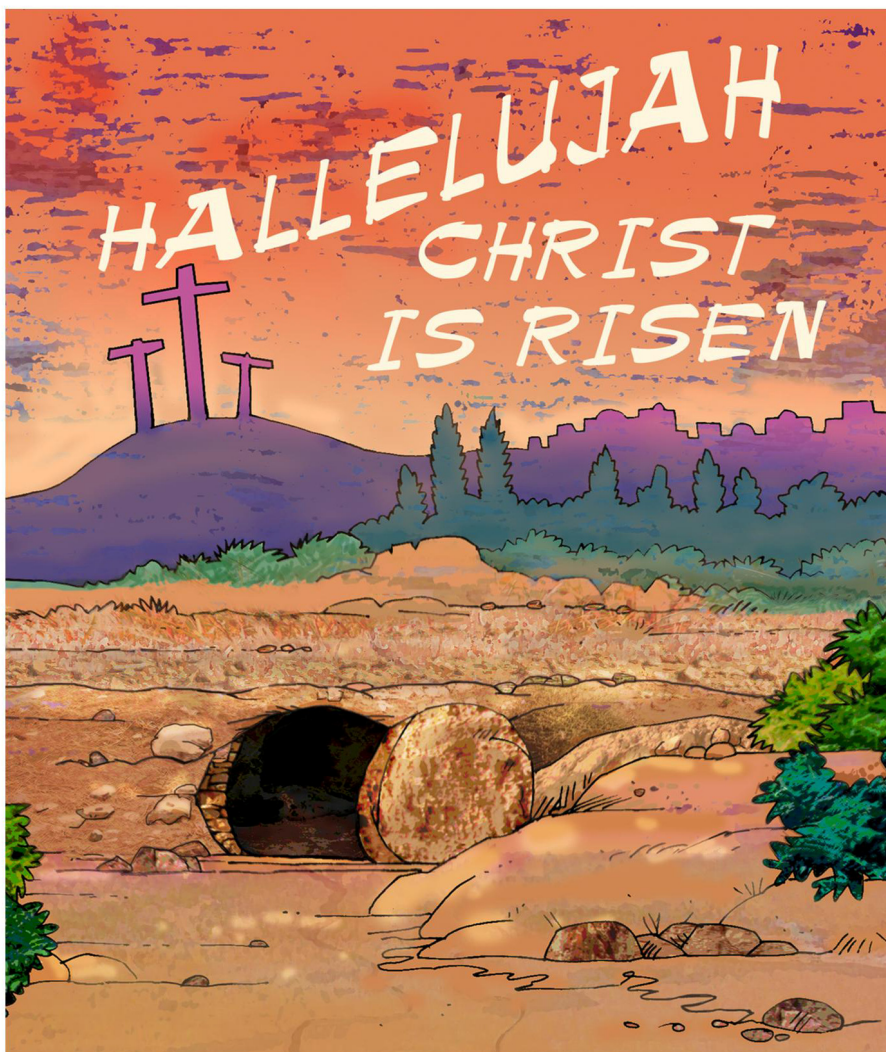


THE KING

APRIL 2021



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

WEBSITE: www.saintedmundschurch.org.uk

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ASSISTANT CURATE

The Reverend Helen Hutchins

01923 824 741

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Miss Sarah Parnaby

(020) 8866 8309

SERVICES

Due to Covid-19 the Church is currently offering a restricted schedule of Services. This includes a 10 am Sunday Eucharist, and other Services, all streamed from our website or from YouTube. Please see our website for the latest information.

SPECTRUM ON SUNDAY (Sunday School)

continues each Sunday at 11.30 am via video conference.

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

Arrangements for the SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (Confession), BAPTISMS, FUNERALS, WEDDINGS, and BANNING OF MARRIAGE please telephone the Vicar: (020) 8866 9230

OFFICERS

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Mr Chris Ambrose

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ORGANISATIONS

SPECTRUM ON SUNDAY:

Mrs Carol Diggins *e-mail:* diggins124@aol.com

01923 825 434

Flower Guild:

Mrs Rachel Windsor, 6 Chester Road, Northwood HA6 1BQ

01923 822 752

Women's Guild:

Mrs Hilda Greenfield
Mrs Connie Ambrose

01923 823 134

01923 825 524

Badminton Club:

Messrs Peter & Mike Gant, Flat 7, 2 Lily Close, Pinner HA5 3JT

(020) 8868 4989

Arrow Players:

Mr Michael Godden

01296 631 975

Classic Concerts:

Mrs Marjorie Pimm, 2 Northwood Way, Northwood HA6 1AT

01923 821 869

Youth Group:

Mr Steve Castle, 3a Willows Close, Pinner HA5 3SY

(020) 8868 0482

Scout Group:

awaiting new appointment

MAGAZINE

Hon. Editor:

Mrs Jenny Jones, 19 Latimer Close, Pinner HA5 3RB

(020) 8866 7173

WELCOME

to the online edition of this magazine.

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

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

There is no Letter from Fr. Michael in this issue; he is currently publishing a letter within St. Edmund's weekly Newsletter ("The Orbit"), which is now sent by e-mail and is available on our website.

If you would like to receive the Newsletter by e-mail you can subscribe by completing the form at <https://tinyurl.com/subscribe-orbit> or by visiting www.saintedmundschurch.org.uk and clicking the "Subscribe" link underneath "Weekly Newsletter".

**Due to the continued high risk of Coronavirus transmission,
all Services are online;
there is currently no attendance inside Church.**

The PCC has decided to re-open the Church for Sunday worship when the Government takes step 2 of its roadmap out of lockdown – this is when community buildings will re-open. Step 2 is expected to be taken on Monday 12th April, so the first Sunday Eucharist with attendance in Church will be on the Sunday 18th April.

In the meantime, Services will continue to be available online. They can be accessed from the website www.saintedmundschurch.org.uk or via the weekly St. Edmund's Newsletter – see above for how to access the Newsletter.

CALENDAR AND PRINCIPAL SERVICE READINGS FOR APRIL 2021

1 THUR MAUNDY THURSDAY

8.00 pm The Mass Of The Lord's Supper,
followed by the Watch of the Passion

Exodus 12.1-14, 1 Corinthians 11.23-26, John 13.1-17, 31b-35

2 FRI GOOD FRIDAY

2.00 pm (approx) The Good Friday Liturgy

Isaiah 52.13-53.12, Hebrews 10.16-25, The Passion - John 19.1-37

3 SAT HOLY SATURDAY

8.00 pm The Easter Vigil and Sung Eucharist of the Resurrection

Romans 6.3-11, Mark 16.1-8

4 SUN EASTER DAY

Acts 10.34-43, 1 Corinthians 15.1-11, John 20.1-18

11 SUN 2nd SUNDAY OF EASTER

Acts 4.32-35, 1 John 1.1-2.2, John 20.19-31

18 SUN 3rd SUNDAY OF EASTER

Acts 3.12-19, 1 John 3.1-7, Luke 24.36b-48

11 am (approx.) ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

25 SUN 4th SUNDAY OF EASTER

Acts 4.5-12, 1 John 3.16-24, John 10.11-18

**SPECTRUM
ON
SUNDAY**

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

**11:30am via video-conferencing
(during covid-19 restrictions)**

More information: 01923 825 434



All contributions for the May Magazine to be with Jenny Jones by
Friday 16th April
020 8866 7173

**ST. EDMUND'S
WOMEN'S GUILD,
BADMINTON CLUB
and
SCOUT GROUP**
**meetings are all cancelled
until further notice**

**THE YOUTH GROUP
continues
each Wednesday at 7.30 pm
via video conference.
Contact Steve Castle
on 020 8868 0482
for more information.**

ST. EDMUND THE KING

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

will be held at approx. 11 am,
following the 10 am Sung Eucharist

on Sunday 18th April

**Information on how to "attend" the meeting
will be published in due course
in the online newsletter**

Elections of Churchwardens and PCC members

Financial Report

Reports from Church Organisations

EASTER HOPE

From material supplied by www.parishpump.co.uk

“So many people right across the country are anxious about employment, anxious about food, isolated from loved ones and feel that the future looks dark.” These are words from the Archbishop of Canterbury’s sermon on Easter Day 2020. And we are experiencing the same uncertainties this Easter.

Yet the Easter story remains one of hope overcoming darkness and despair. The women arrived at the tomb on Easter morning with mixed emotions, as they came to anoint Jesus’ body. *‘But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away.’* (Mark 16:4). They were confused, as they tried to make sense of Jesus’ death. Their hopes were dashed with an uncertain future. In the current pandemic, we too are left asking: *Where is God in all this?*

The young man at the tomb reminds them that God is still in control: *“Don’t be alarmed,” he said. “You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him.”* (Mark 16:6).

The women had forgotten Jesus’ promise to the disciples that He would die and rise from the dead. Jesus’ resurrection is also the sure foundation of hope for us in the present crisis. He turns our confusion and fear into joy and wonder!

We can trust Jesus’ plan for the future of our world and lives, despite the fact that things can’t return to the way they were: *“There needs to be a resurrection of our common life, a new normal, something that links to the old, but is different and more beautiful. We must dream it, build it, make it, grasp it, because it is the gift of God and the call of God.”* (Justin Welby).



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Mother Helen Hutchins

On Friday 5th March I participated in the World Day of Prayer service on Zoom, with people from churches in Northwood and Northwood Hills. This year the service was coordinated by Northwood Methodist Church. In all about 50 people attended.

The theme for this years' service was "Build on a Strong Foundation". The service was planned, and a service booklet produced, by Christian women from the islands which form Vanuatu. Vanuatu is in the southwest Pacific Ocean, approximately 1100 miles east of Australia. Over five centuries, the islands had colonial influence from the Portuguese, French and British in the areas of civil administration, trading and mission. Vanuatu became an independent republic within the Commonwealth in 1980. The islands are vulnerable to tropical storms, the most recent in 2020, causing widespread devastation. It is not surprising that the women of Vanuatu chose "Build on a Strong Foundation" as the theme for their service.

Worship opened with songs written by women from the islands followed by a Prayer of Thanksgiving, led by Rev'd. Ann Lynes, Vicar of Holy Trinity Northwood. Then we listened to personal testimonies from young people on the islands who encountered difficulties in obtaining education (it is not provided by the state) within rural communities. Young people moving from the countryside to find work in the towns often endure homelessness, poverty and isolation. Their trust in God and confidence in his provision sustained them in challenging circumstances.

We listened to a text from Matthew's Gospel (7.24-27): the contrasting fortunes of the man who built his house on rock and the man who built his house on sand! In a meditation we were encouraged to reflect on "How is your faith providing a solid foundation for you". There were prayers for Vanuatu and the world, for justice and unity. In between there were uplifting songs and hymns of various styles.

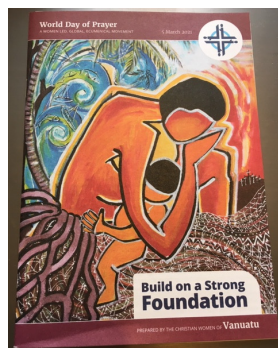
The picture on the cover of the service booklet is by Juliette Pita, an artist in Vanuatu, entitled Cyclone Pam II, 13th March 2015. It shows a mother protecting and praying over her child while waves crash around them.

Towards the end of the service there was an act of commitment. We had been asked to bring a stone with us to the service.

"God the house-builder uses each one of us as a stone to build a strong foundation of love. Will we make the commitment to build our lives on this foundation? Will we hear and will we act?" (extract)

I enjoyed the service with its thoughtful blend of music, narrative and prayer; it was heartening to see such a good turn-out on Zoom. It was a good way for Christians from Northwood and Northwood Hills to gather and worship God.

In 2022 the service will be held on Friday 4th March. More information on www.wwdp.org.uk



I begin with an apology: last month I referred to the late Bob Young as a draughtsman, whereas he was actually a graphic designer.

And now we've said goodbye to another beloved member of our fellowship: Derek Wilkins. When Frank and I checked on him the weekend of 6th February, he was not feeling too well. The carer and Derek's son Vincent were alerted, and after a doctor's visit Derek ended up in hospital under observation. To our surprise and distress, he died on 17th February. We knew he was become more frail - but it was a shock.

I have said before how much Derek and Joan meant to me, having given me a such great deal of love and support when I joined St. Edmund's and doing much to help me when I came to live in the parish. I really felt I'd lost a 'Dad' figure when Derek went. We did our best to help him keep going after Joan died, (as did Vincent, Derek's cleaner, Anna, and the excellent carers) but the heart had gone out of him. He was ready to go home.

As happened with Joan, the hearse drove to the West Door of the church, where Fr. Michael said prayers for Derek in the presence of a good number of parishioners. Jill Hughes, who could not make it to the church, gave Derek a valedictory wave with her sticks from the end of her road: St. Edmund's can be relied upon to give the very best send-off in any circumstance.

The funeral at Breakspear Crematorium was a peaceful event, with the lovely uplifting words of hope for the life to come, and an address which touched on the important events of Derek's life. (Joan had helped with this: she was always extremely organised!) A moving moment was when the hymn 'Eternal Father, strong to save' was played; reminding us of Derek's naval service in the Far East in the Second World War.

Among the family, it was good to see again Derek's granddaughter Emma: some of you may remember her attending St. Edmund's Holiday Club when she was a child. It was also a comfort for me to be with Anna, who was so much more than a cleaner to Derek and Joan, and who misses them hugely - as well as their neighbours Zoë and Alan, and carer Christie - all of whom had shown much love and support for them in their final months.

Derek's close family are very much in the thoughts of his Church family, to whom he and Joan gave so much over the years. May they possess forever the joy that is their reward, in the presence of our ever-loving God.

The funeral of our dear friend Harold Talbot, long-standing member of St. Edmund's and valued Scout-leader, was held at Amersham on 11th March. This also was a beautiful service, and paid tribute to aspects of Harold's life that we may not have known about, such as his work at Kodak, and in radiography at Northwick Park Hospital. Harold enjoyed his life up to the end: he was a great blessing to others and will be sadly missed.

The 2021 Lent Course, 'Caring for Creation', has been a good experience and has stimulated a lot of thought about how we can help to heal our planet and those with whom we share it. I hope we'll continue to encourage each other in our efforts to help the environment to thrive as God intended. Many thanks to Fr. Michael and Mother Helen for putting on and directing this course. A little book I am enjoying at present would provide a further link with these discussions, and about how to face the world's present problems in a broader sense: *'Let us Dream: the path to a better future'*, by Pope Francis. I can thoroughly recommend it to all Christians, as well as to people of other faiths and none - and it's not a hard read.

The first of two All-Age services (the second being Mothering Sunday) took place on 7th March, and was based on the Gospel reading of the Cleansing of the Temple. This story was made particularly vivid by a power point/audio presentation, depicting the sights and sounds that must have been experienced at the temple market in Jerusalem, when an angry Jesus overturned the tables of the money-changers. This presentation was followed by images of inequality, inequity and injustice for us to contemplate, while considering what examples of unfairness in the world made us angry, and how we could do something about them. I was blown away emotionally by the Intercession slot, a video which contained heart-rending images of worldwide suffering over this past year, as well as heart-lifting ones of hope. The Biblical words, and the lovely song which accompanied them, encouraged us to 'hold on'.

The Mothering Sunday service was also absorbing and meaningful: although joyful and comforting, it made us consider the costliness of motherhood, with the stories of the birth and rescue of Moses, and the reactions of Simeon when Jesus was presented in the Temple - commented on, with colourful illustrations, by Mother Helen in her sermon. She also reminded us that Mothering Sunday can be painful for some people, such as those who have lost their children, or women cannot have children. There was also a mention in the prayers of 'those who have been mothers to others'. This applies to many people, men as well as women. I found the words of the post-communion hymn (new to me), *'Be not afraid, I go before you always'* particularly encouraging in these difficult times.

Thank you again, Fr. Michael, Mother Helen, Mark, Abigail, Joyline, Joash, Helen C, Madeleine, Danika, Nathaniel and the technical team for producing two such beautiful, stirring and uplifting services for all our age-groups.

Owing to the vaccine and to the support of health-services and volunteers, things appear, thankfully, to be moving in the right direction, and we pray that normality and good health will steadily return. In our relief and joy I hope we can remember the lessons we have learnt about our fragility and about what really matters, and also keep in our hearts and prayers those who have had their lives drastically changed by the pandemic, through bereavement, loss of livelihood and damage to physical and mental health.

We pray for Father Tony, recovering after his operation, and for all those who are suffering, or are feeling isolated or trapped by their circumstances.

Christ is risen! A very Happy Easter to you all.

PRAYERS FOR OUR PRESENT TIME

from www.churchofengland.org

Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy
in this time of uncertainty and distress.
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may rejoice in your comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Lord Jesus Christ, you taught us to love our neighbour,
and to care for those in need as if we were caring for you.
In this time of anxiety, give us strength
to comfort the fearful, to tend the sick,
and to assure the isolated of our love, and your love, for your name's sake.

God of compassion,
be close to those who are ill, afraid or in isolation.
In their loneliness, be their consolation;
in their anxiety, be their hope; in their darkness, be their light;
through him who suffered alone on the cross,
but reigns with you in glory, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Merciful God, we entrust to your tender care those who are ill or in pain,
knowing that whenever danger threatens
your everlasting arms are there to hold them safe.
Comfort and heal them, and restore them to health and strength;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Gracious God, give skill, sympathy and resilience
to all who are caring for the sick,
Strengthen them with your Spirit,
that through their work many will be restored to health;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Lord of the ages, whose steadfast love endures for ever,
we give you thanks and praise that you journey with us
through this world of challenges and opportunities.
As we mourn the suffering of the past year,
and look with hope to all that lies ahead,
keep us watchful and united, that together we may face the future,
and share the good things you have in store for us;
through Jesus Christ, our Saviour.

I had known Derek since the mid-1960s, when Joan's sister was married to my first cousin by my father, and we met when my father baptised their baby daughter. I had an early indication of their kindness when they visited me in St. Vincent's Hospital and took away a whole pineapple which someone had brought to me. They brought back a Tupperware container full of appetising bite sized cubes.

Later, when I moved to Northwood, I took up their invitation to supper and afterwards we went over to look at the Church and see the window of the adolescent Christ, which they had recently given. I, who had spent some miserable months attending a church regularly but being spoken to by no-one, said "This is where I belong". Derek immediately offered to collect me the following Sunday and the rest, as they say, is history. At the coffee following the Mass, Joan and Derek were busy sorting out the various activities in which they were involved, and I received a true St. Edmund's welcome as I stood alone.

In due course Derek and I were Churchwardens - and I couldn't have asked for a better partner. He was so knowledgeable about the church plant and, from the Guild of Servers, knew so many people in the Diocese. He left writing things to me and, never being one to want the limelight, preferred me to make any necessary speeches.

Derek took early retirement in 1982, and the company he had worked for gave him a set of water-colour paints and brushes to mark the years he had been with his employer.

Derek was very gifted with a paintbrush and would spend any free time he had, working at this hobby. He also enjoyed flower arranging and took part in one of the Flower Festivals at St. Edmund's, producing an arrangement entitled 'The Rugged Cross'. When Fr. Bruce started the painting group Derek joined it with alacrity and really enjoyed the sessions.

I remember so many outings with Joan and Derek, on Fr. Ken Limbert's pilgrimage to Oberammergau, on annual visits to Walsingham and Glastonbury and to St. Paul's Cathedral on countless Maundy Thursdays. Derek and I also had the privilege of seats for Bishop Richard Chartres' enthronement.

I, for one, rejoice that Derek didn't have to wait too long to join his beloved Joan. I imagine the Lord saying "Come faithful servant and take full possession of the glory that has been prepared for you".

SERMON FOR DEREK WILKINS' FUNERAL

given by Fr. Michael

When Joan Wilkins prepared her instructions for her own funeral she placed with them some details she had written about Derek, which she asked to be read at his funeral, so I will first of all share that with you.

“Derek loved a good tune - he had sung in the village church choir until his voice broke. He was 17 years of age in 1944 when he joined the Royal Navy and sailed to the Far East to serve as a writer on HMS Anson. He was in the waters around the islands of Japan when the surrender came, and was released from the Royal Navy to resume his training as an engineering draughtsman. Returning to England on HMS London in March 1946 he re-joined the Anglo American oil company and met Joan. In August 1949 they were married in the Church of Saint Blaise in Milton (near Abingdon), the neighbouring village where she was also a choir member. Eight years later that marriage was truly blessed by the birth of his son. As a cradle Christian Derek felt no need to be born again but ‘Amazing Grace’ was a favourite hymn and he possessed a deep sense of calm dependence on God. With no sense of urgency Derek never hurried yet things got done quietly efficiently and without fuss. In middle life he was very aware of what he’d lost by the early death of his father in 1946. In 1992 his only brother Allen who was three years his junior died and he found this very difficult. Another favourite hymn was that of St. Francis ‘Make me an instrument of your peace’ and Derek himself seemed to have the ability to pour oil on troubled waters and brought a peaceful outcome to many a situation. His easy going appearance often disguised a resolute immovability when he’d made up his mind on a particular issue. Perhaps it was this trait that made him a dependable rock to which those who were close to him turned for advice. Gentle and caring and sometimes even a little romantic he never allowed sentiment to blur his judgement. He often recalled his childhood days on his grandfather’s farm and never lost his love of nature expressing a hope that in the next part of life there would be woods through which to walk and birds to hear and see. He loved Taizé music especially if ‘Lord hear my prayer’ accompanied intercessions and sang ‘Jesus Remember Me’ as a prayer of hope and trust. He often said that the only certainty in life was death but in later years saw himself as on the journey ‘going home’ and the words of the spiritual song with that title seemed to express his thoughts as did ‘Peace, Perfect Peace’ which surely must now be our prayer for Derek. Words set to another favourite and familiar piece of music sum up so well Derek’s philosophy of life ‘We rest on Thee’ convey to us all his final encouraging message. May he truly rest in peace and rise in glory.”

I met Derek only in his latter years and it was very clear that he and Joan were devoted to each other, and that the love that they had for each other never dimmed.

As a couple they were stalwarts of St. Edmund's Church and had very much made it their life. Derek had among other things been a Churchwarden, Clerk of Works and served on the PCC in his time. He had worked tirelessly together with Joan to enrich the life of the church and was a regular communicant until the recent lockdown.

I also discovered that Derek and Joan had an almost encyclopaedic knowledge of everything that had happened at St. Edmund's. I can't count the number of times that when I asked a question about some aspect of the Church's history various people have said to me 'I really don't know but ask Joan and Derek' - and more than 9 times out of ten one of them had the answer.

Above all it was obvious that Derek had a deep faith. He strongly believed in the resurrection and that the end of life on earth was merely a transition to life in heaven. He knew that the Christian message was one of love and hope. He knew those words from St. John's Gospel that there is a place prepared for each of us with God and he knew that Jesus was the way to that place. I pray that as he enters eternal life he is reunited with Joan and all those that he loved during his life on earth who have gone before him and that heaven exceeds his wildest imagination.



Harold Talbot R.I.P.

Following Harold Talbot's obituary in last month's magazine,
Harold's family would welcome donations in his memory.
Donations will be given to 2nd Northwood (St. Edmund's) Scout Group
towards the new Scout Hut, which has been designed
and is now at the planning permission stage.

Donations may be made in two ways:

by bank transfer to 2nd Northwood Scouts -
sort code 20-73-53 account number 80 670 510

or by cheque made payable to 2nd Northwood Scouts
and sent to: Mike Evans, Hon. Treasurer, 2nd Northwood Scout Group
136 Albury Drive, Pinner, HA5 3RG

Fr. Fred Bonham R.I.P.

We have heard from Valerie Bonham the sad news that Fr. Fred
died on 16th February at his home in Wells, Somerset.

He was a Curate at St. Edmund's from 1972-75,
before moving to St. Andrew's, Clewer, near Windsor.

Some people maintain that the new millennium started on 1st January 2000, others that it started in 1st January 2001. The distinction is many-faceted - historical, astronomical, mathematical, theological, and probably a-lot-more-ical, but in the end, academic. Here at St. Edmund's, in common with most of the rest of the world, the change in the first numeral in the year number was worth observing by a huge variety of special events and other commemorations, and we were no exception. All over the world, for example, there were many instances of the creation of Millennium edifices - Millennium bridges, Millennium arches, all intended to mark this calendar transition. For Christians, of course, the notion of 2000 years has a significance that, whilst it might not be arithmetically accurate, is certainly spiritually special.

So, at St. Edmund's we had a full programme of specialness throughout 2000. One of those was the installation in the Garden of Rest (or Remembrance as it has come to be called) behind the Church of a trellis arch spanning the footpath, which we called our Millennium Arch - to be a symbolic 'bridge' between the past and the future. At its apex was fixed a terra cotta tile with the Latin motto "Respice Prospice" - a useful translation of which is "Look to the past; look to the future", and one side was planted a climbing rose and on the other a clematis.

The Arch was dedicated in a ceremony on the 1st Sunday of Advent (itself a "new year"), 3rd December 2000. The ceremony included the following prayers.

O Eternal God, we praise thee as Creator of all time and all space,
who sent thy only Son, Jesus Christ;
we thank thee that he is with us always, through thy Holy Spirit.

At this time of celebration, grant unto us, thy people,
gratitude for the difference his coming has made to us and to our world,
forgiveness for our weakness in not sharing and showing his good news,
and a resolve to work to his praise and glory in the new age.

Therefore, this is our prayer and resolution,
trusting in thy grace and power to extend thy kingdom :
let there be respect for the earth, peace for its people, love in our lives,
delight in the good, forgiveness for past wrongs, and from now on a new start.

Through Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today,
and throughout all times and all ages, into whose care we entrust our future,
to whom be all glory and dominion, world without end. Amen.

Jesus, Lord of Time, hold us in thy eternity.
Jesus, Image of God, travel with us the life of faith.
Jesus, Friend of Sinners, heal the brokenness of our world.
Jesus, Lord of Tomorrow, draw us into thy future. Amen.

As we enter this new millennium, draw us more deeply into thy presence,
strengthen us in thy love, and lead us through the portal to a new start.

In the Faith of Christ, and for the benefit of his holy Church,
we dedicate this Millennium Arch to the glory of God,
in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Dear Lord our heavenly Father,
At the dawn of a new Millennium,
In a world of darkness give us light,
In lands of war and prejudice grant us peace,
In a world of despair give us hope,
In a world of sadness and tears show us joy,
In a world of hatred show us love,
In a world of arrogance give us humility,
In a world of disbelief give us faith.

Give us courage to face the challenges of feeding the hungry,
clothing the naked, housing the homeless and healing the sick.

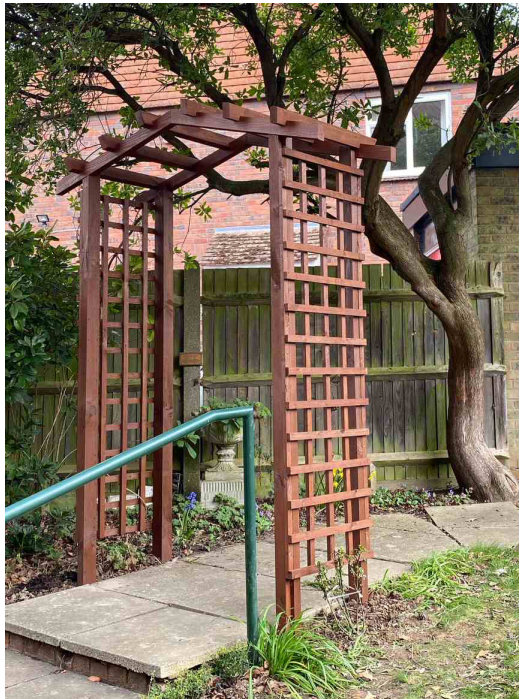
Give us the power, Lord, to make a difference in thy world,
and to protect thy creation, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Whilst we hope that our prayers and intentions last long into the new millennium and beyond, sadly the same can't be assumed for our frail material offerings like trellis arches. There comes a time for renewal, so after 20 years, we now have a replacement Millennium Arch. This one has been constructed by David Tunnicliffe, to whom we give our thanks, and is rather more robust than the original, so should last longer.

I have also replaced the original rose ("Ballerina", planted in memory of my Mother), with another, hopefully rather less extraordinarily vigorous rose ("Star Performer"), maintaining the reference to her dancing career.

RESPICE PROSPICE

(photo by Steve Castle)



A SHORT HISTORY OF THE PARISH OF ST. EDMUND'S

PART 14

Jenny Jones

2004

JANUARY The report of the PCC commented that the Gift Aid scheme brought in by Chancellor of the Exchequer Gordon Brown has resulted in significant income over the past year. It is hoped that everyone who is able should consider signing a Gift Aid form which will benefit St. Edmund's.

It was also reported that the new venture of selling Christmas cards to benefit church funds had yielded £179. Many thanks to Fr. Bruce, who had painted two designs and to Bernard Wood who had printed them.

(26th) Emmaus Course part 4 'Understanding the New Testament'

(27th) Emmaus Course part 5 'reading the Bible today'

FEBRUARY (1st) Classic Concert - Mozart Birthday Concert

MARCH (17th) Lent Course - 'Faith and Life' -

Question and Answers session followed by Meditation.

(28th) 6.30pm - A Service of Music for Passiontide,
including J.S.Bach's 'St. Luke Passion', sung by the augmented choir.

(31st) Request to fill in sponsorship forms to support Rob Pallant, who will run in the London Marathon on behalf of the Disabled Access Fund.

APRIL The Development Plan 2004-2008 was published, incorporating the London Challenge, and setting out its aspirations regarding Worship, Teaching and Outreach and the Building projects.

(29th) Concert by the Hillingdon Swing Band; proceeds to the Disabled Access Fund.

MAY (4th) The first After school Service. Children welcomed with tea and biscuits, followed by a 25 minute service in the Lady Chapel.
The service will be bi-monthly in term time.

(6th) The first service of Meditation and Devotion before the Blessed Sacrament.
The service will be held once a month.

(8th) A day outing to Kew Gardens.

(30th) Congratulations and thanks expressed to Rob Pallant, who completed the London Marathon and raised £1,000 for the Disabled Access Fund.

JUNE (20th) Classic Concerts' Supper Concert -

Vivien Banfield and The Concert Players; music by Schubert.

JULY (4th) 25th Anniversary of Fr. Bruce's Priesting. Everyone was invited to take a glass of wine in honour of the occasion. Rachel Windsor (Churchwarden) presented Fr. Bruce with a cheque for £375 from the congregation and a bouquet of flowers for Barbara (They used the gift on a few days on holiday in Paris).

(9th) First meeting of the new Youth Group set up for 11-18 year olds. It started fully on Wednesday 1st September, to meet fortnightly during term-time. The Leader is Graeme Knights.

(10th) The Choir presented a 'Music from the Shows' Quiz and Supper in aid of the Disabled Access Fund; it raised £500.

AUGUST Fr. Bruce noted that he had published no. 30 in the series of "Questions of Faith" leaflets he has produced for the congregation since becoming our Vicar.

(17th) Janette Dingley invited everyone to a summer lunch in her garden in aid of the Disabled Access Fund. £302 was raised.

(23rd -26th) Spectrum 5 Holiday Club 'Jungle Jamboree'.

SEPTEMBER (15th) The Painting Group day out at Rickmansworth Aquadrome.

OCTOBER (3rd) Sung Evensong at 6.00pm, followed by a video of 'The building of the church' with wine and cheese. Donations went to the Disabled Access Fund.

(9th) The 70th/40th Anniversary of the formation of the Mission at St. Edmund's parish and of the Consecration of the permanent church. (*See also Fr. Ames' article on p.17.*) The Celebration included a performance of a play, 'St. Edmund King, of the East Angles', which took place in the church at 6.30 pm, followed by a Feast in the Hall.

(10th) 40th Anniversary and Confirmation Service at 10 am.

(15th) 8.00 pm - Viners' Swing Band Concert, in aid of the Disabled Access Fund.

NOVEMBER (7th) 3.30 pm - Classic Concerts' 10th Anniversary Concert; piano recital by Vivien Banfield of music by Schubert and Schumann.

(10th) Julia Sheffield was welcomed to the Parish after the Sunday service. She was on a three month placement as part of her ministerial training course.

(17th) The PCC held an Open meeting to consider the final proposals from the building team for the re-design of the foyer and for provisions for Disabled Access.

(20th) St. Edmund's Patronal Festival - Fr. Nick Mercer was Guest of Honour.

(28th) 6.30 pm - A Service of Music for the 1st Sunday of Advent, including excerpts from 'The Creation' by Haydn, sung by the augmented choir.

(30th) Advent Quiet Evening - A reflection on the first verse from the hymn 'O Come, O Come, Emmanuel'.

DECEMBER (7th) 4.00 pm - Christingle Service
for the Children who attend the After School Service.

8.00 pm - Advent Service- further reflections,
on another verse of 'O Come, O Come, Emmanuel'.

(14th) Last Advent Service, based on 'O Come, O Come, Emmanuel'.

(19th) Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols.

(24th) Blessing of the Crib Service, including the Sunday School Nativity Play. Collection given to The Myosotis Trust, which had opened a hospital to provide care for children with physical and learning disabilities.

These articles were published in the October 2004 magazine, written by Fr. Ames as part of the observance in 2004 of the 70th anniversary of the Pinner Green Mission and 40th anniversary of the Consecration of the new Church of St. Edmund's. They are reproduced here as an extension to this month's instalment of the Short History. Fr. Ames came to be Vicar of St. Edmund's in 1961, and stayed for 31 years, retiring in 1992. When he arrived there was still no permanent church building - the dual-purpose Hall/Church having built in 1936. Fr. Ames had been told to 'build up the church, which he proceeded to do. This involved much negotiation and fund-raising - a mammoth task, requiring untiring effort from many people - but Fr. Ames' drive and enthusiasm was key, but, as you'll see below, he very nearly didn't take up the post.

Unusual features at St. Edmund's

When we set out to design the Church, we were certain of one thing and that is that it should not be the product of an architect's dream but rather that it should be the product of prayer and thought of the local church because it is the local church that has to do God's work in this area so we made quite sure that as soon as you enter the church you can see what God has to offer.

In a single glance you see the large hanging crucifix and, immediately beneath, the curtains of the Blessed Sacrament. The crucifix shows Christ crowned as a high priest, the nails picked out in gold reminding us that we have a vocation to suffer for the world and to glory in that suffering as he does, for what can be a greater thing than to help other souls into heaven; the way to heaven, however, has to be made plain and what better way than through the Blessed Sacrament. These two then, the crucifix and the Sacrament are our trademarks.

Come with me into the Sacrament Chapel and see what happens when you turn your back to the Blessed Sacrament, for standing in this position what you will see is not a ruling Christ but a horned devil reminding us of what happens when Christ is rejected. As you stand there in the Sacrament Chapel you are in fact standing almost above the church foundation stone which is set in the wall behind the High Altar.

Beneath that stone set in an air-tight container within the wall are letters from myself and other members of the congregation to the generations of Christians who will follow us here, telling them how we came to build the Church and above all asking for their prayers and assuring them that we shall still be praying for them and this parish.

There are also other mementos for them to see, together with some ideas about our daily life. We hope that as the years go by succeeding generations will add their own objects and pass on this beautiful building to their children's children.

How I came to be Vicar of St. Edmund's

I had served my two assistant curacies one at St. Alphege, Edmonton and one at John Keble, Mill Hill, and it was time for me to look for a Parish of my own. The Bishop sent me to two or three places, but somehow I did not feel at home in any of them. I think he was a bit irritated with me by then and as a last gesture said 'I want you to go to Northwood Hills'. I had never heard of it!

It was on a Friday that I rode my Vespa to St. Edmund's to meet the two Churchwardens ... first stop the vicarage. Michael Belham (now Fr. Michael) and Ernest Acaster met me, and took me into a rather run-down sort of house, explaining that if I came, it would be cleaned up considerably ... I was not at all impressed.

Then to the church ... what a culture shock! It was a dual-purpose building, not at all my class of thing ... worst of all, it was being prepared for a Jumble Sale ... the deal floor-boards were anything but clean ... the chairs and tables wobbly ... a far cry from Mill Hill. I began to rehearse in my mind suitable phrases to explain why I would not be accepting the offer.

In those days the Hall was partitioned from the rest of the building by two rows of sliding panels (you can still see where they were if you look at the outline of an arch in the wall). I felt really sorry for the Churchwardens ... it was all so tatty. We went from the Hall area, behind the partitions and into the 'church' part ... some choir stalls and an Altar (the one now in the Lady Chapel), and I began to explain why I would not be coming.

I asked what the little room was on the right side-hand side of the Chapel and they led me to it. It was about two metres square; in it was a tiny Altar upon which was The Reserved Sacrament. The linens were pristine; there were flowers to one side; the place was spotless, and I was hooked. I knelt before Him, and knew that I had found the heart of St. Edmund's, The Blessed Sacrament. If this was how Christ was honoured in this place, I would come and make it my home ... which I did for thirty one years, offering the Holy Sacrifice every day and caring for His people. What else would a Priest ask of Our Eternal Father?

*The Chancel and Sanctuary
in St. Edmund's
pre-1964*



SOME APRIL CUSTOMS

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

Mike Godden

When I started this column, I chose to select customs not only on the basis of their character, but on their calendar-month-li-ness. That's had the complicating side effect of how to cover some of the legion of customs associated with the Easter weekend, which can of course be in March or April. So, I'll do a special Easter compilation next year, when I'll have finished a years-worth of monthly customs. Now, on with April.

NOTTINGHAM BADAJOZ DAY. In 1812 British forces successfully stormed the Spanish castle and city at Badajoz on 6th April, and to mark the victory Lieutenant James MacPherson of the Nottinghamshire Regiment hoisted his scarlet jacket up the flagpole, because he couldn't find a union flag. The battle was part of the Peninsular Wars with Napoleon Bonaparte - the town was a key location on routes to Madrid. MacPherson was one of the first soldiers to break through the defences of the French who had previously held it and today his act is remembered by the raising of a red tunic on the flagpole at Castle Green in Nottingham. MacPherson's regiment served right through the 1808-1814 campaign; it later became the Sherwood Foresters, and was subsequently amalgamated with the Worcestershire, Staffordshire and Cheshire regiments to form the Mercian Regiment in 2007. A small parade of soldiers march to Castle Green to erect a flagpole, a citation is read to the crowd and the coatee is raised as a bugler plays the Last Post. After a two minute silence, the soldiers march past to salute it. Similar ceremonies also take place on this day wherever the Mercian Regiment is stationed.

BATTLE OF BARNET MEMORIAL. The Battle of Barnet was a key event in the Wars of the Roses, in which the forces of the House of Lancaster and Warwick the Kingmaker were defeated by those of Yorkist King Edward IV in 1471. Warwick himself was killed along with his brother John Neville on 14th April, leaving King Edward secure on the throne. Today the fallen of both sides are remembered on the anniversary in a wreath-laying ceremony at the Hadley Highstone Monument, organised by the Barnet 1471 Battlefields Society.

LICHFIELD ST. GEORGE'S COURT. Every St George's Day (23rd April), the officials of the Court Baron and View of Frankpledge in Lichfield, (St George's Court) gather at the Guildhall to appoint the officers of the manor of the Barony of Lichfield. The Mayor and councillors install two High Constables, seven Dozeners (or petty constables), two Pinners (people appointed to round up stray animals) and two Ale Tasters and annual reports are made by the Constables. Fines are imposed by the jury for any transgressions over the previous year; a feature of the event is the stream of the ridiculous reasons given for non-compliance with the rules.

SALISBURY ST. GEORGE'S DAY. St George's feast is celebrated particularly enthusiastically in the ancient city of Salisbury, where Sarum Morris Dancers lead the festivities, sometimes with Christopher the Giant and always with Hob-Nob, a rather

sinister dragon hobby-horse figure with snapping jaws and sharp teeth, who clears the way ahead. There have been giants in processions in the city since mediæval times (you can still see the fragile retired figures of the original figures of old Christopher and Hob-Nob in the Salisbury Museum) and Morris Dancers have been active there since the 16th century.

MYTHOLMROYD WORLD DOCK PUDDING COMPETITION. Dock Pudding is a local delicacy little-known outside the Calder Valley area of Yorkshire; the Competition was founded in 1971 to help preserve it. The Pudding is made from the leaves of *Polygonum bistorta* (which is not the same as Common Dock ,though they look alike) mixed with nettles, oatmeal, onions and seasoning, and served with bacon and eggs. Competitors cook a whole cooked breakfast including the Dock Pudding; the winner receives a cup. The judging takes place behind closed doors so that the competitors are unknown to the judges, while the audience can watch the cooking on stage in the hall. Traditional Yorkshire brass bands accompany the event.

WIRKSWORTH GREAT BARMOTE COURT. Wirksworth in Derbyshire holds the last remaining Great Barmote Court. These courts were set up in the 12th century to regulate the lead mining industry; Wirksworth's may well be the oldest industrial court in Britain, held under the auspices of the representative of Her Majesty The Queen as Duke of Lancaster, Lord of the Field and owner of vast mineral rights in the area. Nowadays the jurisdiction of the court is more limited than in its heyday, but still regulations are upheld and fees collected. The official Barmaster and Steward are assisted by twelve jurors. Those attendees are provided with beer, bread and cheese, and clay pipes and tobacco.

CAMBORNE TREVITHICK DAY. Local inventor Richard Trevithick is one of the unsung heroes of the industrial revolution, and every April the residents of Camborne in Cornwall celebrate his life and work in a festival which highlights his many achievements and the engineering and mining heritage of the local area. He was one of the pioneers of the use of steam power in industry, for removing water from the tin mines and for propelling vehicles amongst many other ideas - his Puffing Devil was the first working steam powered road vehicle. There are two special dances during the day, the first of which is performed by around 200 local children in the costume of Bal Maidens and Miners during the morning – Bal Maidens operated some of the machinery at the head of the mines during Trevithick's time – and the second of which is the turn of the adults in Trevithick's Dance dressed in the Cornish colours of yellow and black during the afternoon, moving to depict the workings of the steam engine. The dances are led by the Camborne Town Band, and weave around the many stalls in the streets. One of the highlights of the day is the Steam Parade of vehicles - probably the largest parade of its kind in a town anywhere - which processes all around town where the Mayor takes a salute beside the Library. One of the features of the parade is that spectators put coins in the road in the hope that they'll be squashed by the heavy engines! Throughout the day the Steam Engines and vehicles are on display for those who would like a closer look. In addition to the dances and vehicles there are various musical entertainments, and stalls lining the streets, exhibitions, arts and crafts, a flower festival and a fairground.

HYMN OF THE MONTH

Mike Godden

Easter! The Resurrection! A time of victory, of joy, of praise ... Alleluia! Here's a hymn that captures all that in wonderfully triumphal measure ...

Come, ye faithful, raise the anthem,
Cleave the skies with shouts of praise;
Sing to him who found the ransom,
Ancient of eternal Days,
God eternal, Word incarnate,
Whom the heaven of heaven obeys.

Ere he raised the lofty mountains,
Formed the sea, or built the sky,
Love eternal, free, and boundless,
Forced the Lord of life to die,
Lifted up the Prince of princes
On the throne of Calvary.

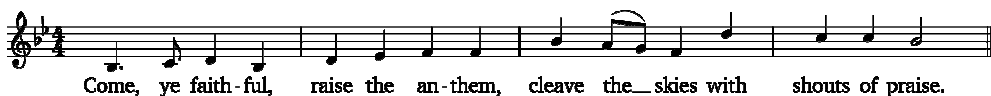
Now on those eternal mountains
Stands the sapphire throne, all bright,
With the ceaseless unending alleluias
Which they raise, the sons of light;
Sion's people tell his praises,
Victor after hard-won fight.

Bring your harps, and bring your incense,
Sweep the string and pour the lay;
Let the earth proclaim his wonders,
King of that celestial day;
He the Lamb once slain is worthy,
Who was dead, and lives for ay.

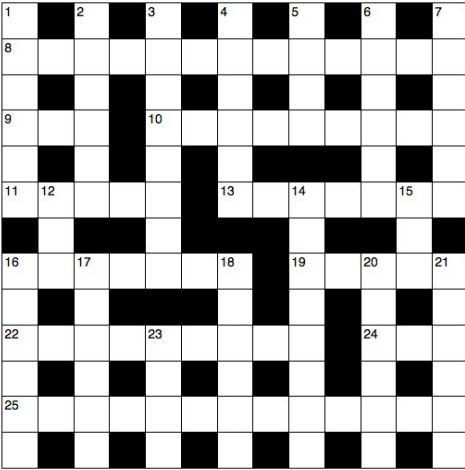
Laud and honour to the Father,
Laud and honour to the Son,
Laud and honour to the Spirit,
Ever Three and ever One,
Consubstantial, co-eternal,
While unending ages run.

The original words of the hymn were written by a Baptist minister, Rev. Job Hutton (1762-1849), and first published in the "Gospel Magazine" in 1805. The revised version we use today was written by Rev. John Mason Neale (1818-1866) in the early 1860s. Neale was born in London, educated at Trinity College, Cambridge, and was ordained in 1842. He wrote many hymns, and produced many books and articles on Liturgy and Church history.

The tune used for the hymn is "Unser Herrscher" ("Our Lord"), written by German poet Joachim Neander. He was born in Bremen in 1650, and died there of tuberculosis in 1680. He spent most of his adult life in academic posts in Heidelberg, Frankfurt and Düsseldorf. He is regarded as the first important hymn-writer of the German Reformed Church, writing around 60 hymns, including "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation".



APRIL CROSSWORD



ACROSS

8. 'He poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the —' (*Isaiah 53:12*) (13)
9. 'When they had sung a hymn, they went — to the Mount of Olives' (*Matthew 26:30*) (3)
10. Comes between Galatians and Philippians (9)
11. 'Your heart will — and swell with joy' (*Isaiah 60:5*) (5)
13. Muslim holy month (7)
16. Ten ears (anag.) (7)
19. Under (poetic abbrev.) (5)
22. How Abram described himself to God when he complained that his inheritance would pass to a servant (*Genesis 15:2*) (9)
24. 'Go to the —, you sluggard' (*Proverbs 6:6*) (3)
25. Debar from receiving Communion (13)

DOWN

1. My — for His Highest (Oswald Chambers' best-known book) (6)
2. Festival of the resurrection (6)
3. 'His sons will prepare for war and — a great army' (*Daniel 11:10*) (8)

4. 'Let not the — string his bow' (*Jeremiah 51:3*) (6)
5. Name of the River Thames in and around Oxford (4)
6. 'From then on Judas watched for an opportunity — — him over' (*Matthew 26:16*) (2,4)
7. 'But Christ is faithful — — — over God's house' (*Hebrews 3:6*) (2,1,3)
12. Long-handled implement used to till the soil (*Isaiah 7:25*) (3)
14. Order to which monks and nuns devote themselves (8)
15. Appropriate (*Proverbs 15:23*) (3)
16. I, uncle (anag.) (6)
17. 'They gave him — — of broiled fish' (*Luke 24:42*) (1,5)
18. 'Weren't there three men that we — — and threw into the fire?' (*Daniel 3:24*) (4,2)
20. Mountain where Noah's ark came to rest (*Genesis 8:4*) (6)
21. 'Don't you know that friendship with the world is — towards God?' (*James 4:4*) (6)
23. Prominent architectural feature of large cathedrals such as St Paul's (4)

MARCH Crossword Solution

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

*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.*

