

THE

KING

JANUARY 2025



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

THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. EDMUND THE KING

NORTHWOOD HILLS

VICAR The Reverend Michael Miller (020) 8866 9230
The Vicarage, 2 Pinner Road, Northwood HA6 1QS
e-mail vicar@saintedmundschurch.org.uk

LAY MINISTER Miss Sarah Parnaby (020) 8866 8309

SERVICES Principal Service - Sung Eucharist at 10.00 am every Sunday
Also streamed from our website
Other Services - Said Eucharist
7.15 pm Tuesdays, 6.00 pm Wednesdays,
10.00 am Thursdays, 11.00 am Fridays, Saturdays 10.30 am

SUNDAY SCHOOL at St. Edmund's Church
Sundays at 10.00 am in the Hall during term time.
Please contact Carol Diggins on 07827 159 586 for more information.

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

OFFICERS

Churchwardens Mr. Steve Castle 3a Willows Close, Pinner HA5 3SY (020) 8868 0482
Mr. Isaac Odeyemi *e-mail* churchwardens@stedmundtheking.org.uk
Hon. Secretary Mrs. Amanda Roberts *e-mail* secretary@stedmundtheking.org.uk
Hon. Treasurer Mr. James Mair (020) 8428 1349
Director of Music Mr. Mark Hammond 39b Carlton Avenue, Kenton HA3 8AX (020) 8909 2687
Hall Bookings Mr. Steve Castle 3a Willows Close, Pinner HA5 3SY (020) 8868 0482
Safeguarding Officer Ms. Frederica Pratley-Lovegrove 07981 327 678

ORGANISATIONS

Flower Guild Mrs. Glenda Greenfield *e-mail* ggreenfield60@gmail.com 07850 581 551
Women's Guild Mrs. Hilda Greenfield 01923 823 134
Mrs. Connie Ambrose 01923 825 524
Arrow Players Mr. Michael Warrick 07813 618 225
Youth Group Mr. Steve Castle 3a Willows Close, Pinner HA5 3SY (020) 8868 0482
Scout Group Mrs. Karen Retter 07984 662 588
Guides Abigail Harrison/Clare Walker *e-mail* secondnorthwoodhillsguides@gmail.com

MAGAZINE

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

WEBSITE

www.saintedmundschurch.org.uk

FACEBOOK

 St. Edmund's Church, Northwood Hills

HOW TO RECEIVE THE MAGAZINE

This magazine is published online at www.saintedmundschurch.org.uk and can be printed on request.

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

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

You can subscribe to the weekly e-mail by completing the form at <https://tinyurl.com/subscribe-orbit> or by visiting www.saintedmundschurch.org.uk and clicking the “Subscribe” link underneath “Weekly Newsletter”.



FEBRUARY MAGAZINE

*All contributions for
the February Magazine
to be with Jenny Jones by
Friday 17th January*

020 8866 7173

jonesjenny@googlemail.com

*The February Magazine
will be available
from Sunday 26th January*

FR. MICHAEL'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

January can be a difficult month; the Christmas festivities are over, but the days remain short and the nights dark. The national church is currently having to deal with some difficult issues around safeguarding, and how in the past abuse was not always dealt with in a way that was helpful to the victims. It is also true that the confidence we had when St. Edmund's was built 60 years ago, and the church was packed for the Sunday Eucharist, is no longer there. We live in a society which has little time for faith communities, and we know that the problem in the future will not be religious difference so much as religious indifference. There are also the issues of poverty, war in Europe and a climate emergency. There doesn't seem much room for hope as we enter 2025 and if we aren't careful, we could become very despondent especially at this time of year.

The scriptures however give a different message. In the prophecy of Jeremiah there are these words :

'For surely, I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart, says the Lord. (Jeremiah 29.11-13)

The prophet Jeremiah lived some centuries before Christ. In his lifetime, the Jewish people saw Jerusalem destroyed and their leaders exiled to Babylon. That seemed to be the end of the Chosen People, but the prophet was told to proclaim that, despite all appearances, God had great plans for His people – and a future full of hope.

Sometimes, we can be tempted to believe that all is lost. In such a negative narrative, some frightened voices talk of coming disasters and judgement.

But the message of the scriptures is always one of hope. God has plans for His people. Faith means believing that God is at work, even in difficult times. Faith involves discerning where God is in the middle of fear and loss, anger and division.

It is also helpful to remember the parable of the mustard seed :

'.. it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree' (Matthew 13.3)

Jesus is illustrating the kingdom of heaven growing from humble beginnings. Throughout the Gospels we see Jesus working with small things and producing greater things, like in the feeding of the 5000. I firmly believe that, here at St. Edmund's, through constant prayer and worship, we will see great things happening. I urge you therefore to pray hard for growth and to trust that God has great plans for us.

Wishing you a New Year filled with hope and happiness in our Lord.

Fr. Michael

CALENDAR AND PRINCIPAL SERVICE READINGS JANUARY 2025

Principal Service - Sung Eucharist at 10.00 am every Sunday

5 SUN THE EPIPHANY

Isaiah 60.1-6, Ephesians 3.1-12, Matthew 2.1-12

11 Sat St. Edmund's Pantomime - "The Woman Who Lived in a Shoe"

- 3.00 pm Saturday 11th

18 Sat 3.00 pm Sunday 12th

7.30 pm Thursday 16th

7.30 pm Friday 17th

3.00 pm Saturday 18th

7.30 pm Saturday 18th

12 SUN THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST

Isaiah 43.1-7, Acts 8.14-17, Luke 3.15-17,21-22

19 SUN 2nd SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY

Isaiah 62.1-5, 1 Corinthians 12.1-11, John 2.1-11

26 SUN 3rd SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY

Nehemiah 8.1-3,5-6,8-10, 1 Corinthians 12.12-31a, Luke 4.14-21

OTHER DIARY DATES

Sunday 2nd February

The Presentation of Christ in the Temple
(Candlemas)

Wednesday 5th March

Ash Wednesday

Sunday 30th March

Mothering Sunday

Sunday 13th April

Palm Sunday

Thursday 17th April

Maundy Thursday

Friday 18th April

Good Friday

Sunday 20th April

EASTER DAY



**BRING - AND - BUY
SALE**

**1st SUNDAY OF
EACH MONTH**

11.15am IN THE HALL

Part of our Eco Church Project

SUNDAY SCHOOL



at St Edmund's Church

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

St. EDMUND'S WOMEN'S GUILD

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 11th February,
for the Guild's Annual General Meeting,
followed by refreshments. All are welcome.

St. EDMUND'S YOUTH GROUP

will next meet on Wednesday 22nd January 2025
7-9 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

A BIG THANK YOU!

I would like to express my thanks, both to those who regularly contribute articles to this magazine, notably Fr. Michael and Sarah Parnaby, and Mike Godden, who also prepares the magazine for publication, and to those 'behind the scenes' who ensure that the magazine is printed, distributed, and posted to those who wish to keep in touch - Terry Diggins and Steve Castle.

I also wish to thank all of our Readers - without you the magazine (which in some ways is a historical record of the life of our church) would not exist!

I would always be happy to hear from any of you if you'd like to submit any article for the magazine.

I wish everyone a healthy and Happy New Year!
Jenny Jones, Honorary Editor

Happy New Year to you all!

At the time of writing, I'm still in Advent, but looking forward expectantly to the Nine Lessons and Carols and the other Christmas services. Well, Christmas won't be over yet, by the time you read this!

The Christmas Bazaar on Saturday 30th November was a delightful occasion, with some beautiful stalls, delicious fare for lunch (and on the cake stall!) - and wonderful carols played by a section of the Harrow Concert Band. Father Christmas was there of course in his Grotto, and it was great to see Carol Yates there in her time-honoured role as Mrs. Christmas. We had lots of visitors, and raised nearly £2,500. Well done, everybody!

The following day, the First Sunday of Advent, was our All-Age Service, with its theme of "Waiting for the Coming of Jesus". In his sermon, Fr. Michael produced first a daunting Christmas 'to do' list, with the like of which we are all regrettably familiar! However, he then pointed out that in Advent we should be waiting for Jesus Himself, who will come again! We need to stay awake and get ready for Him, looking for signs of His coming. As Jesus says in the Gospel for this day, it's like noticing that after the winter, a fig tree will start sprouting leaves again, showing summer is on its way. He illustrated this with a branch on which he pinned leaves. Each leaf represented one of the bad things that He prophesied would come (like war, famine, earthquakes etc., as are happening now) before His arrival in glory to bring the Kingdom of Heaven to earth. The question is, then: why hasn't Jesus come yet? Fr. Michael showed us a long timeline, revealing how very short a period it is since Jesus was on earth, if you compare it with the history of our planet; yet He could arrive at any time, so we need to be ready! And how to be ready? To demonstrate this, Fr. Michael produced a much shorter and more manageable Advent 'to do' list:

- Live good lives
- Spread the Good News of Jesus - not just in Advent, but always.

For the intercessions we made a pathway of candles up the aisle to represent 'preparing a Way for the Lord'. There was a stimulating mixture of traditional music and more modern seasonal worship-songs such as 'Come Lord Jesus', 'Prepare the Way of the Lord' and 'How lovely on the Mountains'. It was a fine way to start Advent - and it was also so lovely to have Baby Valentina present among us!

It was deeply sad to hear of the death of Cliff Forsyth, Margaret's husband, after struggling with his health for a long time. His funeral was on 10th December - a moving occasion. Cliff was clearly a remarkable and lovely person: devoted to his family, a wizard at DIY, a most effective teacher of the young, and an enthusiast for music, especially jazz. He was also a great traveller, both for work and pleasure. I wish I'd known him better. We hold Margaret and the family in our thoughts and prayers, especially at this poignant time of the year, and pray that Cliff will rest in peace and rise in Glory.

The Women's Guild Carols were held on Thursday 12th December in the Church. Peter Heath presented the occasion with his usual affability and humour, and skilfully accompanied the carols on the piano, to which we sang heartily (a bit croakily in my case!). He also read two poems, the first of which, a touching ode to the true meaning of Christmas, was by a former member of our congregation, Josephine Raison (currently on our prayer-list). The second, which I reproduce below, a sign of our times! I hope you enjoy it. I believe Political Correctness certainly has its value, but it can perhaps sometimes get out of hand!

[A POLITICALLY CORRECT CHRISTMAS POEM BY HARVEY EHRLICH](#)

'Twas the night before Christmas and Santa's a wreck ...

How to live in a world that's politically correct?

His workers no longer would answer to "Elves",

"Vertically Challenged" they were calling themselves.

And labour conditions at the north pole

Were alleged by the union to stifle the soul.

Four reindeer had vanished, without much propriety,

Released to the wilds by the Humane Society.

And equal employment had made it quite clear

That Santa had better not use just reindeer.

So Dancer and Donner, Comet and Cupid,

Were replaced with 4 pigs, and you know that looked stupid!

The runners had been removed from his sleigh;

The ruts were termed dangerous by the E.P.A.

And people had started to call for the cops

When they heard sled noises on their roof-tops.

Second-hand smoke from his pipe had his workers quite frightened.

His fur trimmed red suit was called "Unenlightened."

And to show you the strangeness of life's ebbs and flows,

Rudolf was suing over unauthorised use of his nose

And had gone on Geraldo, in front of the nation,

Demanding millions in over-due compensation.

So, half of the reindeer were gone; and his wife,

Who suddenly said she'd enough of this life,

Joined a self-help group, packed, and left in a whiz,

Demanding from now on her title was Ms.

And as for the gifts, why, he'd ne'er had a notion

That making a choice could cause so much commotion.

Nothing of leather, nothing of fur,

Which meant nothing for him. And nothing for her.

Nothing that might be construed to pollute.

Nothing to aim. Nothing to shoot.

Nothing that clamoured or made lots of noise.
Nothing for just girls. Or just for the boys.
Nothing that claimed to be gender specific.
Nothing that's warlike or non-pacific.

No candy or sweets...they were bad for the tooth.
Nothing that seemed to embellish a truth.
And fairy tales, while not yet forbidden,
Were like Ken and Barbie, better off hidden.

For they raised the hackles of those psychological
Who claimed the only good gift was one ecological.
No baseball, no football...someone could get hurt;
Besides, playing sports exposed kids to dirt.

Dolls were said to be sexist, and should be passé;
And Nintendo would rot your entire brain away.
So Santa just stood there, dishevelled, perplexed;
He just could not figure out what to do next.

He tried to be merry, tried to be gay,
But you've got to be careful with that word today.
His sack was quite empty, limp to the ground;
Nothing fully acceptable was to be found.

Something special was needed, a gift that he might
Give to all without angering the left or the right.
A gift that would satisfy, with no indecision,
Each group of people, every religion;

Every ethnicity, every hue,
Everyone, everywhere...even you.
So here is that gift, it's price beyond worth...

“May you and your loved ones enjoy peace on earth.”

© Harvey Ehrlich, 1992.

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(mduhan@husc.harvard.edu).*

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as long as this notice remains intact.*

I think the last line is an excellent sentiment for the New Year.

And thanks also to Connie, Hilda, Marjorie and team for the sublime Women's Guild Christmas tea that followed our carolling, and rounded off an enjoyable afternoon.

This month, we look forward to Epiphany, celebrated with an All-Age service on Sunday 5th January, and St. Edmund's Pantomime, "The Woman Who Lived in a Shoe" on 11th, 12th, 16th, 17th and 18th January - not to be missed!

I do hope you all have a peaceful, healthy and satisfying 2025.

TEN THINGS GOD WON'T ASK YOU

God won't ask what kind of car you drove;
He'll ask how many people you drove who didn't have transport.

God won't ask the size of your house;
He'll ask how many people you welcomed into your home.

God won't ask about the clothes you had in your wardrobe;
He'll ask how many people you helped to clothe.

God won't ask which diet you were on;
He'll ask how many hungry people you helped to feed.

God won't ask what your highest salary was;
He'll ask if you compromised your character to obtain it.

God won't ask what your job was;
He'll ask if you performed your job to the best of your ability.

God won't ask how many friends you had;
He'll ask how many people to whom you were a friend.

God won't ask in what neighbourhood you lived;
He'll ask how you treated your neighbours.

God won't ask about the colour of your skin;
He'll ask about your character.

God won't ask why it took you so long to seek Him;
He'll lovingly take you into His Kingdom,
not leave you at the gates of Hell.



RAISE THE ROOF UPDATE



A huge thank you to everyone who supported the Christmas Bazaar back in November which raised considerable additional funds towards our new Hall and Lady Chapel roof. Your generosity, both financially and in terms of time and creative talents, is truly appreciated.

Thank you also to everyone who provided a tree, brought gifts and helped to run the Christmas Tree Festival which was enjoyed by Harrow Concert Band's sizeable Christmas Concert audience, by members of Harrow ConneX (formerly Harrow Mencap) and members of the public.

As we continue our fundraising journey our PCC Fundraising Sub-Committee would warmly welcome new fundraising event ideas ... a Spring Film Evening with fish and chip supper is on the cards – if you would like a particular film to be shown please have a word with Fr. Michael, Carol Diggins, Clare Moses or me.

If you would like 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:
 - account name: PCC of St. Edmund The King, Northwood Hills
 - sort code: 40-52-40
 - account number: 00017222
- 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.

Finally, please continue to keep the project in your prayers as we seek to keep St. Edmund's Hall and Lady Chapel available for all in our Parish.

With my best wishes,

Steve Castle



ARROW PLAYERS
present

The St Edmund's Pantomime

The Woman Who Lived in a Shoe

By Mike Warrick



NODA
For every stage

January 2025

Sat 11th at 3.00 pm

Sun 12th at 3.00 pm (relaxed performance*)

Thur 16th & Fri 17th at 7.30 pm

Sat 18th at 3.00 pm & 7.30 pm

*for those would be prefer a more relaxed environment
please visit our website for more information.

Tickets £12 (£10 child)

www.arrowplayers.org.uk/tickets



**St Edmund's Hall, Pinner Road,
Northwood Hills, HA6 1QS**

HYMN OF THE MONTH

Mike Godden

The Baptism of Christ is celebrated in the Church of England as a Festival (rather than as a Principal Feast, and is usually observed on the 1st Sunday following The Epiphany. The Festival is generally regarded as marking the start of Christ's public ministry; by His baptism He sanctified water, and gave to it the power of purifying and sanctifying the soul of man, and in doing so, He instituted the Sacrament of Baptism by which, under the outward sign of water, we receive remission of our sins.

When Jesus came to Jordan
To be baptised by John,
He did not come for pardon.
But as His Father's Son.
He came to share repentance
With all who mourn their sins,
To speak the vital sentence
With which good news begins.

He came to share temptation,
Our utmost woe and loss,
For us and our salvation
To die upon the cross.
So when the Dove descended
On him, the Son of Man,
The hidden years had ended,
The age of grace began.

Come, Holy Spirit, aid us
To keep the vows we make,
This very day invade us,
And every bondage break.
Come, give our lives direction,
The gift we covet most:
To share the resurrection
That leads to Pentecost.

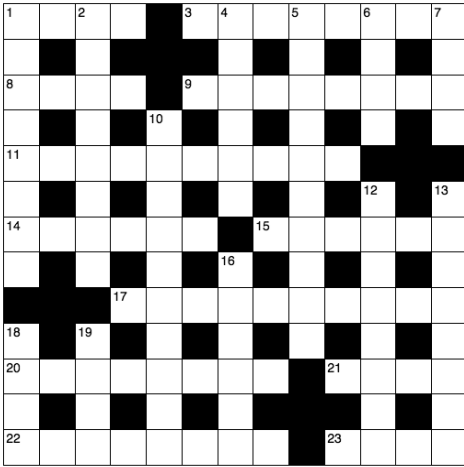
The text of the hymn as written in 1973 by Rev. Fred Pratt Green (1903-2000), a leading contributor to the contemporary school of British hymn writers in the British Isles. He was born in Liverpool and ordained into the Methodist ministry in 1928. He served in a number of places, including York, Norwich and Brighton, but did most of his prolific writings of hymns and poetry after his retirement in 1969.

The tune usually used for the hymn is "Offertorium", which is adapted from the offertorium of a choral Mass by Austrian composer Johann Michael Haydn, younger brother of Josef Haydn



When Je-sus came to Jor-dan to be baptised by John

JANUARY CROSSWORD



ACROSS

1. 'Again Peter denied it, and at that moment a — began to crow' (*John 18.27*) (4)
3. Fetters (*Job 33.11*) (8)
8. Perform on a musical instrument (*1 Samuel 16.23*) (4)
9. Paul describes it as 'the third heaven' (*2 Corinthians 12.2-4*) (8)
11. Loyally (*Deuteronomy 11.13*) (10)
14. Hens? Me? (anag.) (6)
15. Not visible (*Matthew 6.6*) (6)
17. Predicted site of the final great battle (*Revelation 16.16*) (10)
20. Jacob's youngest son (*Genesis 35.18*) (8)
21. One of Zophar's eleven sons (*1 Chronicles 7.36*) (4)
22. For example, London, Paris, Rome (8)
23. United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel (1,1,1,1)

DOWN

1. Favourite church activity: Fellowship round a — — — (3,2,3)
2. Divinely bestowed powers or talents (8)
4. Pile together (*1 Thessalonians 2.16*) (4,2)
5. Commanded to justify (*John 8.13*) (10)
6. Timothy's grandmother (*2 Timothy 1.5*) (4)
7. Killed (*Psalms 78.34*) (4)
10. One of Graham Kendrick's best-known songs, — — King (3,7)
12. Indecency (*Mark 7.22*) (8)
13. Unceasing (*Jeremiah 15.18*) (8)
16. He prophesied 'the abomination that causes desolation' (*Matthew 24.15*) (6)
18. British Board of Film Classification (1,1,1,1)
19. Pans (anag.) (4)

December 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.*

