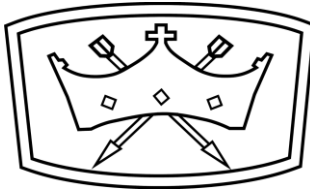


The Parish Church of
St. Edmund the King
Northwood Hills



TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024

INCUMBENT

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

BANK

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

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

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

Registered Charity No. 1169098

CONTENTS

Annual Meeting of Parishioners 2025 – Agenda..... 4

Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2025 - Agenda 4

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Parishioners 5

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting..... 5

Trustees’ Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council for 2024 11

 Aim and Purposes..... 11

 Objectives and Activities 11

 Who we are. 11

 Sides People..... 13

 Recording our Membership..... 13

 PCC Meetings..... 13

 The Year in Review 13

 Financial Review 16

 Fabric Report 22

 Harrow Deanery Synod 24

Reports from Church Organisations..... 27

 2nd Northwood (St. Edmund’s) Scout Group..... 27

 Arrow Players 28

 Choir 29

 Eco-Church..... 30

 Flower Guild..... 32

 Sunday School..... 33

 Youth Group 34

 ‘The King’ Parish Magazine..... 35

 Women’s Guild 35

Annual Meeting of Parishioners 2025 – Agenda

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Approval of Minutes of 2024 Meeting of Parishioners
3. Election of Churchwardens for the year 2025 – 2026

Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2025 - Agenda

1. Approval of Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on Sunday 17th March 2024
2. Matters arising from those minutes
3. Notification of any other business
4. Vicar's report
5. Consideration of Statutory Reports:
 - Annual Report for the year ended 31st December 2024 including the revised Church Electoral Roll for 2024
 - Report of the proceedings of the Deanery Synod
 - Parish Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2024
 - Report upon the Fabric of the Church
6. Report from the Fundraising Committee
7. Election of representatives to the Parochial Church Council
8. Appointment of Sides People
9. Appointment of Independent Financial Examiner to the P.C.C.
10. Presentations from Parish organisations
11. Any other business
12. Closing Prayer followed by a brief PCC Meeting

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Parishioners

HELD IN THE CHURCH ON SUNDAY 17TH MARCH 2024

Chair: Father Michael Miller

Present: 36

Apologies; Carol Diggins, Daniel Hansen

Approval of Minutes of 2023 Annual Meeting of Parishioners

Proposed Marjorie Pimm, Seconded Hilda Greenfield

Election of ChurchWardens for the year 2024-2025

2 nominations

Steve Castle

Proposed Maryanne Sewell, Seconded Colin Kirby

Isaac Odeyemi

Proposed Sarah Parnaby, Seconded Peter Heath

Carried unanimously and duly elected

Meeting ended 11:14

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting

HELD IN THE CHURCH ON SUNDAY 17th March 2024

ATTENDANCE: 38

1. **Approval of Minutes of APCM held on Sunday 26th March 2023**
Proposed Andy Roberts, Seconded by Ian Dawson
2. **Matters arising from those minutes**
None
3. **Notification of any other business**

None

4. Vicar's report

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

Of Note

- After a couple of difficult years following the Coronavirus pandemic things were pretty much back to normal in 2023 and we began to see some growth here at St Edmunds and Sunday attendance began to creep up. At the most important services we saw an increase in numbers of people attending.

- The patronal Festival was held this year on a Sunday morning and it was a joy to have our Archdeacon join us to preach. The plan is to transfer our St Edmunds day celebrations this year to the nearest Sunday and hopefully encourage even more people to join us.

- One area that doesn't seem to have bounced back from the pandemic is weekday attendance. Some who were regular weekday attenders have simply stopped coming at all during the week and there were 51 occasions during 2023 when the Eucharist could not be celebrated because no one came.

- One very positive thing that occurred during the year was our link with Community Connex – the group formerly known as Harrow Mencap – became stronger and they now meet monthly in the church. Special thank you to Marjorie Pimm who now regularly helps out with the refreshments.

- The monthly Bring and Buy stall is something else which has taken off and as well as raising significant amounts of money for our Raise theRoof fund also attracts outsiders which is a wonderful thing.

- RtR fundraising continues into phase 2 and particularly thanks to Steve Castle for chairing the fundraising and building committee and also working with the architects and builders to move this forward.

- Daniel Hansen approached Father Michael, reopening the church one evening for the local community, so at the end of October the open church project was launched. This has attracted members and non members of the church all of whom have found it hugely helpful and it has encouraged some to explore the possibility of becoming Christians.

- Sadly three very prominent members died in 2023; Ann Warwick, Margaret Messenger and our curate Mother Helen Hutchins.

- There is much here at St Edmund's to be thankful to God for

- A fine musical tradition with a good choir and we are very fortunate to have such a talented organist and choir leader in Mark

- A great team of servers who we should be very proud of.

- Carol does a great job with the Sunday School which is a very important part of our work here at St Edmunds.

- The technical team who ensure that those who are unable to join us in person are able to be part of our Sunday worship by taking part online

- Many people do a great deal of work which goes unseen, thank you to all of you.

- Special thank you to four people; two extremely good churchwardens in Steve and Isaac an extremely gifted treasurer in James and Amanda has done so well in her first year as PCC Secretary

- This year is the 60th Anniversary of the new church being built and hopefully we can make it a special year.

5. Consideration of Statutory Reports

- Financial Report - Parish Accounts 2023

- Fabric Report

- Electoral Roll

These had previously been distributed electronically and in hard copy.

See below for a summary

Financial Report

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

Of Note

- General funds doubled largely to increase in hall lettings which now make up over 50% of our income
- Ordinary giving continues to decline
- Our weekly expenditure, including Common Fund commitment and church running costs are approximately £1500 per week
- Last Stewardship campaign was in 2020 and since then there have been many ongoing financial difficulties facing everyone, nevertheless, there will soon be an opportunity for everyone to reassess their current giving
- Highlighted gift aid which means St Edmunds can benefit from a further 25%
- Fundraising towards Phase 2 of RtR continued. Grateful thanks to everyone who has been involved in events and who have given money. End of 2023 Phase 2 money stood at £63,440 with the expected cost around £200,000
- Very fortunate to receive an unrestricted legacy of £10,000 from the Late John Peters. The PCC is very appreciative of this generous amount and re-designated its use towards the cost of funding other major maintenance work.

Fabric Report

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

Electoral Roll 2023

The roll now stands at 93 people; an increase of 1 from 2022.

Changes as follows;

2 people have moved away

3 people and been added

No comments or questions arose from the respective reports
Proposed Marjorie Pimm, Seconded Margaret Forsyth

6. Building & Fund-Raising Sub-committee report

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

7. Election of Members to the PCC

There are three openings for three years each and one for one year;

Nominations for 3 years:

Carol Diggins

Proposed Vaida Opalka, Seconded Jade Chambers

James Mair

Proposed Andrew Roberts, Seconded Connie Ambrose

Indrani Prabhu

Proposed Amanda Roberts, Seconded Madeline Roberts

Nomination for 1 year:

Marjorie Pimm

Proposed Margaret Forsyth, Seconded Wendy Jones

As no further nominations, all were duly elected.

8. Appointment of Sides People

Maragret Forsyth, Hilda Greenfield, Colin Kirby, Carolyn Mount, Richard Mount, Marjorie Pimm and Mary Sewell were appointed as sides people .

9. Appointment of an Independent Financial Examiner

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

Vote carried unanimously

10. Reports for Parish Organisations

These had previously been distributed electronically and in hard copy.

Mark Hammond spoke in his role as Music Director highlighting that the choir is always open for new members, no audition, no requirement to read music with rehearsals before Sunday's weekly service. Any enquiries to Mark or other members of the choir.

No other reports delivered in person, no further comments or questions ensued.

11. A.O.B.

None raised

12. Closing prayer led by Father Michael

Meeting closed 11:39

PCC of St Edmund the King, Northwood Hills Trustees' Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council for the Year 2024

Aim and Purposes

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

Objectives and Activities

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

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

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

Who we are.

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

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

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

Incumbent The Rev'd Michael Miller

Churchwardens Steven Castle (*Vice Chair*)
Isaac Odeyemi

Representatives on Sarah Parnaby
Harrow Deanery Synod

Elected members up Christopher Ambrose
up to the APCM 2024 Carol Diggins
Mark Hammond
Daniel Hansen
James Mair (Treasurer)
Anita Nicholas
Andrew Odeyemi
Indrani Prabhu
Amanda Roberts (PCC Secretary)

Elected members
after the APCM 2024 Carol Diggins
Mark Hammond
Daniel Hansen
James Mair (Treasurer)
Anita Nicholas
Andrew Odeyemi
Marjorie Pimm
Indrani Prabhu
Amanda Roberts (PCC Secretary)

Sides People

We are grateful to the following Sides People who, elected at the 2024 APCM, have assisted in welcoming people to worship on Sundays and weekday festivals and who receive and assist in recording the offertory: Margaret Forsyth, Colin Kirby, Carolyn Mount, Richard Mount, Marjorie Pimm and Mary Sewell.

Recording our Membership

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

At the 2024 APCM there were 91 on the roll, compared with 93 the previous year. Average weekly attendance was 84 and average Sunday attendance was 53 . During the year services were live streamed on our YouTube channel and received an average of 45 views.

PCC Meetings

In 2024 the PCC met on 6 occasions with an average attendance of 9. The PCC receives reports from the Incumbent on pastoral matters, from the Treasurer on the accounts, from the Churchwardens on Fabric and from the Building & Fundraising Sub-Committee at each of its meetings. Safeguarding and Eco-Church are standing agenda items. In 2024 the Standing Committee met 4 times. The membership of this committee comprises the Incumbent, the Churchwardens, PCC Secretary and Treasurer. It transacts PCC business between meetings (subject to directions of the PCC) and draws up the PCC agenda.

The Year in Review

2024 began with many parishioners involved in Arrow Players' production of the St. Edmund's Pantomime, 'Little Red Riding Hood', which raised funds for the church and provided wonderful family entertainment for the parish and beyond.

All-Age Eucharists continued on the first Sunday each month – these were well attended and provided a slightly shorter service with more contemporary music and hymns, colourful orders of service, a more visual address, different styles of prayer and were attended by the whole congregation including Sunday School.

The season of Lent began in February. Our Lent appeal raised funds for two charities, one, London based, The Ben Kinsella Trust whose mission is to prevent knife crime through education and campaigning. The second being Christian Aid in support of the Middle East Crisis. Our Lent course, Still Standing: based on the Elton John movie Rocketman was well attended and included the showing of the film.

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

The highpoint of the liturgical year was, as always, our celebration of Holy Week and Easter as we lived through the key events in the story of salvation. Our worship in Holy Week included the celebration of the Eucharist with an Address each day, The Mass of the Lord's Supper followed by The Watch of the Passion on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday Meditation followed by the Good Friday Liturgy, The Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday and the Blessing of the Easter Garden and Sung Eucharist on Easter Day. These were poignant and well-attended services culminating in a truly joyful celebration of the resurrection of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

In May we enjoyed St Edmund's Drama Group, Arrow Players' production of 'Reading Between The Lines' and had a successful Plant Sale in support of our Raise the Roof appeal where there was even a queue prior to its opening. Our annual Parish boundary walk with stops for prayers "Beating the Bounds" was well attended and enjoyed.

In June we enjoyed our Summer Fair which as always is a wonderful event, combining good old fashioned fair games; coconut shy and hoopla along

with fabulous food and a nearly-new stall. It brings together the St Edmund's community and the wider Northwood Hills and Pinner residents in an afternoon of relaxation and joy. We also took part in Churches Count on Nature where our young people looked at the nature in our grounds and then after one Sunday service everyone took part in making bug hotels which have since been placed in the Garden of Remembrance.

In September a group of pilgrims ventured to Bury St. Edmunds in celebration of the 60th anniversary of when our Foundation Stone was laid. It was a wonderful experience to have a guided tour of the Cathedral culminating in a celebration of the Eucharist. We sampled the delights of lunch in the Cathedral's restaurant; Pilgrims Kitchen, before wandering around the town prior to our return journey. A lasting memory is our sing-along around the piano in the service station on our way home!

October was a busy month. At the beginning we celebrated Harvest with an All-Age Eucharist which was well-attended and included the Scouts, followed by a delicious meal in the Hall. Gifts and cash donations were given to New Hope who provide services to the homeless in Watford and the surrounding area.

We had the 60th anniversary of the consecration of the present church building on 10th October. It was wonderful to have the 'massed' choirs of the Harrow Deanery celebrate Choral Evensong here at St. Edmund's on Saturday 12th October to mark the dedication of the church. We were honoured that Andrew Carwood, the Director of Music at St Paul's Cathedral, conducted the choirs and rehearsed them in the afternoon. Fr. Michael led the service and was both cantor and preacher. After touching on the history of St. Edmund's, he spoke of the value of Church buildings and their continuity, while emphasising that the Church is essentially the people 'called out' to witness to a Faith that has held strong for two thousand years.

At the end of October, pilgrims from St Anselm's in Hatch End and St Edmund's travelled together to the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham to join other pilgrims for a weekend of prayer and devotion.

On 8th November we were privileged to host Home-Start Hillingdon for a hearty breakfast before they departed on their fundraising walking marathon. On 19th November Remembrance Sunday was a solemn occasion during which we remembered the sacrifice made for our freedom today. The service was well attended by the Uniformed Organisations alongside their parents and regular congregation. That afternoon the annual Memorial Service provided a chance for both regular and occasional worshippers to join together in a friendly environment and reflect upon the loss of loved ones.

Our Patronal Festival was celebrated on Sunday 17th November when we welcomed Canon Philip Banks, the Precentor at St. Paul's Cathedral and previously Precentor at St. Edmundsbury Cathedral, as our preacher. We had a delicious afternoon tea afterwards which would have rivalled, if not surpassed, any from well-known celebrated venues.

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

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

During 2024 we held 3 baptisms. There were no weddings and no funerals held in Church.

Financial Review

From an overall view of the financial figures for 2024, the year was generally unremarkable, with no major sudden expenditure surprises, though the weight of the "Raise the Roof" Phase 2 project still looms large

in the future. The day to day comparable levels of ‘ordinary’ income and expenditure were at approximately the same levels to those seen in 2023.

However, at first glance of the 2024 Statement of Financial Affairs, (*on page 3 of the accompanying Financial Statements*), such a statement isn’t immediately apparent. The “Net income” of £22,487 for 2024 wasn’t as high as that achieved in 2023, but, as ever, direct comparison of the years’ figures isn’t necessarily straightforward. That page summarises all the activities for the year and therefore includes, inter alia, the figures relating to the ongoing “Raise the Roof” project.

By considering the detailed figures for Income and Expenditure on pages 4 and 5, things start to become clearer and therefore justify the opening paragraph of this review.

INCOME

Ordinary regular **Giving** (*shown over the first four lines of page 4 and which therefore excludes the many other types of donations received*) reflects a small, but still very welcome, year on year increase of nearly £700 to a total of £32,492 (2023: £31,805). Recent years have normally seen a reduction year on year. The increase was achieved without there being a Stewardship Renewal Programme, which was again effectively postponed due to other factors. Having said that, unfortunately, the need for another appraisal of our regular giving will not be able to be put off forever. In that respect, please remember that the ability for some to be able to sign up to allow Gift Aid to be added to their giving is of considerable benefit, since it increases the total St. Edmunds receives by 25%.

Donations, (*described as “Recurring grants” on line 0401*) for 2024 were £10,229. Whilst lower than those received in 2023 (£13,855), that isn’t really surprising; throughout 2024 we continued to be in between the end of “Raise the Roof” Phase 1 and the real start of fundraising in earnest for Phase 2. Also in 2023 there were two larger one-off specific restricted donations, one for Phase 2 and the other towards the cost of the then new safety handrails at the side of the church car park.

It is also very important to recognise that within the Donations received in 2024, the vast majority of the “Unrestricted” amount of £4,494 arose from just two generous sources, including an anonymous donation of £3,000. Additionally, within the £4,369 of “Restricted” donations, £1,500 came from just two sources. Without such generosity, the position for 2024 would have been significantly altered and highlights just how just a few factors can change the financial position.

Again it must be recorded that all Giving and Donations received, whatever size or nature, are always gratefully appreciated by the PCC and help St. Edmunds to fulfil its role within the Christian and local communities.

Unlike in 2023, no legacies were received in 2024, and that alone explains 70% of the reduction in the total shown for “Donations and legacies” between 2023 and 2024.

The next section of income on page 4 refers to “Church activities”. The St. Edmund **Pantomime** in January 2024, in conjunction with Arrow Players, again provided an important amount of income; £2,058 towards our day to day / General funds, plus a further £590 from the retiring collections after the performances for “Raise the Roof”. (2023: £1,596 and £831 respectively).

Income from **Church Hall lettings** continues to be a very significant factor in our finances, with its £47,115 representing about 50% of the total unrestricted income received in 2024. (2023: £47,944).

“Other trading activities” primarily refers to “Raise the Roof” **fundraising events**. In total they raised £8,850 in 2024, which, whilst lower than in 2023 (£9,506), came from fewer events. Indeed, as shown below, the three individual larger events all improved their net amounts raised and in total made up around 70% of the shortfall from the events not held in 2024.

After deducting the associated costs of the 2024 events of £1,575 (*line 1730 under the Expenditure heading at the bottom of page 4*), the net amounts raised, with 2023s comparatives, were as follows:-

	2024	2023		2024	2023
Bonus Ball	£420	£280	Eco and Book Fairs	n/a	£803
Bring & Buy Sales	£1,342	£1,399	Film Night	n/a	£333
Christmas Bazaar	£2,500	£2,317	Plant Sale	£1,229	£989
Christmas Tree Festival	£122	£283	Summer Fair	£1,662	£1,369

In 2024 people continued taking advantage of the “easyfundraising” giving scheme and this raised £74 for St. Edmunds. (2023: £128).

As ever, our thanks and appreciation goes to everyone involved in the various activities; all those whose hard work facilitated the events, as well as all those spending their money.

Investment income continued to rise, up over £1,100 in 2024, to a total of £5,665 (2023: £4,535), though, as shown on page 4, the larger proportion of this belongs to Restricted Funds.

EXPENDITURE

From a detailed look at page 5 it will be seen that most costs had only minor increases or decreases in 2024, although the total expenditure for “Church activities” for the year was lower than that of 2023 by £5,828 at £91,023.

The reason for the seemingly lower expenditure in 2024 is because there were several one-off costs in 2023 and, fortunately, none in 2024. The 2023 costs affected this way were Vicarage expenses (*line 2130*) for redecoration costs of £2,600 and Church maintenance (*line 2330*) for church window sill repairs of £2,218 and £3,833 for the installation of the safety handrail on the side of the church car park. As these three items total £8,651 it means that the comparable total expenditure for “Church activities” in 2023 was really £88,200 and therefore making 2024’s total “Church activities” expenditure actually higher by £2,823. However, the

vast majority of this increase is represented by the ‘planned’ increase of £2,500 in our Common Fund payments (*line 1901*) for the year.

The last section of Expenditure for 2024 shows £1,224 which was for further preliminary costs associated with Phase 2 of the “Raise the Roof” project. (2023: £3,358).

With the total of ordinary Unrestricted Income for 2024 being £96,102 (*see the left hand column towards the end of page 4*) and the total ordinary Unrestricted Expenditure at £86,003 (*see the left hand column at the end of page 5*), the net result for the year was to increase the surplus on our General Fund (*as opposed to funds for specific purposes*) by £10,099 (2023: £6,982).

Whilst this is an encouraging result, as previously noted, it could so easily have been considerably lower. Consequently, it still shows that our overall financial position and resources continue to be very marginal and therefore potentially vulnerable, should any unexpected expenditure suddenly be necessary.

As shown in the middle of page 3, the annual revaluation of Investments (*which are shown under Fixed Assets on the Balance Sheet on page 8*) to their market values at 31 December 2024 in total increased their value by £637. Nevertheless their total market values are still around 62% lower than they were at 31/12/2020. It should be noted that these are primarily investments held for Restricted Funds, such as those for Clean Water and for Overseas Aid, rather than the General Fund.

After accounting for the gains on the revaluation of investments, the total overall Funds at 31 December 2024 increased by £22,487 (*as shown at the end of page 3*), to £184,495. (2023: £30,008 to £162,007).

Page 6 shows the summary of the Balance Sheet, with page 8 giving the make-up of the summary figures at the year end. On the latter page, under “Current assets”, it will be seen that in 2024 the Lloyds Bank account, formerly used by Classic Concerts, was closed and the money

transferred to the CAF Bank account. This transfer was purely for administrative reasons and had no effect on the funds held for Classic Concerts - *as shown towards the middle of page 11 detailing the movement of funds for Classic Concerts in 2024.*

Repayments to the London Diocese for their interest free loan continued throughout 2024. In total to the end of the year half of the loan of £9,000 has been repaid and there were only 18 further monthly payments due. These are shown on the Balance Sheet as £3,000 repayable in 2025, with the remaining £1,500 due over one year.

Of the total funds held at 31 December 2024, as shown on page 9, £24,137 is held in Unrestricted Funds, with Designated Funds having £24,754 and £135,604 held in Restricted Funds. (2023: £14,038; £25,062 and £122,906 respectively). The analysis of the individual funds is shown on the lower half of page 10. The individual fund movements for 2024 are shown on page 11 and the comparative fund movements for 2023 are on page 12.

RESERVES POLICY

In order to maintain cash flows and provide for emergency expenditure, it is PCC policy to try to maintain sufficient balance on free reserves (net current assets) to cover three months' normal unrestricted expenditure, around £25,000. At the end of 2024 the balance on the free reserves was £48,891 (2023: £39,100).

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

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

To conclude, in 2024 the General Fund 'ordinary' income exceeded 'ordinary' expenditure by £10,099 (2023: £6,982). At the end of year the balance on the General Fund was £24,137 (2023: £14,038), which continues to be relatively small, but is certainly going in the right (positive) direction and is a considerable improvement upon earlier years.

This has enabled the PCC to commit to increasing our 2025 Common Fund Offer by £1,500 to £54,000. This amount takes us back to the same level of payments made in 2021 and 2022, though is still significantly lower than our payments in 2020 and before. It should be noted that we continue to be a 'net recipient' according to the London Diocese's calculations, which for 2025 set the Standard Parish Cost at £99,980.

There is still some way to go before a more secure overall financial position is achieved. This is especially so in these ongoing times of inflationary costs and knowing that other remedial works will require funding in the not too distant future, let alone the need to continue to divert our main fundraising activities towards "Raise the Roof" Phase 2.

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

James Mair, Treasurer

Fabric Report

1. Condition of Buildings

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

2. Service and Maintenance

The annual inspections of all central heating boilers were carried out in March 2024 with no issues found. Gas Safe certificates were received. Fire extinguishers were serviced in March 2024 with no issues found. Emergency lighting was successfully tested in March 2024.

3. Major Works

There were no Major Works undertaken in 2024.

4. Other Activities.

Minor maintenance works during the year has included:

- Hall Ladies' toilet cistern and water supply pipe replaced
- Temporary repair made to rear flat roof near Choir Vestry rear entrance
- Jumbo loo roll dispensers fitted in Church toilets
- Small Hall carpet professionally cleaned
- Under-counter refrigerator installed in Susan Old Lounge
- Normal grounds maintenance performed by members of the congregation including lawn mowing, weeding and hedge-cutting
- Church central heating boiler repaired following failure on Sunday 27th October
- Gardening work and fence painting carried out in the Garden of Remembrance by young people in the Princes' Trust as part of a supervised programme managed by Harrow College and overseen by Fr Michael

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

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

5. Future Projects

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

Steven Castle, Churchwarden

Harrow Deanery Synod

The Deanery Synod met for three sessions during the year with a time of worship led by the hosts, who were invited to give a profile of their mission and ministries before the Synod prayed for them. Hosts also kindly provided refreshments. At each meeting reports were tabled or presented on the recent sessions by those elected to the Diocesan and General Synods.

The first meeting was held on 6 February at the London School of Theology in Northwood with the theme of “Engaging with our Communities”. Rev’d Julian Gadsby, Church Engagement Specialist of the London Institute for Contemporary Christianity spoke on discipleship, making a difference where we are, and shared the 6 Ms of Discipleship. These are: Model a godly character, Make good work, Minister grace and love, Mould Culture, Mouthpiece for truth and justice, Messenger for the Gospel. He reminded us that we are called to love our neighbour. We are called to tell everyone about Jesus. We should live our lives authentically for Jesus. We need to treat people we meet as people not projects. Noah Kelly of St Alban’s North Harrow spoke about the Willesden Area Ministry Experience Scheme.

The second meeting was held on 13 June at All Saints Harrow Weald. The meeting started in the Forest School which is located to the north of the church. Synod opened with a minute’s silence in memory of John Dolling, Lay Chair of the Synod for many years, who had died. Revd John Barker gave a brief profile of the church. He said that there were four parts of the church and its worship:- the Forest School, the Pre-School, the Church

Hall, and the Parish. Revd Dave Bookless, Head of Theology of A Rocha International, spoke about the ECO-Church programme in England and Wales which was started by A Rocha 8 years ago and 7,000 churches are already enrolled in it. There are five areas in the ECO-Church Survey and to gain the awards parishes need to show that they have made progress in all five. These are Worship and Teaching; Management of Church Buildings; Management of Church Land; Community and Global Engagement; and Lifestyles. Tom Johnson, Treasurer of St Alban's North Harrow, spoke about the project that they had recently undergone to install Solar Panels on the Hall roof for electricity generation.

Clive Scowen had been elected as Lay Chair, David Green as Treasurer, Sarah Archer and Jon Lindsay-Scott as Clergy Representatives on the Standing Committee, Robert May, Toby Partridge and Judith Shepherd as Lay Representatives on the Standing Committee, and Mike Still as the third Deanery representative on Harrow Standing Advisory Committee for Religious Education. Matthew Szurgot, the Head of School at Holy Trinity Northwood Church of England School was co-opted to Synod. The Deanery Accounts for 2023 were approved.

The third meeting was held on 23 November at St Jerome's Bilingual Church of England School in Harrow on the theme "Growing Younger: Improving our Provision for Children and Youth in our parishes". Synod members had been asked to submit questions for a panel of practitioners consisting of Sarah Agnew, Children and Families Ministry Advisor for the Diocese; Carol Sormaz, Children Families and Community Worker Christ Church Roxeth; Andy Carson, Youth Worker Christ Church Roxeth and Harley Lloyd-Fix, Re:Generation Harrow Schools Worker. A summary of the Questions and Answers was included in the minutes of the meeting for parishes.

Robert May
Honorary Secretary

Approval of the Annual Report by the Parochial Church Council

The Annual Report set out on pages 11 to 26 were approved by the Parochial Church Council of St. Edmund the King, Northwood Hills on 18th March 2025 and will be proposed for adoption by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on 6th April 2025.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Miller', written in a cursive style.

The Rev'd Michael Miller
Chairman of the Meeting
18th March 2024 (PCC)

The Rev'd Michael Miller
Chairman of the Meeting
6th April 2025 (APCM)

Reports from Church Organisations

2nd Northwood (St. Edmund's) Scout Group

2024 has been a busy year when we welcomed new section volunteers (Leaders) and several parent helpers to the Group. A variety of interesting and exciting activities took place, mainly outdoors during the summer months. These enabled scouts to develop skills, gain confidence and foster independence. In addition, District events were attended – camps, competitions and St. George's Day parade – and several visits to Paccar and Phasel's Wood activity centres to experience zip wire, high ropes, climbing, archery, air rifle shooting, caving and tomahawk throwing. Water Sports at Bury Lake again proving very popular, and we are very fortunate to have so many trained instructors within our group.

Scouts began the year participating in the Chilly Goat camping competition in early January and coming a creditable second out of 9 groups, and congratulations to the Cubs who won a silver medal in the District swimming gala. Cubs also had an exciting sleepover in the Battle of Britain Bunker in Uxbridge.

Work on the new scout hut is frustratingly slow. We now have planning permission from Hillingdon Council to erect a new hut and have applied to the Diocese for a lease. Once the lease is obtained, fundraising will begin in earnest. Meanwhile, the existing hut is being regularly inspected and monitored and used for storage purposes only. In September, the cubs, who had had to meet in the scout hut at 1st Northwood, were able to join the beavers and scouts in the Church Hall at St. Edmunds. We are very grateful to the 1st Northwood for offering temporary accommodation. Finally, thank you to our volunteers (leaders, parent helpers and trustees) who generously give up their free time and make 2nd Northwood the successful group that it is.

Marjorie Pimm, Group Secretary

Arrow Players

Our year started with the St. Edmund's Pantomime, "Little Red Riding Hood" a brand-new pantomime, written by Mike Warrick; it was most successful, with many satisfied customers. For the first time, we presented a "relaxed performance", intended to make our show more accessible to younger audience members and adults that would prefer a more relaxed environment. This proved very successful and is something that we will be repeating in future. The show made a profit of just over £4,100, of which the customary half-share was passed to the PCC. The retiring collection at the show was in aid of "Raise The Roof", the result was almost £600 (about £730 with Gift Aid). The generosity of our audiences in these challenging times continues to amaze and delight us.

In May, we presented a play; "Reading Between the Lines" by Geoff Bamber. The audience numbers were a little disappointing, but the production was thoroughly enjoyed by those that did attend.

From September to the end of the year, our main activity was the rehearsal and preparation of the 2025 St. Edmund's Pantomime "The Woman Who Lived In A Shoe" - a new pantomime for us, written by Mike Warrick.

We awarded a 25-year Long Service Medal to Steve Castle and 50-year Long Service Medals to Mike Warrick and Terry Diggins.

We have also specifically identified a committee member, Holly Baker, as our Safeguarding Officer. She has completed training in a recognised safeguarding course via the Church of England Diocese and she has been introduced to Frederica Pratley-Lovegrove (St Edmund's Church Safeguarding Officer).

We held our usual Annual Dinner, at Pinner Hill Golf Club, in February. In addition, we have enjoyed a number of social events, including a summer barbecue, a number of theatre visits and an Escape Room.

In September, we hosted a Quiz to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the consecration of the Church, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Our participation in Church activities included running our usual side-shows at the Summer Fair, construction of stalls for the Plant Sale, and Father Christmas and his Grotto at the Christmas Bazaar in November. We also served Sunday morning refreshments on each 5th Sunday of the month. We have also made a number of contributions, both practical and financial, to the running of the Church, the Hall and the grounds, including the funding of the annual Church gardening day, and we also purchased the large Christmas tree for the Church.

Mike Warrick (Chairperson)

Choir

The choir's most important function continues to be in providing the music for the Sung Eucharist on Sundays, other major festivals and Holy Week services.

There were two significant services in 2024 to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the dedication of the current building here at St Edmund's.

St Edmund's Day was celebrated with an afternoon Patronal Festival Eucharist followed by a sumptuous afternoon tea. The augmented choir gave a rousing performance of Stanford's Festival Te Deum in B Flat.

On October 12th we welcomed around 70 singers from across the Deanery as we hosted the Choirs' Festival for the first time in a number of years. This was coincidentally held on the second Saturday in October, the same weekend as the original dedication service in 1964. The Choral Evensong included musical items by Bruckner (Locus Iste), Bernard Rose (Preces and Responses), Thomas Noble (Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis in B Minor), Henry Balfour Gardiner (Evening Hymn) and Stanford (Festival Te Deum in B Flat), as well as a psalm, readings, prayers, hymns and a thought provoking sermon from Father Michael. We were delighted to welcome Andrew Carwood, Director of Music at St Paul's Cathedral, to conduct the

service with myself on the organ. Between the rehearsal and the service there was an excellent tea organised by Aline and her team for which we were most grateful.

This year's Carol Service featured Away in a Manger, The Coventry Carol, Adam Lay Ybounden, In the Bleak Midwinter, The Holly and the Ivy and The Holy Star. Many thanks to Marjorie for helping with the tea between the rehearsal and the service.

The choir play an active role within the wider church and continue to run the Grand Draw stall at the Summer Fair and Christmas Bazaar.

I would like to finish by thanking the dedicated members of the choir who make such a valuable contribution to services at St Edmund's. We are all indebted to them. We are always looking for new members. There is no audition and there is no requirement to be able to read music. We generally rehearse for forty five minutes before services – do speak to me for further information.

Mark Hammond, Director of Music

Eco-Church

The Eco Team met 4 times during 2024. The group includes Jenny Jones – Eco Champion, Carol Diggins, Amanda Roberts, Wendy Jones and Valerie Collier. If you are able to help in any way to enable St Edmund's to reach the Silver Award please let the Eco Team know.

In June we were notified by A Rocha that the Eco Survey that provides a framework to support the church and its leadership to take practical action on caring for God's earth, would be changing. We had already started on our Silver Award but had to complete the goals by the end of January 2025.

Despite our best efforts we were not able to reach the standard in all categories. However you can see we are progressing really well and even managed to reach gold in one section;

Worship and teaching **Gold**
Buildings and energy **Bronze**
Land and nature **Silver**
Community and global engagement **Bronze**
Lifestyle **Silver**

The new survey is now available and we find that there are a few changes including having policies in place for each of the categories. This will help everyone to be aware of what we are aiming to achieve.

A Silver Award for the Building section is the most difficult to reach. We have made a list of some of the things that would help. Some of these are easier than others and some are too expensive to contemplate at the moment. If you would like to see the list please ask one of the Eco team.

We have achieved a great deal through the year with our recycling efforts and we plan to make the local community more aware of this activity. Other areas of improvement are the increased use of energy efficient lighting where appropriate (such as LED lamps). Cleaning products and papers we use are now Eco friendly and we have been recycling our food waste when events are held in the church. We would also like to record the amount of toy recycling we have been able to achieve through the toy stalls, Christmas boxes and redistributing to toddler groups and the Baby Bank at the Methodist Church in Wealdstone. Our thanks also go to Wendy Jones, Hilda Greenfield and Valerie Collier for their work on the Bring and Buy stall which not only brings much needed funds to the church but also helps to reuse and recycle items.

In June St Edmund's took part in the Churches Count for Nature. Equipment was provided for parishioners to make bug hotels after the service. When completed they were put together in a large flower pot to make one large hotel which has been placed in the Garden of Remembrance where we also filled the birdfeeders. The young people went into the grounds and used an app on their phones to report bugs and plants that they were able to identify through the app.

Members of the Eco Church Team went to the Deanery Synod meeting at All Saints Harrow Weald where we learned about the work of their Woodland School.

In 2025 we have already had one meeting, attended a Diocesan Eco Church event at St Andrews Church Uxbridge and a Hillingdon Recycle Reuse event at the Barn in Ruislip. Our aim for next year is to start working on the new A Roche survey. We are going to calculate the Eco footprint for St Edmunds and will be talking with everyone to help us with this exercise.

Being an Eco Church is an ongoing process and the main aim is that we keep up with what we have achieved and make improvements where possible. We can all “take practical action on caring for God’s earth” and we would like to thank Madeleine Bradbrook who suggested recycling blister packs and now takes them to Super Drug.

It’s not only about what we do at church but in how we live our lives.

Carol Diggins

Flower Guild

The past year has seen the continuing use of both fresh and artificial flowers within the floral displays.

Fresh flowers are normally purchased from local supermarket chains and therefore are the produce of both UK and foreign growers. There is a carbon footprint associated with the delivery/transport, however, purchased items are kept to a minimum and supplemented with foliage from local gardens. All green waste is composted.

The use of artificial flowers/foliage ensures longevity of displays, and the recycling of items assists with sustainability and financial planning.

Whilst floral decorations in the Church and Lady Chapel have been undertaken throughout the year to observe festivals/special events and anniversaries, there are only two people undertaking the duties. It is clear that additional help needs to be resourced as soon as possible to ensure that the Guild can continue to meet the ongoing commitment.

Interested in joining the Flower Guild? No previous experience is required, as prospective candidates will be tutored and encouraged to develop their display skills. Contact Glenda 07850 581 551 or ggreenfield60@gmail.com for further information.

Glenda Greenfield

Sunday School

In 2024 we had a roll of 5 children who regularly attend and 3 children who visit now and again. One of our regular children and his mum (Vaida) left us to return to Lithuania during the year. Before they left Vaida provided Sunday School Leaders and others with Emergency First Aid Training. In June we learned that a baby girl had been welcomed into their family.

A youth group member joined us for a few months while he completed the volunteer section of his Duke of Edinburgh Award. The children appreciated his company and he provided some interesting activities for us to complete.

During the year we learned about Jesus being presented at the temple, The Easter Story and some of the Acts of the Apostles, Jesus' healing ministry, some of the names Jesus is known by and the life of St Paul. At Christmas time we explored characters of the Nativity Story.

Sunday School joined in with the Christmas Tree Festival by preparing printing block pictures of the Nativity Story to go on our tree.

Eco Church encouraged us to take part in the Caring For God's Acre Project which took place in June. We helped to build bug hotels and went out into the church grounds to record the flora and fauna on the iNaturalist app.

We ran the toy stall at the Summer Fair and Christmas Bazaar. We also help to pack and distribute the Christmas parcels that are given to Home Start Hillingdon at Christmas time. In 2024 we were able to support Home Start again by providing a breakfast for the beginning of their sponsored walk through the Borough of Hillingdon.

A big thank you to Jade and Marla who are now able to lead sessions at Sunday School and are instrumental in providing pancakes on the Sunday before Shrove Tuesday.

Carol Diggins, Sunday School Leader

Youth Group

Youth Group ran in the Hall and met 7pm – 9pm every fortnight during term time from January until the Easter break. The number of children fell during the Spring term and, as numbers were not sufficient to continue, we paused our activities. Plans are in place for Youth Group to begin again in 2025. Our usual activities include pool, air hockey, football, dodge-ball, table tennis, bomb-ball, table football, and film evenings.

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

Steven Castle, Youth Group Leader

‘The King’ Parish Magazine

The magazine has been published each month during 2024. Approximately 50 copies of the magazine are printed which are either collected from church, posted, or delivered by hand. There is no charge for the magazine.

Several people are involved in the production each month. There are several monthly contributors: Fr Michael, Sarah Parnaby, Mike Godden, Steve Castle and Terry Diggins – the latter chooses articles from ‘The Parish Pump’ which is available to all parishes if they decide to subscribe. All readers can send in material for a particular edition by sending it to the editor whose name and address is on page 1 of every magazine. If you wish to telephone please leave a message and the editor will respond!

Jenny Jones, Honorary Editor

Women’s Guild

The Women’s Guild meets on 2nd Tuesday of the month, with a few exceptions. We have a loyal membership and enjoy a varied programme followed by tea.

In May Jonathan Huchins gave a talk on Women Behind Great Artists.

In October, film animator Harsh Borah demonstrated just how films such as Paddington Bear and Jungle Book are achieved.

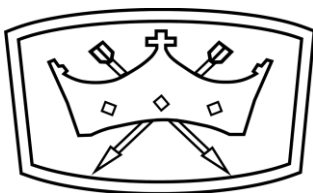
In December, Peter Heath led us in our annual Carol Concert which was followed by a festive tea.

Our members are all supportive of each other and enjoy our monthly meetings.

Connie Ambrose, Women’s Guild

Edmund was the devout young King of the East Angles,
martyred by the Danes for his allegiance to Christ in the year 869
when he was 29 years old.

The crown and arrows of the church crest
symbolise his Kingship and Martyrdom.



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

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

