:1*) (9)
3. Cambridge Inter-Collegiate Christian Union (1,1,1,1,1)
4. 'Father, give me my — of your estate' (*Luke 15:12*) (5)
5. Assistant (4)
6. On a par (*John 5:18*) (5)
10. Credo (anag.) (5)
11. Beaten with a rod (5)
12. The fourth of Job's 'comforters', who deferred making his contribution because of his junior status (*Job 32:6*) (5)
13. Chosen as a temple attendant, he was described by Ezra as 'a capable man' (*Ezra 8:18*) (9)
14. 'Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where — and rust destroy' (*Matthew 6:19*) (4)
15. Employs (4)
18. Associated with penitence for sins, along with sackcloth (*Matthew 11:21*) (5)
20. Association of South-East Asian Nations (1,1,1,1,1)
21. Sub-continent to which Baptist missionary pioneer William Carey devoted his life (5)
22. Recess at east end of a church (4)
23. One of the nine sons of Beriah (*1 Chronicles 8:15*) (4)

*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.*

