

# THE KING

**JUNE 2021**



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



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## **SERVICES**

All Services are currently streamed from our website.  
In addition, the 10 am Sunday and 10 am Thursday Eucharists  
can be attended in Church.

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 BANNES OF MARRIAGE -  
please telephone the Vicar.

## **OFFICERS**

Churchwardens:	Mr Steve Castle, 3a Willows Close, Pinner HA5 3SY Mr Chris Ambrose <i>e-mail:</i> churchwardens@stedmundtheking.org.uk	(020) 8868 0482 01923 825 524
Hon. Secretary:	Mrs Clare Moses <i>e-mail:</i> claremoses@hotmail.com	07950 863 250
Hon. Treasurer:	Mr James Mair	(020) 8428 1349
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Hall Bookings:	Mr Steve Castle, 3a Willows Close, Pinner HA5 3SY	(020) 8868 0482

## **ORGANISATIONS**

<b>SPECTRUM ON SUNDAY</b>	Mrs Carol Diggins <i>e-mail:</i> 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:	Mrs Karen Retter	07984 662 588

## **MAGAZINE**

Hon. Editor:	Mrs Jenny Jones, 19 Latimer Close, Pinner HA5 3RB	(020) 8866 7173
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# 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](mailto: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](http://www.saintedmundschurch.org.uk) and clicking the "Subscribe" link underneath "Weekly Newsletter".

**The Sunday and Thursday 10am Eucharists  
are now being celebrated  
with a congregation inside Church and online.  
Places inside Church are limited  
due to the distancing requirements.**

**Places are allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.**

**Masks must be worn unless exempt.**

**In order to reduce the risk of virus transmission  
some doors and windows remain open during the service.**

**You are advised to wrap up warm if the weather is cold.**

**All services will continue to be available online. They can be accessed from the website [www.saintedmundschurch.org.uk](http://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 JUNE 2021

- 3 Thur CORPUS CHRISTI** (The Day of Thanksgiving for Holy Communion)  
Genesis 14.18-20, 1 Corinthians 11.23-26, John 6.51-58
- 6 SUN 1<sup>st</sup> SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**  
Genesis 3.8-15, 2 Corinthians 4.13-5.1, Mark 3.20-end
- 11 Fri St. Barnabas, Apostles**
- 13 SUN 2<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**  
Ezekiel 17.22-end, 2 Corinthians 5.6-10,14-17, Mark 4.26-34
- 20 SUN 3<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**  
Job 38.1-11, 2 Corinthians 6.1-13, Mark 4.35-end
- 24 Thur Birth of John the Baptist**
- 27 SUN 4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**  
Wisdom of Solomon 1.13-15;2.23,24, 2 Corinthians 8.7-end,  
Mark 5.21-end
- 29 Tues St. Peter and St. Paul, Apostles**



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

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

**More information: 01923 825 434**  
**Watch out for updates during June**

## JULY MAGAZINE



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

**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> June**

**020 8866 7173**

## **St. EDMUND'S WOMEN'S GUILD and BADMINTON CLUB**

**MEETINGS**

**are cancelled  
until further notice**

## **THE St. EDMUND'S YOUTH GROUP**

**will meet occasionally  
from June to September  
for special activities and trips.  
Contact Steve Castle on 020 8868 0482  
for information.**

## **THE 2<sup>nd</sup> NORTHWOOD (ST. EDMUND'S) SCOUT GROUP**

**has resumed some activities.  
Please contact Karen Retter on 07984 662 588  
for information.**

# SERMON FOR FR. TONY ANDREWS' REQUIEM MASS

Fr. Michael

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I only knew Fr Tony for just over 4 years but in that short period of time I came to see him as a friend and a very valuable colleague. It was also clear that he was much loved by the people of St. Edmund's. He made a massive contribution to the life here over the 20 years he served as an Honorary Assistant Curate and in retirement. His work during two interregnums was a huge force in holding the Parish together and was very much appreciated by everyone and not least by the Churchwardens. I was interested to hear Fr. Peter say how Fr. Tony greeted him - it used to amuse me that he always called me 'boss'; something that in 22 years as a bank manager I had never been called.

Tony was brought up in Epsom and after leaving school at the age of 14 became an apprentice draughtsman. His apprenticeship was interrupted by national Service and had to be continued later. In his teenage years Tony was a member of a youth club called Invicta, which catered for able bodied and people with disabilities. Even at that young age he championed their rights.

In the 1960s he moved into sales in the building industry and worked with architects and local builders and eventually became a sales manager. During the early 1970s he heard the call to be a priest and trained on the Southwark Ordination Course whilst continuing to work full time. In 1980 he was ordained deacon and in 1981 he was priested. He served in the Parish of St. Dunstan in Cheam, but continued his secular work. He was what was known at the time as a 'worker priest' and allowed him to have a ministry among his work colleagues as well as with a parish. In 1983 he became Curate at Epsom before moving to the Isle of Wight as Vicar of St. Paul's, Barton. Following that he moved back to London and became Chaplain to Northwick Park and St. Mark's Hospitals. I am told that this was an area of ministry in which he thrived, and was very good at, spending time with both patients and staff providing comfort and support. I have been contacted by someone who was a Lay Chaplain at the time; she said that Tony as well as being a great chaplain was very supportive of the Lay Chaplains and did a huge amount of work in building up that team throughout the Diocese and she was very anxious that people knew about this aspect of his ministry. After 8 years at Northwick Park Tony moved to become Curate at St. Mark's in Regent's Park and it was there that he covered his first interregnum. After his retirement in 2000, as Fr. Bruce told us, he came to help at St. Edmund's.

Fr. Tony confided in me that he was dyslexic, something which I don't think was a secret. He had been helped in his youth by his Scout master with his reading but I think the fact that he was dyslexic and yet managed to complete his ordination training at a time when there certainly wasn't the knowledge or help available that there is now-a-days show what a determined and hard working person he was.



I only heard him preach on two occasions and because of his dyslexia he did so with minimum notes and in a very natural easy style.

Tony was the sort of Christian who put his faith into action. He was a person who quietly got on with things, not looking for any praise or reward and often without people knowing about it. In his retirement I learned that he used to regularly cycle to Harrow Civic Centre and then drive a library bus to those who were housebound and he also helped with a service for local carers, driving a rickety old bus which he used to take them out for the day first for a pub lunch and then for an afternoons shopping giving them welcome relief from their caring duties.

Here at St. Edmund's he was a wonderful visitor of the sick and housebound, and would often champion those on the edge of society, something that he did throughout his life and ministry. He also took on some of the most menial tasks. Every week he would come down to church and make sure the bins were out for collection. At pantomime time he would spend hours in the freezing cold in the car park making sure people parked correctly, although in his latter years he did move inside to become Assistant House Manager.

Jesus called us as Christians to be salt leaven and light to the world. A teaspoon of salt flavours an entire pot of food, a pinch of yeast leavens a whole loaf, and a single candle lights a room. That was how Fr. Tony lived his life - he truly was salt, light and leaven; what he did in his life and ministry had a huge impact on so many people. I suspect that he didn't realise just what an impact he had on others as he was such a humble man.

Fr. Tony was a wonderful priest, a man of prayer and above all a true Christian. He will be sadly missed by us all Rest Eternal Grant unto him, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon him – May he rest in peace. Amen.





# **R.I.P. FR. TONY - IN MEMORIAM**

## **FROM FR. BRUCE DRIVER**

Fr. Tony was a real gift; a South London boy who, like me, knew the working world's Monday morning feeling personally. Trained on the Southwark Diocese Ordination Scheme he served in South London parishes, on the Isle of Wight, and discovered a natural bent for hospice care which led to his major ministry as Chaplain at Northwick Park Hospital.

Retiring for the first time, as Tony put it, he helped in central London and then joined St. Edmund's congregation some time in 1998.

'Would you like some help', he said to me and all the magic of his relationship with St. Edmund's began.

We enjoyed a ten year double act which for me was great fun. Tony's experience in the building world, his knack of dealing with working people, made a substantial contribution to a large project to improve the Lounge and access across the whole Church and Hall.

Tony appreciated his silence, the rich world of prayer; he celebrated Mass with simple, relaxed authority. Tony and I shared much in all this, both also being members of The Third Order of the Society of St. Francis.

A family man, there was talk of sons, daughters and daughters in law, and quiet appreciation of his wife Anne.

There is of course much more; an active outdoor youth; the colour and dance of years. An old priest; more, an old London priest has returned home.

## **FROM FR. PHILIP BARNES**

I'm really grateful for this opportunity to be able to express my appreciation for the ministry of Fr. Tony, and the tremendous support and encouragement that he offered to me during my time as vicar of St. Edmund's.

There's a phrase from the second letter St. Paul writes to the church in Corinth that springs to mind when I think about Fr. Tony. St. Paul reflects upon his own ministry in that letter and he says "For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake." Fr. Tony never promoted himself, or pushed himself forward. In St. Paul's words 'he did not proclaim himself', but gently and faithfully witnessed to the fullness of life in Jesus Christ.

I arrived at St. Edmund's as a new incumbent, and soon found in Fr. Tony a gentle, wise, supportive and gracious colleague. Whilst never promoting himself or his own agenda it was evident on first meeting him that here was someone with great experience, and he carried insights from his career before ordination into his ministry. Shining through was a genuine love of people, and it is significant that the period of his ministry that he spoke about with such warmth was as a Hospital Chaplain, when he felt the privilege of accompanying people at the rawest periods of their lives.

There are many gifts for which we have cause to be grateful, but I think it's his conviviality that I will treasure most. My abiding image of Fr. Tony is of him enjoying the company of others - especially with a glass of beer in hand at a happy parish social occasion. Companionship was at the heart of his faith. I recall a study group, a Lent course I think, when we were looking at artistic representations of Christ. I invited participants to choose a picture that was most expressive of their understanding of the person of Jesus, and Fr. Tony chose a picture of the Last Supper. He chose it, he said, because it spoke to him of the Eucharist, and that was the place he felt closest to his Lord, and to the community of Christ's friends.

He knew that at the Eucharist we are all guests, we are all welcome, we are all companions together, and what he felt and experienced at the altar spilled over into the life he shared with us - as a convivial companion on the Way. You always felt really listened to by Tony. He was someone I could share a tricky pastoral issue with, or a worry, or a laugh. He didn't jump in with instant crass advice, but thoughtfully pondered, really 'heard' what was on my mind, and gently offered encouragement, or advice, or a fresh perspective.

In thanking God for Tony Andrews and in praying for the repose of his dear soul we give thanks too for those countless lives that are the better for having known him, and pray that the gifts we received from him may bear fruit in us too.

### **FROM FR. PETER GODDEN**

It was an absolute pleasure to know Tony. He was a gentle, and sincere man. There was much wisdom and a deep prayerfulness about him.

He always greeted me by saying 'Alright, man?' There was no pretence to this; he wasn't trying to sound down with the kids - he spoke to you as a mate down the pub, and I really enjoyed that about him. I also very much appreciated his dry sense of humour, which I shall miss.

I'm also fortunate enough to have a memento of our friendship and his ministry, in the form of a splendid Book of Common Prayer, dating from the 1830s, which Fr. Tony gave to me before I started training for ordination. He said that he had rescued it from a bonfire at a church he was previously at, where an over-zealous churchwarden had deemed it to be surplus to requirements because of its age. I was deeply touched that Tony entrusted it to me; I have used it for prayer many times in the years since, and I shall enjoy remembering Tony when I continue to pray with it in the future.

His ministry amongst us at St. Edmund's has been an enormous blessing; his presence and generous service to us across three incumbencies has strengthened the parish immensely, and we are indebted to him.

May he rest in peace, and rise in glory.

And from three members of the community of St. Edmund's ...

### **FROM MARGARET FORSYTH**

I often walked or drove back from church with Fr. Tony and, over the years, we had many conversations and laughs. I always found him calm and approachable so I felt able to ask him to explain matters of faith that I didn't understand.

Many of us were lucky to share his company on our Pilgrimages, and we give grateful thanks for his Ministry here at St. Edmund's. He will be greatly missed.

### **FROM JILL HUGHES**

Fr. Tony was always ready to come to the help of everyone. He always came to my aid when I was in difficulties. I have very happy memories of Pilgrimages organised by Fr. Bruce and all the support Fr. Tony gave me when we travelled abroad. He was a lovely gentleman who will always be remembered with great affection.

### **FROM JENNY JONES**

There were several times when I gave Fr. Tony a lift back to his home after a service or an event at the church. He was so easy to get on with.

I shall always remember the support he gave to Isaac Odeyemi and me when, as Churchwardens, we had the responsibility of coping with an interregnum. When Fr. Bruce retired we became responsible for ensuring that we had a priest to take each service. I remember having a discussion with Fr. Tony as to when he would be able to take a Sunday service. His response was that he would take the 10 am three Sundays in each month, which was a big commitment. It made a task for finding priests for each service a great deal easier.

He was the sort of person who, when asked would say 'yes'. Nothing was too much trouble. In my eyes he was an example of how to live a Christian life and I am truly blessed to have known Fr. Tony.



### **STAMPS FOR THE R.N.I.B.**

Olive Fairclough has kindly agreed to continue Fr. Tony's good work in sending our used stamps to raise money for The Royal National Institute for Blind People. Please continue to save any used stamps from your post, leaving a centimetre around the stamp and placing them in the collecting box on the radiator shelf in the foyer. Thank you for your continued support.

If you are unable to get to St. Edmund's, you are welcome to send the stamps to the Editor who will pass them to Olive. The address can be found on page 1 of this magazine.

Summer greetings (though the weather is wild and woolly at the time of writing!).

The assurance of new life in late spring, displayed in the varied and vibrant greens of new leaves and the glory of the blossoming trees, was enhanced by the growing awareness that we were beginning to beat the virus, at least in our neck of the woods. Sadly, this was not the case in other parts of the world. As I write, India is experiencing a huge number of deaths and the hospitals are swamped with Covid patients. This will mean that many of our Indian friends in this country and elsewhere will have lost dear ones, and our hearts go out to them. The world seems to be digging in its pockets to help control the situation and relieve suffering, but it is too late for many. We mourn with them for their innumerable losses.

We mourn, too, for the loss of our dear friend, Fr. Tony Andrews, a stalwart friend and support to our parish for many years. He joined us as Curate in Fr. Bruce's time, after retiring from various clerical commitments, including hospital chaplaincy at Northwick Park. He did so much more than preside and preach at services, throwing himself tirelessly into the life of St. Edmund's. There are those who will be able to tell the story of his time here in much more detail than I but we all have our particular memories of him which we shall treasure, such as walking with him on 'Beating the Bounds' hikes and accompanying him on the St. Edmund's pilgrimages he attended, and also led, like the one to Northumbria and Holy Island.

I discovered at one point that he used to take young carers from the Borough of Harrow on outings and trips so that they got a break. These youngsters were all under 21 and some of them were very young indeed to be looking after ailing parents, guardians and siblings. I suspect Fr. Tony did many other caring deeds that will never be generally known about, but I am convinced there have been many people over many years who have reason to bless him for his kindness and good counsel. When thinking about dear Fr. Tony, I felt so sad that we had lost yet another of St. Edmund's unforgettable saints. But I couldn't get out of my head a quotation from John Bunyan's 'Pilgrim's Progress': "*So he passed over and all the trumpets sounded for him on the other side.*" I thought I could hear those trumpets. God bless you and thank you, Fr. Tony.

Fr. Tony's Requiem Mass was held on the evening of Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> May, prior to the family funeral the next day. It was a beautiful, peaceful service, filled with good memories, including warm and inspiring tributes from Fr. Bruce and Fr. Peter Godden. Jill Hughes and Margaret Forsyth did the readings, which were from The Wisdom of Solomon 3 v1-9 and from Thessalonians 4 v13-18 - very uplifting passages - and Jenny Jones offered the intercessions. Simon Wilson sang the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm, and was joined by Mark to sing the Russian Kontakion for the Dead, which was very

moving. Fr. Tony's favourite hymn was 'Thine be the glory', a stirring anthem reflecting his faith in the Resurrection; it was both the hymn at the beginning of the service, and played in an improvisation by Mark as the postlude.

It was lovely to have Bishop Pete, Fr. John Spinks, Fr. Philip and other good friends with us, for what was a sad, but also a very loving and hopeful occasion.

Other news (as they say on the BBC!): It was good to hear that Monty the Dog had had a successful operation on his leg. I saw a photograph of him looking a bit fed-up in his large blue protective collar which looked a bit like a satellite disc - it was rumoured he could get Sky channels on it! Let's hope that by the time you read this, he'll be back to his cheerful, boisterous self.

At the time of writing, Frank is up to his eyes in examination-marking, which is even more rigorous than usual, as the year 11 exam results will be used to establish the candidates' grades, there being no official exams this Summer. This puts a lot of pressure on teachers to get their marking absolutely right. Samples will be moderated - and then each question will be marked by two people. Unconscious bias must, of course, be avoided as far as is humanly possible: it can be easy to despair of deciphering the work of someone with terrible handwriting, for example, and a great relief to come across a script you can read easily; obviously, though, it's the content that matters. Conscientious teachers accept this and try hard to give everyone their due - but when you're tired...! And it's vital to get this accurate after last year's grading fiasco. The exams are then moderated by the Board. (Why couldn't they have marked them in the first place?!)

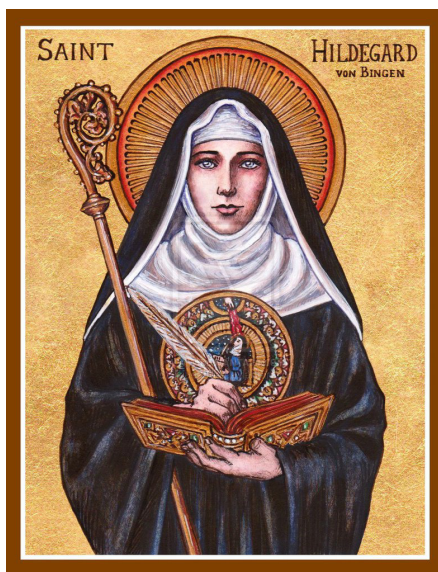
We keep Michael Windsor in our prayers, as he has had to have another sojourn in hospital recently. Also Kathy Young, who is now receiving nursing care at home, would appreciate our prayers.'

I wasn't able to attend the May All-Age Service, but I caught it later online. It was good to have Danika, Nathaniel, Abigail and Joyline contributing online, and Joash responding to Fr. Michael's questions in church - and one of my favourite Easter songs, 'Now the green blade riseth', played at the beginning (under another name) by Mark and later sung by Jenny. The Gospel featured Jesus' words 'I am the vine', and Fr. Michael preached about how important it was to stay connected to Jesus, and to each other. He demonstrated how a dead piece of wood could not be re-connected to its original tree, but reminded us that we had the chance to re-connect if we'd broken away from God. It struck me that over the next few weeks and months we shall be attempting to re-connect more with the 'normal' world and with each other, and some of us may find this hard. It will be worth the effort, though, especially if those of us (like myself) who've felt a bit isolated from God at times, can also try to re-connect with Him - our source of love, light and strength, like the sap in the vine. We shall need that strength, as we seek to rebuild our lives and communities - and to share what we have, both materially and spiritually, with those in need.

We were glad to see Fr. Leslie Drake again when he took the service on 9<sup>th</sup> May, during Fr. Michael's break. In his pithy and challenging homily, he reminded us that to be chosen by God isn't just a situation of being, but of doing. Even if we are old, we can at least be very persistent and productive in our prayers. And the Festival of the Ascension, which we celebrated with a healthy-sized congregation on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup>, reminds us that we are being sent out 'in the Power of the Spirit to live and work for His praise and glory'.

With these things in mind, I thought we might reflect on these words of that remarkable, amazingly talented and highly productive German Abbess, Hildegard of Bingen, who wrote them in the twelfth century. I think you'll agree that they are no less affecting today:-

God's soul is the wind, rustling plants and leaves,  
The dew dancing on the grass  
The rainy breezes making everything to grow.  
Just like this, the kindness of a person flows,  
Touching those dragging burdens of longing.  
We should be a breeze helping the homeless,  
Dew comforting those who are depressed,  
The cool, misty air refreshing the exhausted,  
And with God's teaching we have got to feed the hungry:  
This is how we share God's soul.



May the power of Pentecost uphold, animate and inspire us all.

# HYMN OF THE MONTH

*From material supplied by [www.parishpump.co.uk](http://www.parishpump.co.uk)*

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This month, a modern classic ...

1. Lord, for the years  
Your love has kept and guided,  
Urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way,  
Sought us and saved us, pardoned and provided:  
Lord of the years, we bring our thanks today.
2. Lord, for that Word,  
The Word of life which fires us,  
Speaks to our hearts and sets our souls ablaze,  
Teaches and trains, rebukes us and inspires us:  
Lord of the Word, receive Your people's praise.
3. Lord, for our land,  
In this our generation,  
Spirits oppressed by pleasure, wealth and care:  
For young and old, for commonwealth and nation,  
Lord of our land, be pleased to hear our prayer.
4. Lord, for our world,  
Where men disown and doubt You,  
Loveless in strength, and comfortless in pain,  
Hungry and helpless, lost indeed without You:  
Lord of the world, we pray that Christ may reign.
5. Lord, for ourselves;  
In living power remake us -  
Self on the cross and Christ upon the throne,  
Past put behind us, for the future take us:  
Lord of our lives, to live for Christ alone.

This well-loved hymn was written in 1967 by The Rev'd. Timothy Dudley-Smith, who later became Bishop of Thetford. He later said "I wrote it on a train when I was very pressed for time. I'm thankful if something I write gets picked up, but I suspect anyone who does something in a rush later regrets that they didn't find time to apply the sandpaper a bit more!"

Dudley-Smith had been asked to write a hymn for the centenary service of the Children's Special Service Mission, now Scripture Union, in St Paul's Cathedral. His commission was to write words that could be fitted to Jean Sibelius' *Finlandia*, as it was to be accompanied by an orchestra with this tune in their repertoire.



Dudley-Smith need not have worried about lack of time – his lyrics were a ‘hit’ in the Cathedral on the day, and went on to become so well-loved that George Carey chose the hymn to be sung at his consecration as Bishop of Bath and Wells, and then again later, in 1991, or his consecration as Archbishop in Canterbury Cathedral.

The hymn continued to be widely sung and loved, until in 2002 Dudley-Smith was asked to write an extra verse for it so that it could even be sung around the time of the Queen’s Golden Jubilee.

Many of the words in the hymn are true for the Queen herself, as she celebrates her 95<sup>th</sup> birthday. She does indeed thank God ‘for the years your love has kept and guided, urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way’...

And so indeed the ‘extra’ verse added for the Queen has also held true:

Lord for our hopes, the dreams of all our living,  
Christ and his kingdom one united aim,  
Rulers and peoples bound in high thanksgiving,  
Lord of our hopes, our trust is in your Name.

The tune used for the hymn is called “Lord Of The Years”; it was written by Michael Baughen (b. 1930). He was born in Borehamwood, educated at Bromley County Grammar School and the University of London and was ordained in 1956. Among his appointments, he was Rector of All Souls’, Langham Place (1975-1982), then Bishop of Chester from 1982 to 1996. Following his retirement, he served as an honorary assistant bishop in the Diocese of London, then in the Diocese of Southwark, and currently in the Diocese of Guildford.



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

## PART 16

*Jenny Jones*

**2006**

**January** (17<sup>th</sup>) Women's Guild -

a talk by Bernard Wood - The story of 'Land of Hope and Glory'

(29<sup>th</sup>) Classic Concert - Celebrating the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the birth of Mozart; his Piano Concerto No. 13 and String Quartet No. 21, performed by Vivien Banfield and The Caspian String Quartet.

**February** We heard that the Bridge House Trust had awarded us £20,000 towards providing access improvements to the Church and Hall, and a further £2000 to Disabilities Equalities Training for the user groups. Many thanks to Sadie Thompson for her efforts in procuring these grants.

(7<sup>th</sup>) Women's Guild - a talk by Anne Shannon on the S.M.I.L.E home support charity.

(12<sup>th</sup>) 3.30 pm A celebration of Evening Prayer using the Book of Common Prayer.

(21<sup>st</sup>) Women's Guild - a talk by John Corner on The Hospice Movement.

(25<sup>th</sup>) Fund-raising Supper Quiz.

**March** (8<sup>th</sup>) Fr. Bruce's Lunchtime Lent Conversation, Part 1 - 'Human and Mortal'.

(10<sup>th</sup>) Pilgrimage to St. Paul's Cathedral - Guided Tour and Choral Evensong.

(15<sup>th</sup>) Fr. Bruce's Lunchtime Lent Conversation, Part 2 - 'Created'.

(19<sup>th</sup>) 3.00pm Prayer and Praise service - 'A Smile for Lent'.

(29) Fr. Bruce's Lunchtime Lent Conversation, Part 3 - 'Chosen and Called'.

**April** (2<sup>nd</sup>) Passion Sunday evening - Service of Music and Meditation, including Pergolesi's "Stabat Mater", sung by the augmented Choir.

(11<sup>th</sup>) Women's Guild Ploughman's Lunch in aid of the Lent Project.

(30<sup>th</sup>) Classic Concert - Schubert's Piano Sonata No.14 and Six Moments Musicaux.

**May** (1<sup>st</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>) Pilgrimage to Northumbria led by Fr. Tony Andrews, including visits to Durham, Hexham and Lindisfarne; also to Ripon on the way home.

(15<sup>th</sup>) Scout group AGM included presentations of Long Service Awards to Harold Talbot, Mike Evans and Marjorie Pimm.

(16<sup>th</sup>) Women's Guild - a talk by Richard Perrin on London Livery Companies.

(20<sup>th</sup>) The Spring Fayre included a Fancy Dress Competition for children on a theme of 'Your favourite Disney character'.

## **June** (4<sup>th</sup>) Pentecost/Whit Sunday

Choral Evensong and Devotions before the Blessed Sacrament.

- (8<sup>th</sup>) Lunchtime Summer School, part 1 Fr Bruce spoke about 'Models for Prayer'.
- (13<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> July) 'Basics of Christianity' - pre-Confirmation course (young people).
- (17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> July) 'Basics of Christianity' - pre-Confirmation course (adults).
- (20<sup>th</sup>) Women's Guild - a talk on 'Women in prison'  
by Prison Officer Fiona Littlemore.
- (25<sup>th</sup>) Classic Supper Concert - Mozart's String Quartet No.6 and Tchaikovsky's  
"Souvenir de Florence" String Sextet,  
played by Shelley van Loen's "Edmund Ensemble"
- (29<sup>th</sup>) The church received a letter from Rev'd. Malcolm Hunter, Curate at  
St. Michael's, Camden Town, asking for sponsorship to raise £100,000  
towards replacing the roof of this Grade II listed building.  
He will stay on the roof for nine days and nights. (The Heritage Lottery Fund  
had offered £350,000 providing that the parish raised £100,000.)

## **July** (17<sup>th</sup>) First Phase of the Building Works for Disabled Access began.

## **August**

The interior of the Main Hall was redecorated during August by a team led by Mike Godden. The job took almost exactly 1 month, using a total of about 550 man-hours, which involved 17 people assisting at various times, but especially Terry Diggins, Steve Castle and Mike and Elizabeth Godden, who between them accounted for over 50% of the hours. The cost was just over £450, probably less than a tenth of having it done commercially (and probably less professionally). The project also included (professionally made) replacement of the window and door curtains, the cost of which (just over £2000) was shared equally by the Maintenance fund, Saturday Market, and Arrow Players.

(9<sup>th</sup>) Women's Guild Ploughman's Lunch at Rachel Windsor's House in Northwood.

## **September** (24<sup>th</sup>) Harvest Festival Service, followed by Harvest Lunch.

The Harvest gifts were taken to St. Michael's, Camden Town (see 29<sup>th</sup> June above), which has a night shelter for the homeless during the winter months.

Fr. Malcolm wrote to thank everyone here not only for the Harvest gifts but for the £536 we had sent towards the roof project (which will increase by £131 when Gift Aid is applied and received). Fr Malcolm also told us that his sponsorship had raised £850,000, and that the new roof would soon be in place.

**October** (1<sup>st</sup>) Feast of St. Francis of Assisi. At the 10 am Service Fr. Tony Andrews celebrated the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of his Ordination to the Priesthood. There was a reception in the Hall after the service, at which Fr. Tony received a signed card from the congregation and a cheque to show our appreciation of all he has done for the community of St. Edmund's.

(15<sup>th</sup>) Confirmation was celebrated at the 10 am By the Bishop of Willesden.

(22<sup>nd</sup>) The adoption of a tradition originating in Mexico that that takes place in Advent. A portable Crib with all the people and animals within it will be blessed at the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent 1. It will then be taken home to the first family who have agreed to take part. It will stay overnight before being passed on to the next family, then will travel around the parish from one family to the next until it is returned for the Blessing of the Crib service on Christmas Eve.

(24<sup>th</sup>) Women's Guild Autumn Lunch

(28<sup>th</sup>) Pilgrimage to Rochester Cathedral. After a Guided Tour there was a service of Holy Communion which was celebrated in the Lady Chapel by Fr. Tony.

**November** (5<sup>th</sup>) The Prayer and Praise Service was celebrated using the Taizé form of service.

(20<sup>th</sup>) 7 pm St. Edmund's Patronal Festival Service and Supper. The Preacher and Guest of Honour was Fr. Simon Pothén, Vicar of St. John the Baptist, Pinner.

(21<sup>st</sup>) Fr. Bruce's Advent School - 'Faith', part 1.

(25<sup>th</sup>) Fr. Bruce's Advent School - 'Faith', part 2.

**December** (3<sup>rd</sup>) Lydia McLean was welcomed to St. Edmund's as a Lay Reader. She will be involved in preaching, with the children who come to the After school Service, and in pastoral work in the parish.

The Evening Service of Music for Advent included music by Pergolesi, Bruckner, Fauré and Bach.

(5<sup>th</sup>) Fr. Bruce's Advent School - 'Faith', part 3.

(12<sup>th</sup>) Christingle service for the children for the end-of-term After School Service

(24<sup>th</sup>) Gifts brought to the Blessing of the Crib service were sent to the Myosotis Trust for Romania

# SOME JUNE CUSTOMS

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

Mike Godden

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**CORNISH MIDSUMMER FIRES.** The Midsummer Fires are a revival, dating back to the 1920s, of the ancient custom of pagan fire-lighting at the longest day. A chain of beacons is lit starting at Carn Brea near Land's End and ending near the Devon border. Prayers are said in Cornish (if a Cornish speaker is available) before the beacons are lit, and herbs and flowers are cast into the flames. The events are organised by the Federation of Old Cornwall Societies, who do so much to keep Cornish traditions alive.

**LONDON KNOLLYS ROSE CEREMONY.** This is a revival of a custom in which a rose was given as payment for a fine. Back in 1381 a footbridge was erected without permission between two properties on Seething Lane owned by Lady Constance Knollys and for this transgression she was fined one red rose. The custom is carried out by the Company of Watermen and Lightermen of the River Thames. The Master of the Company chooses a rose from the garden on Seething Lane; the cut blossom is carried ceremonially on a velvet cushion by the Verger of the Church of All-Hallows-by-the-Tower in a colourful procession to the Mansion House, where it is presented to the Lord Mayor, in a private ceremony.

**LEICESTER DAMASK ROSE CEREMANY.** Similar to the above, there is a lesser-known equivalent held each June in Leicester. Quarter days marked dates in the year upon which rents became due and 24<sup>th</sup> June is one of those days; Quit Rents were token rent payments which acknowledge ownership of property without actual money changing hands and in this case a rose and four old pennies is handed over in payment. In Leicester the rent is paid for the O'Neill's pub on Loseby Lane. The custom originated in the 1600s. The Mayor and local dignitaries gather outside the Town Hall in their regalia, then process to the bar for the brief ceremony where the flower and coins are handed to the landlord at the door.

**BODMIN AND ST. KEVERNE CORNISH REBELLION COMMEMORATIONS.** Each June in both Bodmin and St. Keverne, ceremonies are held in remembrance of the participants in the Cornish Rebellion of 1497. Thomas Flamank of Bodmin and blacksmith Michael Joseph (alias An Gof, which means blacksmith) were the leaders in a protest march to London against unfair taxation by King Henry VII. They were brutally executed for this offence to the crown but have not been forgotten in their native county. Wreaths and flowers are laid in ceremonies which include songs and recitations, processions and music, all with a distinctive Cornish flavour.

**BLESSING THE SEA.** This custom takes place in a number of around the coast; it is traditionally associated with Rogationtide (the 3 days before Ascension Day). One such place is Brightlingsea, in Essex, which in mediæval times was associated with the Cinque Port of Sandwich. Dignitaries of the Cinque Ports and civic officials in their regalia attend a brief religious service on board ship at the Hard. Following the Blessing, the dignitaries take to the water to lead the Smack Flotilla procession along

the Brightlingsea Creek, past the Hard to West Ness for Reclaiming the Waters which asserts the rights of the people of Brightlingsea to use the waters in their Liberty, in a traditional boundary-marking custom akin to Beating the Bounds on land. The origins of this lie in a historic dispute of the local oystermen with those from Colchester. The custom survives as part of the town's maritime heritage.

The annual **TORTOISE FAIR AT CORPUS CHRISTI COLLEGE, OXFORD** is an ever more popular event in the local calendar, the highlight of which is the hotly contested Tortoise Race. Several colleges in Oxford have their own Tortoise pets and keepers, and the race is their chance to prove their mettle against their rivals. The races date back some forty years or so, and many of the competitors return year after year, as the life of the average tortoise is a long one. The racers and their keepers assemble in the centre of a large circle of lettuce, facing outwards with the aim of racing from the middle to the edge and of course the fastest reptile takes the prize – it follows a similar pattern but on a larger scale to snail racing events. As well as the racing, there are other entertainments, music and refreshments and the money raised goes towards charitable causes.

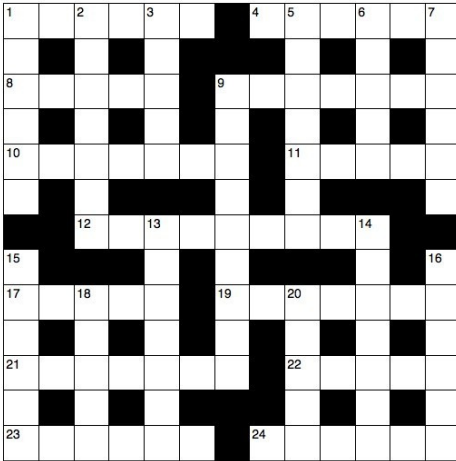
The historic **FAIR AT EAGLESHAM**, south of Glasgow, has been a fixture in the local calendar for over 400 years; it now takes place today every other (odd numbered) year. An integral part of the event is the ancient race for a Kilmarnock Bunnet (which is a 'bonnet' that is a traditional part of Highland dress. The main day is the Saturday at the beginning of June, but other events take place during a whole week of activities. There's a Parade, led by the Fair Queen and her attendants with a pipe band, followed by the crowning ceremony, and competitions and traditional Highland games.

**WYBUNBURY FIG PIE WAKES.** For over 200 years, on a June Saturday, in the village of Wybunbury in Cheshire, fig pies are baked to a traditional recipe, and are rolled along the road to see whose travels the furthest. The winning pie is the one that rolls the longest distance over the course. As well as the competition, there are various entertainments on the day which include Morris Dancing, music, and tours of the church tower. Proceedings begin with the peal of bells at 12.30; pie rolling continues through the afternoon. The event is now organised by the Wybunbury Tower Preservation Trust as a fundraiser for the famously leaning church tower, which is all that remains of the ancient church of St. Chad.

**SELSTON TOWER SERVICE.** The tower of St. Helen's Church in Selston in Nottinghamshire was built in the 15<sup>th</sup> century and it houses eight bells. Each year a special Tower Service is conducted by the Vicar who stands on the tower and preaches to the congregation gathered on the ground at its foot below. The origin of the custom is obscure; perhaps it was a manifestation of what we would now call 'outreach'. Hymns are sung, and the Service is followed by tea and cakes.

**NESTON LADIES DAY** is the highlight of the year for the Neston (Cheshire) Female Society, which was founded in 1814. Each June they march under their banner bearing the motto "Bear Ye One Another's Burdens" (taken from St. Paul's letter to the Galatians) accompanied by children and local dignitaries, all bedecked with flowers. The procession ends at St Mary's & St Helen's Church for a short service.

# JUNE CROSSWORD



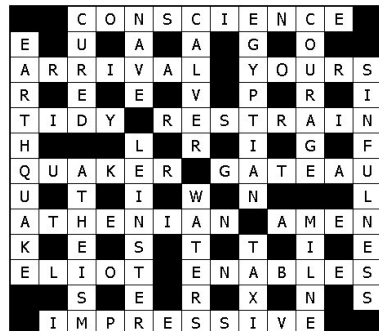
## ACROSS

1. Military tactic used by Joshua to attack & destroy the city of Ai (*Joshua 8:2*) (6)
4. Place of learning (6)
8. 'When Moses' hands grew — , they took a stone and put it under him and he sat on it' (*Exodus 17:12*) (5)
9. Unpleasant auguries of the end of the age, as forecast by Jesus (*Matthew 24:7*) (7)
10. Stronghold to which girls in King Xerxes' harem (including Esther) were taken (*Esther 2:8*) (7)
11. Where Saul went to consult a medium before fighting the Philistines (*1 Samuel 28:7*) (5)
12. Propitiation (*Hebrews 2:17*) (9)
17. Turn away (*Jeremiah 11:15*) (5)
19. So clear (anag.) (7)
21. 'I have just got — , so I can't come': one excuse to be absent from the great banquet (*Luke 14:20*) (7)
22. Long weapon with a pointed head used by horsemen (*Job 39:23*) (5)
23. Musical beat (6)
24. What the Israelites were told to use to daub blood on their door-frames at the first Passover (*Exodus 12:22*) (6)

## DOWN

1. Fasten (*Exodus 28:37*) (6)
2. Art bite (anag.) (7)
3. 'The people of the city were divided; some — with the Jews, others with the apostles' (*Acts 14:4*) (5)
5. Contend (*Jeremiah 12:5*) (7)
6. Possessed (*Job 1:3*) (5)
7. Sheen (*Lamentations 4:1*) (6)
9. 'You love evil rather than good, — rather than speaking the truth' (*Psalms 52:3*) (9)
13. Large flightless bird (*Job 39:13*) (7)
14. They were worth several hundred pounds each (*Matthew 25:15*) (7)
15. 'A — went out to sow his seed' (*Matthew 13:3*) (6)
16. How Jesus described Jairus's daughter when he went into the room where she lay (*Mark 5:39*) (6)
18. The part of the day when the women went to the tomb on the first Easter morning (*John 20:1*) (5)
20. Narrow passageway between buildings (*Luke 14:21*) (5)

## MAY 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.*

