

THE

KING

MARCH 2025



“in the wilderness he was tempted by the devil for forty days”

Luke 4:1-2

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

THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. EDMUND THE KING

NORTHWOOD HILLS

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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.

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MAGAZINE

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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”.



APRIL MAGAZINE

*All contributions for
the April Magazine
to be with Jenny Jones by*

Friday 21st March

020 8866 7173

jonesjennye@googlemail.com

*The April Magazine
will be available
from Sunday 30th March*

FR. MICHAEL'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

Easter this year is in late April, which means that Lent doesn't start until the beginning of March, so we have a little more time to prepare ourselves for the penitential season.

The 40 days of Lent echo the 40 days Jesus spent in the wilderness resisting the temptations of Satan before he began his ministry and immediately after his baptism in the River Jordan. Jesus' time in the wilderness show us that being tempted is something very human but with God's help we can resist those temptations which come into our lives.

Giving something up for Lent is a tradition adopted by many people, and even those who don't go to church have been known to refrain from chocolate or sugar or alcohol during the 40 days of Lent. Giving something up can be a good thing and can improve our health and well-being, but the reason for doing so should be to get closer to God. If we are doing it for reasons other than that why do we wait for Lent? As well as giving something up, Lent is an opportunity to add a Lenten spiritual discipline, such as reading a daily devotional or praying through a Lenten calendar, to draw ourselves nearer to God. To help with that the Church of England website offers a number of opportunities.

The theme this year is Living Hope - a booklet of daily reflections can be purchased from the Church House Bookshop website for £2.50 <https://www.chpublishing.co.uk/features/lent-resources>. Alternatively, you can sign up to receive the reflections by e-mail at [Living Hope - Lent reflections | The Church of England](#).

This year's Lent course at St. Edmund's is based on the musical "Les Misérables" and is entitled "Another Story Must Begin". We will meet on Thursday evenings from 13th March onwards. The course using the themes and characters of the film explores the Grace of God alongside our fallen state and opportunities for redemption.

Many people simply read through the Gospels during Lent or come to an extra Eucharist during the week. This year the weekly Friday Eucharist will feature an extra devotion based on the Stations of The Cross, and will be followed by a soup and roll lunch.

I do hope we can all find something to enrich our spiritual lives during Lent and grow into a more prayerful and loving community.

With love and prayers

Fr. Michael

CALENDAR AND PRINCIPAL SERVICE READINGS MARCH 2025

Principal Service - Sung Eucharist at 10.00 am every Sunday

2 SUN SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE LENT

Exodus 34.29-end, 2 Corinthians 3.12-4.2, Luke 9.28-36

5 WED ASH WEDNESDAY

Joel 2.1-2,12-17, 2 Corinthians 5.20b-6.10, John 8.1-11

9 SUN 1st SUNDAY OF LENT

Deuteronomy 26.1-11, Romans 10.8b-13, Luke 4.1-13

11 Tues 2.30 pm Women's Guild

13 Thur 7.45 pm Lent Course

16 SUN 2nd SUNDAY OF LENT

Genesis 15.1-12,17-18, Philippians 3.17-4.1, Luke 13.31-end

20 Thur 7.45 pm Lent Course

23 SUN 3rd SUNDAY OF LENT

Isaiah 55.1-9, 1 Corinthians 10.1-13, Luke 13.1-9

27 Thur 7.45 pm Lent Course

30 SUN 4th SUNDAY OF LENT; Mothering Sunday

Colossians 3.12-17, John 19.25b-27

OTHER DIARY DATES

| | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| Sunday 6 th April | Annual Parochial Church Meeting |
| Sunday 13 th April | Palm Sunday |
| Thursday 17 th April | Maundy Thursday |
| Friday 18 th April | Good Friday |
| Sunday 20 th April | EASTER DAY |
| 8 th , 9 th , 10 th May | Arrow Players play |
| Saturday 17 th May | Plant Sale |
| Thursday 29 th May | Ascension 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
at 2.30 pm on Tuesday 11th March,
for a talk by Colin Richards -
"Women in Art"
followed by refreshments.
All are welcome.

St. EDMUND'S YOUTH GROUP

meets usually every 2 weeks
on Wednesdays during term time;
7.30 - 9 pm, in the Hall. Open to all aged 10-16.
Contact Steve Castle on 020 8868 0482 for information.
See www.saintedmundschurch.org.uk/youthgroup
for details and dates



ASH WEDNESDAY

The beginning of Lent

Wednesday 5th March 2025

Eucharist at 10.00 am

Sung Eucharist at 8.00 pm

Imposition of Ashes will be offered at both Eucharists

LENT GIVING 2025

As usual, this year's Lent Giving will be divided equally between a charity providing services to people in our country and an overseas charity.

PAPYRUS UK is a national charity for the prevention of suicide and the promotion of positive mental health and emotional well-being in young people.

<https://www.papyrus-uk.org/>

THE ANGOLA LONDON MOZAMBIQUE ASSOCIATION (ALMA)

Since 1998 the Diocese of London has been linked with the Anglican churches in two African countries: Angola and Mozambique.

The essence of ALMA (Angola London Mozambique Association) is relationships, and links between individual parishes, schools or other organisations are an important part of ALMA's work. There are over 50 links at the moment. Currently there are 43 London parishes twinned with parishes in Angola or Mozambique

<https://www.london.anglican.org/about-us/the-diocese-of-london/alma/>

Envelopes for your Giving are available

at the back of the Church, to be placed in the Offertory Dishes.

Or you can send a cheque, made payable to PCC of St. Edmund The King, to St. Edmund's Lent Appeal, 2 Pinner Road, Northwood, HA6 1QS.

Or you can make a bank transfer (details as in "Raise the Roof Update" - p.9)

LENT COURSE

This year's Lent course is called "Another Story Must Begin"
It is based on based on the film, the novel and the stage adaptation
of Victor Hugo's "Les Misérables".

Using clips from the film we will explore the grace of God
and our own fallen state and opportunity for redemption,
and helps us to reassess what we can do
with our lives and for those around us.

The book "Another Story Must Begin" by Jonathan Meyer
accompanying the course can be obtained
from Amazon for £5.99.

Father Michael has a limited number
of copies which can be purchased for the same price
on a first come first served basis.

There is also a Kindle version, at £4.79.

The course will begin on Thursday 13th March
at 7.45 pm in the Small Hall,
and will continue for the following 4 weeks.

ST. EDMUND THE KING

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

will be held at approx. 11.30 am,
following the 10 am Sung Eucharist
on Sunday 6th April, in the Hall

Elections of Churchwardens and PCC members
Financial Report
Reports from Church Organisations

RAISE THE ROOF UPDATE



The Buildings and Fundraising team met in February and is planning the following events in aid of Raise the Roof – please add them to your diary:

Sundays in Spring – the Bonus Ball Game returns!

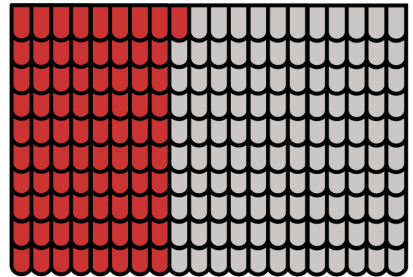
On Saturday 17th May we will hold our annual Plant Sale.

We will hold a Film Evening (including Fish and Chip supper) on the evening of Saturday 7th June.

The Summer Fair will be held on Saturday 21st June. We will have a Quiz Evening on Saturday 18th October and our Christmas Bazaar will be held on Saturday 29th November.

More details will be shared as we get closer to each event – thank you in advance for your support as we continue to raise money for the deteriorating Lady Chapel and Hall roof.

The Buildings and Fundraising Team will also be working hard to identify and prepare grant applications as, alongside our request for personal donations, we seek to increase funds from external sources. The more we can raise ourselves, the more likely these external bids for grants will be successful. Every penny counts.



£81,000 raised **£119,000 to raise**

Personal Donations: An Appeal

If you feel able to make a personal donation towards the Hall and Lady Chapel roof replacement it would be greatly appreciated. Donations may be made in several ways:

- by bank transfer to our account with CAF Bank (preferred method):
 - 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, my thanks for your continued support and prayers for our project to keep our Lady Chapel and Hall a safe, dry and welcoming place for all to enjoy.

With my best wishes, Steve Castle

Springtime greetings to you all. At time of writing, it's very chilly - but 'the flowers appear on the earth' as it says in the Song of Songs. Nature is beautiful, and resilient - but we need to help, not hinder it, as is reflected in our Diocesan Lent theme.

I've been attending Arrow Players' play reading sessions on Friday evenings, which have been great fun, with a wide range of ages present. We had some hilarious audio-plays to read, written by Mike Warrick, followed by the reading of his new play, which will be performed here in May. It has been very nice to enjoy the relaxed atmosphere of these meetings, not to mention the tea and cake!

Having been away for Sunday 26th January, I was keen to catch the sermon of Fr. Stuart Nattrass from Pinner, as his sharp insights are always worth hearing. As impressive as ever, he first demonstrated the connection between the Nehemiah reading and the Gospel. He said they were both about new beginnings, the former after the Jews' return from exile, and the latter featuring Jesus' claim to be the one predicted by Isaiah, to bring good news to the poor, release to prisoners and sight to the blind ... in other words, the Messiah. That proclamation signalled an even bigger fresh start, needing a new organisation: the Church. We were reminded how Paul, a former enemy of the Church, became one of its chief founders, and how in his analogy of the human body, he creates a model for the church, which needs to respect and care for all its members in order to function well. This model is particularly important, Fr. Nattrass stated, in our present times, when wars and some very un-Christian ideologies endanger our world. An important message. Do catch up on YouTube if you weren't there.

The following Sunday, 2nd February, was Candlemas - an All-Age Service. It was a celebration of light and joy. Natural light comes from fire, which can do many things. In the first reading the imagery of God coming like a 'refiner's fire' was a powerful one: a way in which we can be purified like precious metal from the things which spoil our shine.

Our Gospel story of Jesus being taken to the Temple as a baby is also a powerful one. It is joyful as Simeon and Anna recognise Him as the Light to the nations; yet, at the heart of the tale is the imagery of sacrifice (the two turtle-doves) and Simeon's prophecy to Mary that 'a sword will pierce your heart also'. The processional hymn had spoken of 'when Christmas meets Easter' - but suffering lies between the two.

In his homily, Fr. Michael illustrated how things don't always lessen in amount when you share them. He gave Anthony some sweets to share, getting him to agree that he'd ended up with fewer sweets than when he'd started. However, when Fr. Michael lit a candle and the light was passed round the church, it naturally became a much brighter and more extensive glow than it had been to start with. We were encouraged to share God's light and love among our fellow human beings, where it would grow.

In the Intercessions we experienced 'bittersweet prayer': we were given sweets which were either sweet or sour (you had to taste them first), the former being for prayers of thanksgiving and the latter for sad things we could pray about. These were followed by the blessing of the candles, for use both in church and at home.

After Communion the Choir sang Stanford's moving B \flat setting of Simeon's song, the Nunc Dimittis. It was indeed a lovely and meaningful service: thanks to all who prepared and took part in it.

On Tuesday 11th February, The Women's Guild held their AGM - a surprisingly good turnout in this weather. Marjorie Pimm writes:

'Connie and Hilda thankfully agreed to continue their respective offices and Mary Sewell was thanked for acting as Cashier. An interesting programme of talks and music is underway for the coming year - final details to be confirmed shortly. The next Guild meeting will be on Tuesday 11th March at 2.30 pm, when Colin Richards will talk on "Women in Art".

The meeting ended in a huge vote of thanks to Connie and Hilda for organising the Guild meetings. Following the meeting, we adjourned to the Susan Old Lounge, which had been tastefully arranged for a celebration tea to mark Hilda's 90th birthday, complete with a colourful balloon and a birthday cake sporting a large candle which when lit sent stars and sparks shooting up in the air. This caused much excitement (and possible angst for Fr. Michael), but by the time everyone had searched their bags for cameras, and the birthday girl put in position to blow it out, the flames had extinguished. However, by some divine intervention, another one was produced, so the day was saved. Of course, as is customary at these gatherings, the table was groaning with delicious sandwiches and cakes, with special thanks to Connie and Mary for their culinary skills.'

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, 5th March, with services at 10am (said) and 8pm (sung), both of which will include the Imposition of Ashes on our foreheads as a sign of our penitence.

As many have said before me, although Lent is a period of reflection, it need not be a miserable time when all forms of enjoyment are banned! If that enjoyment includes listening to inspiring music in your case, look out for the two concerts at St. Edmund's in March, the Trinity Orchestra on Saturday 8th and Harrow Symphony Orchestra on Saturday 29th, both at 7.30 pm.

Sunday 30th March is Mothering Sunday - a break from Lenten exercises and a joyful occasion, with families, flowers and thoughts of Spring. We remember the role of the Church as our mother; we give thanks for our own mothers and those who have been 'mothers' to us in any way, and we keep in our hearts those who have been deprived of motherhood, or of the mothering they needed. Whatever our gender, we can all be 'mothers' to others in different ways, I think - even at a distance by the charities or other organisations we support.

I wish you all a peaceful and satisfying Lent season.

HYMN OF THE MONTH

Mike Godden

This month's hymn was originally designed for use as a hymn for Morning, but it also seems to be rather appropriate as an expression of Lenten spiritual discipline (see Fr. Michael's Letter). It was written in 1695 by Bishop Thomas Ken, who was Bishop of Bath and Wells from 1685 to 1691.

Awake, my soul, and with the sun
Thy daily stage of duty run;
Shake off dull sloth, and joyful rise
To pay thy morning sacrifice.

Redeem thy mis-spent time that's past,
And live this day as if thy last;
Improve thy talent with due care;
For the great day thyself prepare.

Let all thy converse be sincere,
Thy conscience as the noon-day clear;
Think how all-seeing God thy ways
and all thy secret thoughts surveys.

Wake, and lift up thyself, my heart,
And with the angels bear thy part,
Who all night long unwearied sing,
High praise to the eternal King.

Glory to thee, who safe hast kept
And hast refreshed me whilst I slept;
Grant, Lord, when I from death shall wake,
I may of endless light partake.

Lord, I my vows to thee renew;
Disperse my sins as morning dew;
Guard my first springs of thought and will,
And with thyself my spirit fill.

Direct, control, suggest, this day,
All I design or do or say;
That all my powers, with all their might,
In thy sole glory may unite.

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,
Praise him, all creatures here below,
Praise him above, angelic host,
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Thomas Ken was born in 1637 at Berkhamsted in Hertfordshire. He was educated at Winchester College and New College, Oxford, and ordained in the Church of England in 1662. He was a man of conscience and independent mind who did not shirk from confrontations with royalty - he had confrontations with Charles II, and with James II, who had him imprisoned for a short time in the Tower of London. Later he refused to swear allegiance to King William III, and was dismissed from his bishopric at Bath and Wells. Queen Anne subsequently invited him back, but he chose to spend the rest of his life at Longleat, the home of an Oxford colleague, Lord Weymouth, where he died in 1711.

Ken wrote many hymns, which were published posthumously in 1721, and republished in 1868 as *"Bishop Ken's Christian Year, or Hymns and Poems for the Holy Days and Festivals of the Church"*.

Bishop Ken Road in Harrow Weald is named after him, but I haven't been able to find any connection with him, except that much of the land in Harrow Weald was owned by New College during Ken's lifetime.

The tune usually used for the hymn is "Morning Hymn", composed by François Barthélemon (born Bordeaux, France, 1741; died Southwark, 1808). Born of a French father and Irish mother, Barthélemon had a brief military career in the Irish Brigade,

after which he studied music on the continent. He moved to London in 1765, where he began a musical career as a composer, especially for opera and ballet, and as an outstanding violinist. During the early 1780s he wrote “Morning Hymn” specifically for the hymn at the request of Jacob Duche, chaplain at the Asylum for Female Orphan Asylum in London. A close friend of Joseph Haydn, Barthélemon composed theatre music, some concertos, choral and chamber works, and a small amount of church music, some of it for use in the chapel of the Asylum for Female Orphans.



A__ wake, my soul, and__ with the sun your dai-ly stage__ of__ du-ty run



30th MARCH - MOTHERING SUNDAY

“Mothering Sunday” or “Mother’s Day”? It depends which country you’re in. Mothering Sunday is a Christian celebration, observed on the 4th Sunday of Lent. Mother’s Day is a secular, family celebration, established first in America in the early 20th century, and observed in many countries around the world, on many different days. In Britain we have, by custom and practice, adopted a merging of the 2 celebrations into one, observed on Mothering Sunday.

Mothering Sunday is generally thought of as having its origins in taking a day of rest during Lent. In the middle of observing various disciplines during the season of Lent, workers were given a day off, a day of ‘refreshment’ as it was sometimes known. And alongside having a rest, it became traditional that all people had the opportunity to return home to their family, and to their ‘mother’ Church, to return to what was symbolically at least the source of their faith, to worship and to give thanks. It was a day to remember that all people, regardless of their work or family situation, were children of God, made in his image and loved by their creator.

As the Book of Common Prayer epistle for the day (from Galatians 4) has it, they were children also of promise, born through faith in Jesus into a living hope. The epistle also speaks of slavery and freedom; the slavery of the Law and the Old covenant, compared with the freedom in Christ, “the promised one”, and the New Covenant. Verse 26 reads “But Jerusalem is free, and is the mother of us all.”

Thus Mothering Sunday is about the freedom that we gain through the promise of Jesus Christ delivered through our Mother the Church.

So, for those workers who were given the day off, it was a feast that interrupted normal procedure, that disrupted the normal patterns and structures of life to proclaim to all people that they belonged to God.



SPRING CONCERT

Handel - "Solomon"
 includes "The Arrival of the Queen of Sheba"

Saturday 22nd March at 7.30 pm
 at Ickenham United Reformed Church,
 Swakeleys Road, Ickenham, UB10 8BE

Conductor - Robert Jones
 with
 Orchestra and Soloists

Tickets £15 - on the door - Cash only - (under 12s free)

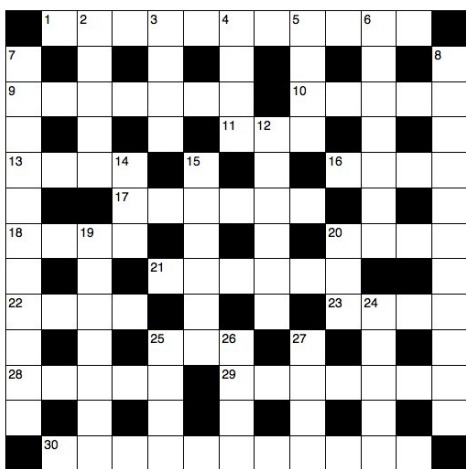
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www.eastcote-ruislip-choral.org



February Crossword Solution

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MARCH CROSSWORD



ACROSS

1. These letters come between Romans and Galatians (11)
9. 'You will not — me to the grave' (*Psalms 16.10*) (7)
10. King of Moab to whom the Israelites were subject for 18 years (*Judges 3.14*) (5)
11. Town possessing mineral spring (3)
13. Mede (anag.) (4)
16. High-fidelity (abbrev.) (4)
17. He succeeded his father Rehoboam as king of Judah (*1 Kings 14.31*) (6)
18. A son of Simeon (*Genesis 46.10*) (4)
20. Controversial religious book of the 1970s, The — of God Incarnate (4)
21. 'He has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you — — and hear' (*Acts 2.33*) (3,3)
22. 'You — me together in my mother's womb' (*Psalms 139.13*) (4)
23. Edit (anag.) (4)
25. 'Who has believed our message and to whom has the — of the Lord been revealed?' (*Isaiah 53.1*) (3)
28. Abraham's brother (*Genesis 22.23*) (5)

29. 'When Mordecai learned of — that had been — , he tore his clothes' (*Esther 4.1*) (3,4)
30. Sympathetic (*Proverbs 11.16*) (4-7)

DOWN

2. 'That was why his parents said, "He is — —; ask him"' (*John 9.23*) (2,3)
3. Integrated Services Digital Network (1,1,1,1)
4. 'Saul has slain his thousands, and David his — of thousands' (*1 Samuel 18.7*) (4)
5. Concept (*John 8.14*) (4)
6. 'Do we, then, — the law by this faith? Not at all! Rather, we uphold the law' (*Romans 3.31*) (7)
7. Industrious (*2 Timothy 2.6*) (11)
8. 'I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be — in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you' (*Ephesians 1.18*) (11)
12. 'Out of the same mouth come — and cursing' (*James 3.10*) (6)
14. This was how many of the Jewish leaders described Jesus (*John 10.20*) (3)
15. Vitality (*Job 20.11*) (6)
19. He urged David to kill Saul at Hakilah (*1 Samuel 26.8*) (7)
20. 'So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul — with the church and taught great numbers of people' (*Acts 11.26*) (3)
24. 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord — — ' (*Deuteronomy 6.4*) (2,3)
25. Parched (*Matthew 12.43*) (4)
26. 'In the image of God he created him; — and female he created them' (*Genesis 1.27*) (4)
27. Disparagement (*Psalms 15.3*) (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.*

