

THE

KING

SEPTEMBER 2024



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.

OFFICERS

Churchwardens Mr. Steve Castle 3a Willows Close, Pinner HA5 3SY (020) 8868 0482
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Hon. Secretary Mrs. Amanda Roberts *e-mail secretary@stedmundtheking.org.uk*
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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

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FACEBOOK

 St. Edmund's Church, Northwood Hills

HOW TO RECEIVE THE MAGAZINE

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

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

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".



OCTOBER MAGAZINE

All contributions for the October Magazine to be with Jenny Jones by Friday 20th September
020 8866 7173
jonesjennye@googlemail.com

The October Magazine will be available from Sunday 29th September



**BRING - AND - BUY
SALE**

**1st SUNDAY OF
EACH MONTH**

11.15am IN THE HALL

Part of our Eco Church Project

FR. MICHAEL'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

First of all, can I record my thanks for all the cards, good wishes and assurances of prayers you have sent to me following the death of my mother. It has been a great comfort to me and is very much appreciated. Being surrounded by such kind and prayerful people is such a great blessing and makes me so thankful to God that I am part of this community.

I write this letter having just returned from Uxbridge Civic centre where I accepted an invitation from the Mayor of Hillingdon to attend a Citizenship Ceremony. It was quite a moving experience to witness such a varied group of people swear allegiance to King Charles III and also swear to uphold the principles and laws of the United Kingdom and become British Citizens.

We have recently witnessed some terrible scenes of violence on our streets following the dreadful killing of three young girls in Southport who were enjoying a holiday dance club. The riots that followed were appalling and based on false information placed on social media. I am sure that we are all shocked that some of those being prosecuted are children and teenagers; some being as young as 11 years old. Regardless of whether the information was false or not there is no excuse for the behaviour of those rioting and attacking people in the streets simply because they are different. The targeting of immigrants is unacceptable. Scapegoating people and blaming them for our own troubles is not the answer. As Christians, we know that the pioneer of our faith Jesus was the victim of scapegoating.

Following the riots which were carried out by a small minority of the population we saw some wonderful acts of kindness and community spirit as well as some peaceful demonstrations against those who had rioted. The vast majority of those who come to our country make a very positive contribution to our Society and my visit to the Citizenship Ceremony was evidence of that. People have different views on the current situation of immigration, and everyone has the right to hold their own views, but it is important that we base our views on facts, and we are prepared to listen to others without resorting to violence which quite frankly achieves nothing.

Please keep the current situation in your prayers and let's hope that all people can go about their affairs without fear of being attacked.

With Love and Prayers

Fr. Michael

CALENDAR AND PRINCIPAL SERVICE READINGS SEPTEMBER 2024

Principal Service - Sung Eucharist at 10.00 am every Sunday

1 SUN 14th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Deuteronomy 4.1-2,6-9, James 1.17-end, Mark 7.1-8, 14, 15, 21-23
11.15 am Bring and Buy Sale

8 SUN 15th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Isaiah 35.4-7a, James 2.1-10,14-17, Mark 7.24-end

10 Tues 2.30 pm Women's Guild

14 Sat Holy Cross Day

Pilgrimage to Bury St. Edmund's

15 SUN 16th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Isaiah 50.4-9a, James 3.1-12, Mark 8.27-end

21 Sat St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist

5.00 pm St. Edmund's 60th anniversary Quiz Supper

22 SUN 17th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Wisdom 1.16-2.1,12-22, James 3.13-4.3,7-8a, Mark 9.30-37

29 SUN 18th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Numbers 11.4-6,10-16,24-29, James 5.13-end, Mark 9.38-end

30 Mon St. Michael and All Angels (*transferred from 29th September*)

OTHER DIARY DATES

Sunday 6th October 11.00 am Harvest Thanksgiving
followed by Harvest Lunch

Saturday 12th October 6.30 pm Harrow Deanery Choirs' Festival,
at St. Edmund's

Sunday 10th November Remembrance Sunday

Sunday 18th November 3.00 pm St. Edmund's Patronal Festival
followed by Afternoon Tea

Saturday 30th November 11.30 am Christmas Bazaar

WALSINGHAM PILGRIMAGE

This year's pilgrimage to Walsingham will take place from 25th-27th October and will be again held jointly with our friends from St. Anselm's, Hatch End.

Forms are at the back of church -
please return them to Fr. Michael or Steve Castle.

SUNDAY SCHOOL



at St Edmund's Church

For more information
call Carol 07827 159 586

St. EDMUND'S YOUTH GROUP

meets usually every 2 weeks
on Wednesdays during term time;
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

St. EDMUND'S WOMEN'S GUILD

The next meeting will be on
Tuesday 10th September, at 2.30 pm
Frederica will surprise us
Followed by refreshments. All are welcome.



HARVEST 2024 AT ST. EDMUND'S

HARVEST THANKSGIVING SERVICE

11.00 am Sunday 6th October

Followed by Harvest Lunch in the Hall

RAISE THE ROOF UPDATE



I am writing this article at the end of August and, having had lots of successful fundraising events earlier this year, it is very good to be able to take a breather and (at last) enjoy a bit of summer sun in this country!

As you can see below, our total raised remains at £74,000. The Buildings and Fundraising Team will be meeting again very shortly to plan events for the remainder of this year and prepare grant applications.

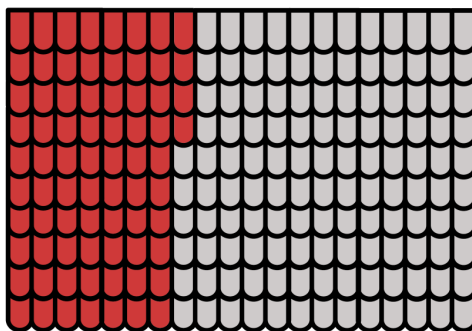
The Christmas Bazaar on Saturday 30th November (the profits from which will go to Raise the Roof) is a firm fixture and definitely worth a note in your diary!

As we continue our fundraising journey our PCC Fundraising Sub-Committee would warmly welcome new fundraising event ideas. If you have an idea for an event which you think could raise £500 or more, please contact me, Fr. Michael, Carol Diggins or Clare Moses.

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 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.
- 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



£74,000 raised

£126,000 to raise

With my best wishes

Steve Castle

Greetings, all. You know that saying: 'When someone plans for the future, God laughs'? Well, I don't think God is that mean, but certainly my well-organised summer plans got somewhat scuppered!

Having struggled with what I sincerely thought was a heavy cold while at my conference in Stamford, I arrived back to the realisation I couldn't smell or taste anything, and sure enough, it was Covid! I was due to set out for Australia on 7th August, but that wasn't going to happen. I re-booked for 16th August, giving me only eight days actually in Australia with Frank's family, but better than nothing. I also started the process of putting in my insurance claim for the air ticket (as, they say, 'the mills of God grind slowly' - yet another unverifiable and unbiblical saying about how He works!) Try doing that with wobbly limbs and brain-fog! So, no stories about Australia yet.

In other news, I watched the August All-Age Service online. Steve did a sterling job in putting together the recorded music to accompany the service, as Tom, the locum organist for that week, had unfortunately suffered a traffic accident: we wish him a speedy recovery.

The theme was about looking for signs. In the Gospel, the crowd comes to Jesus looking for more signs of His divinity, after the feeding of the five thousand. Jesus points them towards the ultimate sign: the true Bread from Heaven that gives life to the world. In other words, Himself.

In his sermon, Fr. Michael talked about everyday signs, and quizzed the congregation on their knowledge of the road signs he showed them - which was, to everyone's relief, pretty good! He pointed out that we have all the signs we need that Jesus is from God: from the Bible, from the people around us. We just need to believe it.

For the Intercessions, Fr. Michael brought out a mirror to face the congregation, who had to come up, light a candle and look in the mirror, praying to be a better reflection of God's goodness and light. Watching this online, two thoughts came to me. Firstly, because the mirror was giving me a slightly skewed reflection of part of the West Window with the sun shining through it, it seemed to be a metaphor for ourselves: a bit skewed but with the potential of letting God's light through, as Fr. Michael had said. A reflection within a reflection?

Secondly, seeing you all approaching the Altar to light your candles, I was struck by how familiar you all are to me from your back-view as well as your front (!) and how much you all mean to me: my family. You are all I have ever wanted. Let us continue to build up that family by reflecting God's love out in the world.

We were very sad to hear of the death of Fr. Michael's mother, Jenny Miller, on 7th August. She had been ill for some time, but had shown a cheerful courage and perseverance through her sufferings. We pray that she may rest in peace and rise in glory, and our thoughts and prayers are with Fr. Michael and his family.

Because of Jenny Miller's funeral on 16th August in Durham, Fr. Michael was not able to hold the Mass and barbecue for the Assumption of Our Lady on the evening of the 15th, but a celebration of Jenny's life will follow at some stage, and the barbecue is likely to be held then.

I also watched the service on 11th August online, as I didn't want any possible remaining germs to wipe out the choir! I couldn't access the first part, presumably because of gremlins (Steve was looking very anxious) but I did manage to tune in for Fr. Michael's illuminating sermon about Jesus being the living Bread from Heaven. I loved the story about the two-year-old boy who called out with utter conviction and enthusiasm: 'that's Jesus' when the Host was raised. (Somehow, children 'get' these mysteries a lot more easily than some of us do!) Moreover, the thought that we can be in another's presence even when they don't appear to be, resonated strongly with me. It's like when I see something funny that I know my mother would have enjoyed - I can hear her laughing. Also, in the here and now, I praise God for the technology that puts me in touch with my South African friend Mitta - someone you all pray for every Sunday at Mass. With Mitta having had to return to hospital recently, Skype has been a huge blessing, increasing our communion with each other, and helping us to share our faith. God's presence at the Eucharist is the ultimate example of this deep spiritual connection.

Fr. Michael also reminded us of the infectious and destructive temptation to grumble, and cited people like Elijah and St. Paul who had plenty to grumble about - but for whom God had other plans, which far surpassed the weight of their sufferings and brought about marvellous new things. Therefore, we should cling to the fact that we belong to Jesus, Who has given us the greatest thing of all in the gift of the Eucharist: Himself.

The other thing that inspired me recently was 'Songs of Praise' on Sunday 11th, which featured a church that had 'turned itself round' spiritually after a terrible tragedy. A very lovely, conscientious and kind teenage girl had taken her own life because she was scared and ashamed of her sexuality, which she felt she couldn't discuss with anyone. It was such a shock that the church made a pledge to become completely inclusive, which it hadn't been before. It appears to be a very different place now, and one that is full of joy. Let's become less frightened of differences: 'The Lord God made them all'.

Good luck for the new term, all ye who are involved in education, especially those starting at College, or at a new School - or about to embark on a new course, or venture.

ARROW PLAYERS present
A FUN QUIZ SUPPER suitable for all ages
to celebrate the Diamond (60th) Anniversary
of the consecration of the permanent Church



ARROW PLAYERS

St. Edmund's Diamond Anniversary

Quiz

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EMAIL: STEVEN.CASTLE@ARROWPLAYERS.ORG.UK

**Come along and enjoy yourselves with friends
and family as we look back at the last 60 years.
All profits will go towards the Church roof fund.**

SAINTS OF THE BRITISH ISLES - SEPTEMBER

Mike Godden

ST. DRITHELM was a 7th century monk who had a vision of the afterlife. He was living a quiet life in Ayrshire (at the time in Northumbria) when he fell ill and appeared to have died. But he revived a few hours later, deeply shaken by the experience. He went to pray in the village church, meditating on what he had seen while 'dead'. A celestial guide had shown him souls in hell, in purgatory, in paradise and heaven. The reality of God and of coming judgement and of what Christ had done in redeeming mankind became clear to him; his life on earth could never be the same again. So, he divided his wealth into three: giving one third to his wife, one third to his sons, and the remainder to the poor. He became a monk and went to live at the monastery at Melrose, where he spent his time in prayer and contemplation of Jesus. He is commemorated on 1st September.

ST. DEINIOL was a 6th century monk of Wales who came to be the 'first bishop of Bangor'. He founded the two monasteries of Bangor Fawr (on the Menai Straits) and at Bangor Iscoed (Clwyd), which became a most important monastery in Britain, home to over 2,000 monks. Deiniol is remembered as a unifying influence among on the Christians of North Wales, not least because of his success in bringing together his fellow Bishops at the Synod of Brefi, an important milestone is the life of St. David. Sadly, many of the monks of Bangor perished at the Battle of Chester, where the pagan Æthelfrith, King of Northumbria ordered their massacre. Bangor Cathedral, built on the site of one of his monasteries, is dedicated to St. Deiniol. He is commemorated on 11th September.

ST. ADAM OF CAITHNESS, MARTYR, was a Cistercian monk who became abbot of Melrose. In 1213 William, King of Scotland, appointed him as Bishop in a remote area where his own kingly power was weak and that of the Norse earls was strong. Adam attempted to enforce law and order, including Canon Law, and particularly the payment of tithes. He attempted to double the tithes the people paid, which were based on the amount of butter their cows produced. But the people revolted. They forced their way into Adam's house, and burned him and his followers to death. He is commemorated on 15th September

ST. CEOLFRITH was born in the 7th century into a noble Northumbrian family. He entered the monastery at Ripon, and studied ecclesiastical and monastic practices at Canterbury and in East Anglia. Later he moved to Wearmouth (now Sunderland), and then in 682, when the monastery at Jarrow was founded, Ceolfrith became its Abbot. Here disaster struck, when a plague killed all of the monks except Ceolfrith and the young Bede. They did not flee; they faithfully stayed on, because they believed God had called them to be there. Soon Jarrow prospered once more, and by 689 Ceolfrith was made Abbot of both Wearmouth and Jarrow. He is commemorated on 25th September.

HYMN OF THE MONTH

Mike Godden

We sometimes think of classic hymns as being the completion of an integrated composition of words and music combining in magnificent and inspired acts of worship. The reality is often rather different - words and music having very different origins, sometimes centuries apart and continents apart. The result is just as inspiring, and is a living embodiment of “the whole being greater than the sum of the parts”. Here is a wonderful example of this “emergence”.

Father, hear the prayer we offer:
Not for ease that prayer shall be,
But for strength that we may ever
Live our lives courageously.

Not for ever in green pastures
Do we ask our way to be;
But the steep and rugged pathway
May we tread rejoicingly.

Not for ever by still waters
Would we idly rest and stay;
But would smite the living fountains
From the rocks along our way.

Be our strength in hours of weakness,
In our wanderings be our guide;
Through endeavour, failure, danger,
Father, be Thou at our side.

The hymn started life as a poem, written by Love Maria Willis, née Whitcomb (1824-1908), who was born in Hancock, New Hampshire and named after her mother, Love Foster, daughter of a prominent Unitarian minister. After her marriage in 1858 to Frederick Willis she lived for many years in Rochester, New York.

The poem was first published in 6 verses in 1857, in “Tiffany’s Monthly”, and later that year as a hymn in 5 verses in John Stowell Adams’ “Psalms of Life”. This latter version, omitting the original verse 5, made minor changes, particularly replacing singular pronouns with plural to make it more appropriate for congregational singing.

Subsequently, it underwent major revision, in 4 verses, by priest and hymn-writer Samuel Longfellow, younger brother of the poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, for his 1860 “Book of Hymns and Tunes”, and then with further minor changes in Longfellow’s 1864 collaboration with fellow priest Samuel Johnson “Hymns of the Spirit”. It is this last version that we use today.

Some sources have a fifth verse for the current hymn ...

Let our path be bright or dreary,
Storm or sunshine be our share;
May our souls in hope unwearied
Make Thy work our ceaseless prayer.

It is suggested that this verse was written by Sir John Bowring, diplomat and hymn-writer (author of “In the Cross of Christ I Glory”), sometime in the late 1860s,

The original poem ...

Father, hear the prayer I offer;
For sweet peace I do not cry,
But for grace that I may ever
Live my life courageously.

Not within the fresh green pastures,
Will I ask that I may lie,
But the steep and rugged pathway,
That I tread rejoicingly.

Not beside the clear, still waters,
Do I pray thou wilt me guide,
But I'd smite the rocky pillar,
Whence the living spring may glide.

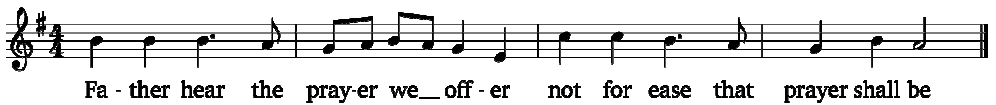
If I go where flowers of summer
Still the ragged path adorn,
Let me weave them into garlands,
Tho' each one should bear a thorn.

Not the glorious sunlight only
Will I crave, oh God, of Thee,
But to see Thy fiery pillar
In the darkness guiding me.

Be my strength in every weakness;
In my doubt be Thou my guide;
Through each peril, through each danger,
Draw me nearer to Thy side

The tune usually used for the hymn is “Sussex”, adapted by Ralph Vaughan Williams from a traditional English folk melody, for inclusion in for the hymn in the 1906 English Hymnal. He collected the tune in November 1905 as a song called “*The Royal George*”, after a notable shipwreck, from Mrs. Harriet Verrall in Monk’s Gate, near Horsham in Sussex (hence the name of the hymn tune).

Mrs. Verrall was also the source of the tune “*Monk’s Gate*”, which Vaughan Williams also used, to accompany John Bunyan’s “*To Be a Pilgrim*”, and of a widely used tune for the carol “*On Christmas Night All Christians Sing*”, thereafter and now known as the “*Sussex Carol*”.



AND CONTINUING THE THEME OF PRAYER ...

Editor's note - I discovered this poem while browsing in the bookshop at one of the cathedrals I visited - it seemed to be the right time to include in the magazine
Jenny Jones

I got up early one morning
and rushed right into the day;
I had so much to accomplish
that I didn't have time to pray.

Problems just tumbled about me,
and heavier came each task.
"Why doesn't God help me?" I wondered.
He answered, "You didn't ask."

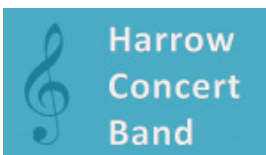
I wanted to see joy and beauty,
but the day toiled on, grey and bleak;
I wondered why God didn't show me.
He said, "But you didn't seek."

I tried to come into God's presence;
I used all my keys at the lock.
God gently and lovingly chided,
"My child, you didn't knock."

I woke up early this morning,
and paused before entering the day;
I had so much to accomplish
that I had to take time to pray.



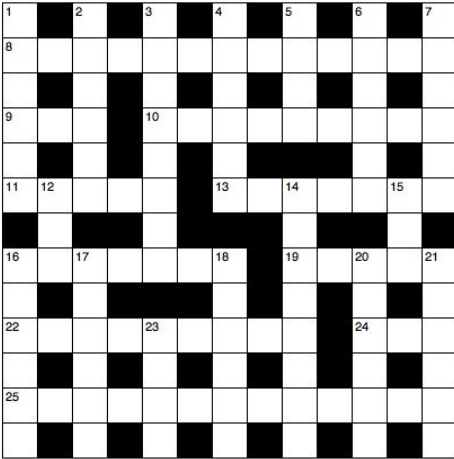
FREE CONCERT - HARROW CONCERT BAND DOES AMERICA



7.30 pm Saturday 28th September
St. Edmund's Church Doors open 7.00 pm
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or call 020 3662 9678

Family Friendly...Prize Raffle...Refreshments...Voluntary Retiring Collection

SEPTEMBER CROSSWORD



ACROSS

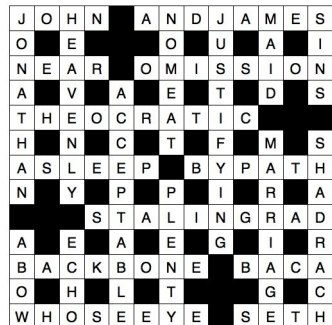
8. Where the ark of the covenant was kept for 20 years (1 Samuel 7.1) (7,6)
9. One of the parts of the body on which blood and oil were put in the ritual cleansing from infectious skin diseases (Leviticus 14.14-17) (3)
10. Uncomfortable (3,2,4)
11. 'Yet I have loved Jacob, but Esau I have —' (Malachi 1.3) (5)
13. Where Paul said farewell to the elders of the church in Ephesus (Acts 20.17) (7)
16. 'Jesus bent down and — to write on the ground with his finger' (John 8.6) (7)
19. Prophet from Moresheth (Jeremiah 26.18) (5)
22. Comes between Exodus and Numbers (9)
- 24 and 2 Down 'Then Elkanah went home to Ramah, but the boy ministered before the Lord under — the —' (1 Samuel 2.11) (3,6)
25. There was no room for them in the inn (Luke 2.7) (4,3,6)

Down

1. Rough drawing (2 Kings 16.10) (6)
2. See 24 Across

3. Underground literature (including Christian books) circulated in the Soviet Union (8)
4. Lo, mash (anag.) (6)
5. The Bible's shortest verse: 'Jesus —' (John 11.35) (4)
6. 'Can a mother forget the baby at her — and have no compassion on the child she has borne?' (Isaiah 49.15) (6)
7. Can be seen in a dying fire (Psalm 102.3) (6)
12. 'Send me, therefore, a man... experienced in the — of engraving, to work in Judah and Jerusalem' (2 Chronicles 2.7) (3)
14. Second city of Cyprus (8)
15. United Nations Association (1,1,1)
16. One of the women who first heard that Jesus had risen from the dead (Mark 16.1) (6)
17. Braved (anag.) (6)
18. — of Evangelism, outreach initiative in the 1990s (6)
20. 'Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes and — in their own sight' (Isaiah 5.21) (6)
21. 'Neither — nor depth... will be able to separate us from the love of God' (Romans 8.39) (6)
23. What Jesus shed in 5 Down (4)

August 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.*

