

THE KING

FEBRUARY 2021



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

WEBSITE: www.saintedmundschurch.org.uk

VICAR

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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 BANNINGS OF MARRIAGE please telephone the Vicar: (020) 8866 9230

OFFICERS

Churchwardens:

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

(020) 8868 0482

Mr Chris Ambrose

01923 825 524

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Hon. Secretary:

Mrs Clare Moses

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Hon. Treasurer:

Mr James Mair

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Director of Music:

Mr Mark Hammond, 39^B Carlton Avenue, Kenton HA3 8AX

(020) 8909 2687

Hall Bookings:

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

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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

01923 823 134

Mrs Connie Ambrose

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".

For the time being, there will be no attendance at any Services in Church.

**Services will continue to be available online;
The latest information is available
in the weekly St. Edmund's Newsletter -
see above for how to access the Newsletter.**

CALENDAR AND PRINCIPAL SERVICE READINGS FOR FEBRUARY 2021

7 SUN 2nd SUNDAY BEFORE LENT

Proverbs 8.1,22-31, Colossians 1.15-20, John 1.1-14

14 SUN SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE LENT

2 Kings 2.1-12, 2 Corinthians 4.3-6, Mark 9.2-9

17 WED ASH WEDNESDAY

Isaiah 58.1-12, 2 Corinthians 5.20b-6.10, John 8.1-11

21 SUN 1st SUNDAY OF LENT

Genesis 9.8-17, 1 Peter 3.18-end, Mark 1.9-15

28 SUN 2ND SUNDAY OF LENT

Genesis 17.1-7, 15, 16, Romans 4.13-end, Mark 8.31-end

**SPECTRUM
ON
SUNDAY**

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

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

More information: 01923 825 434

MARCH MAGAZINE



All contributions for the March Magazine to be with Jenny Jones by

Friday 12th February

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.**

THE MILLENNIUM RESOLUTION

When 1999 became 2000, there were a number of special Services, and other liturgical material, all centred around the notion of "A New Start".

One of these items was the Millennium Resolution, which was ...

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.

21 years on, it's a resolution that is still relevant.

ASH WEDNESDAY - MOURNING OUR SINS

Adapted from material supplied by www.parishpump.co.uk

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday - this year on 17th February. But why 'Ash' Wednesday? The reason has to do with getting things right between you and God; the tradition has its origin the Old Testament.

In the Old Testament, the Israelites often sinned. When they finally came to their senses, and saw their evil ways as God saw them, they could do nothing but repent in sorrow. They mourned for the damage and evil they had done. As part of this repentance, they covered their heads with ashes. For the Israelites, putting ashes on your head, and even rending your clothes, was an outward sign of their heart-felt repentance and acknowledgement of sin.

In the very early Christian Church, newly converted 'penitents' had ashes sprinkled over them at the beginning of Lent. They were turning to God for the first time, and mourning their sins. But soon many other Christians wanted to take part in the custom, and to do so at the very start of Lent. They heeded the call of the prophet Joel to 'rend your hearts and not your garments'.

The ritual of the imposition of ashes continues; it is offered (but not obligatory) on Ash Wednesday throughout the Anglican communion and other Christian denominations. Receiving the mark of ashes on one's forehead is a symbol of penitence, and is a reminder of human mortality; the words used at the point of imposition are those spoken by God to Adam in the Garden of Eden - "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return" (Genesis 3.19)

From mediæval times, it has been customary to burn the branches or palm crosses distributed on Palm Sunday in the previous year in order to create the ashes for Ash Wednesday.

THE COLLECT FOR ASH WEDNESDAY

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing that you have made
and forgive the sins of all those who are penitent:

Create and make in us new and contrite hearts that we,
worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness,
may receive from you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

So begins the season of Lent, which continues for 40 days (not counting Sundays), reflecting the time of Jesus' fasting in the wilderness, and finishes at Easter. It is a time of penitence, self-denial, and of alms-giving; a time of preparation for the great and joyous celebration of the Resurrection.

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.

LENT GIVING 2021

It is intended that this year's Lent Giving will raise funds for the Diocese of London Lent Appeal, subject to PCC approval.

Please see our website at www.saintedmundschurch.org.uk for latest information.

Cheques (payable to "PCC of St. Edmund the King") may be sent by post to St. Edmund's Church (Lent Appeal), 2 Pinner Road, Northwood, HA6 1QS.

If you wish to donate via bank transfer, please e-mail treasurer@saintedmundschurch.org.uk and James Mair will give you the details.

From the Diocese of London website ...

The Lent Appeal will focus on Youth Violence, prevalent in London, which is the intentional use of physical force or power to threaten or harm others by young people aged between 10-24 years. It typically involves young people hurting peers who are unrelated to them and who they may or may not know well. Youth violence can include fighting, bullying, threats with weapons, and gang-related violence. A young person can be involved with youth violence as a victim, offender, or witness.

- In England and Wales there were 47,349 Police-recorded offences involving a knife or sharp instrument in the 12 months to June 2020.
- There has been an 85% increase in knife crime in England and Wales since 2014.
- 24 children aged just 17 or younger were murdered with a knife or sharp object in 2019 - the highest number of children murdered in over a decade.

The Lent Appeal, beginning on Ash Wednesday (17th February), is to raise awareness of the issue, and to raise money for the following charities that challenge it.

The eXcel Project (XLP). In 1996, in response to a stabbing in a school playground, the school's headmaster asked Patrick Regan, who was then a local church-based youth worker, to come into the school, work with their students and teachers and help with difficult behavioural issues. XLP now operates across nine inner-city boroughs around London, working with over 4,500 young people each year through education, mentoring, sport and the arts.

Transforming Lives for Good (TLG) works through a nationwide network of partner churches. It is committed to reaching out to some of the most vulnerable children in the UK. With expertise in school exclusions, emotional wellbeing and holiday hunger, TLG is one of the UK's fastest growing children's charities.

Redthread embeds specialist youth workers in hospital A&E departments across London and the Midlands. They meet young people during times of crisis, fear and trauma and endeavour to transform their experience of health systems and professional networks. As a result of working with Redthread, 95% of young people are less likely to be harmed again.

Greetings to you all. We'll be well into the longed-for 2021 by the time you read this, and I'm hoping that life is beginning to improve for everyone with the help of the vaccine: the scientists have worked incredibly quickly and skilfully, for which we can be very thankful.

Christmas was generally a peaceful and joyful time at St. Edmund's, and the services went very well. The choir's recorded carols were streamed in the Carol Service on 20th December (which sadly had to be only online but looked and sounded gorgeous); a number of these carols were also included in the Crib Service and in the Midnight and Christmas Day Masses, interspersed with live music and online contributions.

A lovely atmosphere was created in the Church with lighting, candles, Christmas tree and the large Nativity scene placed on the border of sanctuary and nave, facing the congregation - a good focus for contemplation.

Another beautiful service was the New Year's Eve Meditation and Benediction: the church looked stunning, ablaze with candles and glowing with gentle colour: the atmosphere was one of mystic and solemn reflection. The music too was of a meditative quality, and included the lovely Britten New Year Carol, beautifully sung by Helen Collier.

Epiphany was a special time as well, celebrated by an all-age Sunday service with the customarily expressive reading and prayers by Joash, Abigail and Joyline - and Cornelius' anthem 'The Three Kings' sung from the heart by Frank. Fr. Michael's message in this service was that signs from God can come from the most unexpected places. Many thanks to Fr. Michael, Mark and our brilliant team of technicians and church decorators for taking us through the season so magnificently.

This Christmas of course will have many sad memories attached to it, owing to the inability to meet with loved ones, the loneliness of the housebound and isolated, and, not least, the deaths of loved-ones through Covid and other causes. We grieve for the passing of Bob Young, who was a regular Home Communicant, and hold his widow Kathie and their family in our prayers. We also mourn the death of our dear David Hughes, our former church organist, and pray for his family.

And now we're heading into Lent! It's hard to think of this time of penitence as something we deserve, after the year we've been through - but Lent is not to be viewed as a negative time. I know some of us have done quite a bit of material decluttering over the past year, but the spiritual sort can also be valuable in the Spring-time months, as we look forward in hope to brighter days.

One thing we can do is stop to consider what we've learnt in 2020, and how to build on it. For example, we saw how dramatically the air became clearer, the roads quieter and nature more apparent at the beginning of the crisis last March, showing in a small way what's possible. It would be good to renew all our efforts to improve our environment - not just on our own patch, but further afield.

In the long run, actions such as the attempt to preserve rainforests, the fight to cut carbon emissions and the battle against plastic pollution affect all of us. Our voluntary involvement in these matters could also be seen as an act of penitence: few of us, I'm sure, have been totally innocent of creating unnecessary pollution and waste - or of failing to protest enough against bad decisions.

Then there are national and social issues: even with so much on its plate, government needs to be reminded constantly by us, whatever our political stance, of its duty to serve its people, not itself - and we as individuals should also play our part in social action against poverty, and support those who cannot easily make their voices heard.

It can be a challenge to identify the needs we might help to meet, but they're definitely there: for example, the foodbank in Bow where Frank works in the holidays serves 531 adults and 1,235 children every week. We are called as Christians to do what we can.

In spite of the state of the world, though, we don't need to go round looking solemn: laughter is a great healer, as many found during the tribulations of WW2, and many more have rediscovered in spite of the state of the world, though, we don't need to go round looking solemn: laughter is a great healer, as many found during the tribulations of WW2, and many more have rediscovered in spades this last year.

We missed our Pantomime - oh yes we did! - but we can still be merry!

Thank you Simon, for your smiles, laughs and warm welcome every Sunday at the church door!

A great inspiration has been the love that so many people in all walks of life have shown their neighbours over the last months. In spite of the distancing, community life has been more prominent in many places, and a number of people who previously felt cut off have taken comfort from this. Let's help it to continue, and also ensure we stay friends with those we've recently met through the crisis who are of different beliefs and cultures: we can learn much from each other, and share much in our common humanity.

As the days grow longer again, the faintest signs of Spring have made me ponder the significance of rebirth in more depth, owing to the strange circumstances we've been experiencing. I came up with this (again, not meant to be great poetry, which is just as well!) ...

THOUGHTS ON REBIRTH 2021

We talk about rebirth when we perceive
Eggs hatching out
Buds bursting wide
Lambs leaping up
Clouds drawing back;
But there is more to that creative act,
Which the past year has shown in the extreme.
Our souls have been
Trapped in the shell of stifling isolation
Lost in the fog of blurry information
Nipped in the bud
Powerless to leap and run
Or sense the sun.
Yet in us all there is a pulsing sprite
Longing to break the shell,
To see the sunlight piercing through the mist;
To talk and walk with those we love so well.
How can we do this? Danger stalks us still,
Hangs in the air, reproaches every move;
We dwell in that bleak valley, where there lies
Death's gloomy shadow. YET, in God-sent love
We reach to others, by the phone, or text,
Through open doorway or across the gate;
By card, smile, wave, or with a chiming bell
and so our souls are joined in hope and faith.
One day, the egg will crack; the buds will bloom;
The lamb will leap, the sun dispel the murk;
We'll talk and walk with those we love so well.

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

PART 12

Jenny Jones

2001

JANUARY (25th) The Consecration of the Archdeacon of Northolt , The Venerable Peter Broadbent, as Bishop of Willesden, at St. Paul's Cathedral. Fr. Bruce, Fr. Tony and Norman Rogers attended the service, with 19 other members of St. Edmund's. There was no service that morning at St. Edmund's.

(8th) Classic Concert - 'Mozart in Paris'.

FEBRUARY (10th) Concert by the Hillingdon Community Concert Band followed by supper.

MARCH (6th) Lent course began; based on Saints, Pilgrimages and the Christian Imagination.

(18th) Classic Concert - 'Haydn in London'. There was a retiring collection in aid of the victims of the Gujarat earthquake.

APRIL (1st) Passion Sunday; after the service a reception was held to mark the departure of Malcolm and Norah Hawyes, who were retiring and moving away. They had managed the Hall for more than 22 years, dealing with hiring out and all that is involved in its day to day maintenance.

The augmented Choir performed Stainer's 'Crucifixion' in the evening.

(12th) Maundy Thursday; Fr. Bruce and a few from St. Edmund's went to St. Paul's Cathedral for the Blessing of the Holy Oils.

The Mass of the Last Supper at 8 pm, followed by the Watch of the Passion - members of the congregation ensured that at least that two people maintained the Watch in the Lady Chapel until the Good Friday Liturgy the following day.

(17th- 25th) St. Edmund's Pilgrimage to Spain. It was led by Fr. Bruce and visited the sites associated with the saints that had been spoken of during the Lent course.

MAY (4th) Fr. Bruce led a group from church to visit an art exhibition at the Dulwich Gallery, which depicted Murillo's 'Scenes from Childhood'.

(12th) Visit to a Day Workshop at St. Alban's Abbey on 'Explaining Prayer'. Fr. Bruce ran one of the workshops on 'Explaining Prayer'.

(27th) Parish walk 'Beating the Bounds.' This is an ancient rite (re-started at St. Edmund's in 2000) to confirm the boundaries of the parish. It was originally in the form of a solemn procession-using sticks to beat specific landmarks and to recite a prayer at each stop. The prayers were retained but the boundaries were not beaten! (A beat in this context meant a walk - and is still used in describing a specific route, e.g. a policeman's beat.) The walk ended back at the church where a delicious tea awaited.

JUNE (3rd) Choral Evensong and Devotions;
A retiring collection was taken for the Matinyani Church at Kitui in Kenya.

(8th) Chaconne Brass gave a music workshop for three local primary schools - Harlyn, Hillside and Pinner Wood to introduce music to schoolchildren. The cost was carried by Classic Concerts.

(12th) Confirmation Service at St. Lawrence, Eastcote - five of our young people were confirmed.

AUGUST (19th) The 10 am Service was a Remembrance Service to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the loss of the SS Aguila on 19th August 1941 in the North Atlantic, which was carrying 21 WRNS to Gibraltar. One was W/T Chief Wren Cecilly Benjamin, whose parents Mr. and Mrs. Edward Benjamin were members of St. Edmund's congregation. The Memorial 'Angel of God's Presence' in St. Edmund's was dedicated in 1964 to the WRNS who lost their lives, naming Cecilly Benjamin and her best friend W/T Chief Wren Phyllis Bacon, who also lived in this area.

(28th - 31st) Children's' Holiday Club.

SEPTEMBER (21st) Arrow Players held a Murder Mystery Evening with supper.

(22nd) Spain Pilgrimage evening - a video of the pilgrimage was shown, followed by supper.

(23rd) Classic Concerts presented a concert of Beethoven's music, including the Trio for Clarinet, Cello and Piano, featuring Vivien Banfield (piano).

(30th) Harvest Festival contributions were sent to St. Mary's Centre, Willesden.

OCTOBER (10th) Fr. Bruce conducted a Quiet Day at St. Mary's, Harrow on the Hill on 'The Shape of God'.

(13th) The Choir sang at the Deanery Choirs Festival at St. Andrew's, Roxbourne.

(20th) Day trip on Eurostar to visit Lille.

(28th) Classic Concert. The programme highlighted several composers, played by piano duettists Isabel Beyer and Harvey Dagul.

NOVEMBER (10th) Organ Recital given by Mark Hammond, in aid of the fund for facilities for the disabled.

(20th) St. Edmund's Patronal Festival. Guest of Honour was Bishop Peter of Willesden. The after-supper entertainment was provided by St. Edmund's Servers' Cabaret Singers - Louisa Wilson, Simon Wilson, Mike Warrick, Peter Godden, Mike Godden, with Helen Collier on piano - with their one-night-only performance of musical wit and wisdom.

(24th) A visit to the Central London Mosque where we were shown around and learned a little about the faith of the Muslims. (On 11th September there had been the terrorist attack on the World Trade Centre Towers in New York.)

DECEMBER (2nd) 6.30 pm The Choir sang a programme of music for Advent, including parts of Handel's 'Messiah'. There was a retiring collection for facilities for the Disabled.

(4th) Fr. Bruce led an evening of practical help in praying.

(12th) Churches Together in Northwood combined to sing carols outside Northwood station. Monies collected went to 'The live at Home scheme' in Northwood.

2002

JANUARY (27th) Classic Concerts presented a Mozart Birthday celebration.

FEBRUARY (9th) Family party held in the Hall to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of the Accession of Queen Elizabeth II on 6th February 1952 and to mark the start of Lent. (21st) Beginning of the Lent course - 'Worship, its purpose and effect'.

MARCH (3rd) Classic Concert - Piano Recital by Vivien Banfield; music by Beethoven and Schubert.

(17th) Music and Meditation for Passion Sunday at 6.30pm, with the augmented Choir. Music included Pergolesi's "Stabat Mater".

APRIL (18th) At the Parish APCM the PCC Development Plan 2002-2006 was published. This included the provision of facilities for disabled access in both Church and Hall, which is now required by law and must be fulfilled by October 2004.

The Church's website as now been set up; people are encouraged to make use of it.

JUNE (1st) A Jubilee banquet was held in honour of the Queen's Golden Jubilee. Everyone was asked to wear red, white and blue clothes and hats. Gentlemen were asked to wear formal clothes and bow ties in red, white and blue. Prizes were given for the best hat and bow tie. The Banquet consisted of eight courses. Then there was a quiz based on the Queen and important features of her reign. Fr. Bruce gave a speech about the Jubilee and the importance of the Monarchy.

(2nd) Jubilee service which included the uniformed organisations. They were included in the procession that took place at the end of the proceedings and led out to the Garden of Remembrance. The Churchwardens planted a Golden Incense Cedar tree to commemorate the Jubilee.

(4th) Fr. Bruce and several parishioners joined the Gospel Choir at the Queen's Jubilee parade, which took place outside Buckingham Palace.

(9th) A Confirmation Service was held at St. Edmund's. The Bishop of Willesden officiated - 11 candidates were confirmed.

(16th) A Praise and Prayer service took place at 3.30 pm. It was entitled 'God the Father' - a celebration for Fathers Day .

(23rd) Classic Concerts held a supper concert for mid summer. A retiring collection was taken in aid of the Templeton Centre for Alzheimer's sufferers, which is being transferred to the United Reformed Church in Joel Street.

JULY (4th) A meeting was held at the Vicarage for those interested in going on a Pilgrimage to Portugal in April 2003.

(7th) A Fund-Raising Buffet Lunch was given by Geoff and Eve Pond in aid of the Disabled Access Project.

(18th) The PCC decided that photographs of all PCC members will be displayed in the foyer so that everyone knows who the members are. Discussion took place about the Child Protection Policy, and also about the London Challenge from the Bishop of London to all churches in the Diocese, which will begin in October.

AUGUST (22nd) The Communications sub committee proposed that members of the congregation be asked if they would have a board in their front garden to advertise the Services and parish events.

(26th) Northwood Carnival was held at the Northwood Football Club. St. Edmund's and the Northwood Lions club combined in the organisation. The proceeds went to the Templeton Centre.

SEPTEMBER (6th) Pilgrimage to the Greek Orthodox Cathedral of St. Sophia, in Bayswater. Twenty people went and were shown around by Fr. Demetrios.

(21st) Arrow Players presented a Harvest Entertainment Evening.

OCTOBER (5th) Concert given by the Royal Air Forces Association President's Band.

(12th) St. Edmund's Choir participated in The Harrow Deanery Choirs Festival, held at St. John the Baptist, Pinner

(13th) London Challenge Sunday. The Bishop of London issued a challenge to all the churches in the Diocese. Essentially, he wanted us all to think about how more money could be raised, so that that more help could be given to those parts of the Diocese which are unable to find enough money to support a Priest. Much thought and prayer are needed by us here to work out how we can rise to this challenge.

Prayer and Praise Service held to celebrate the city and give thanks to God.

(19th) Pilgrimage to Chichester. We were shown around the Cathedral and attended a service of Holy Communion before going off for lunch and exploring the city.

(23rd) Pilgrimage Party 7.30pm. There was a showing of a re-made video of the Pilgrimage to Israel and of the video of the Pilgrimage to Spain, with a commentary by Fr. Bruce, followed by refreshments.

(31st) Soirée to raise money for the Christmas Bazaar, organised by Kalyani Menon and held at the home of the Whalleys.

NOVEMBER (20th) St. Edmund's Patronal Festival Eucharist at 7 pm followed by Supper. Guest of Honour was Fr. Peter Baron, Vicar of Holy Trinity, Northwood.

DECEMBER (1st) Evening Service - Music for Advent. The augmented Choir sang parts from Mendelssohn's "Elijah".

(14th) 'Gloria in Excelsis' - A Christmas Recital by Mark Hammond (organ) and Richard Hammond (trumpet). Profits to go to the Disabled Access project.

SOME FEBRUARY CUSTOMS

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

Mike Godden

NORHAM BLESSING THE SALMON FISHING. Following an old tradition, the start of the River Tweed Salmon fishing Season is given a blessing at the start of February at Pedwell Landing, Norham, in Northumberland. The Pedwell Landing is one of many sites along the River Tweed where, for about a thousand years, net fishing for salmon was a major part of the local economy, until its demise in the 1980s, with the last Norham nets closing in 2012. In the past, the Vicar of Norham said prayers of blessing at midnight at the start of the new salmon fishing season on 1st February. Part of the tradition was that, if a fish were caught during the first casting of the nets, then it was given to the Vicar. The tradition was re-started in recent years, at the instigation of a local fisherman. The prayers have been adapted slightly to take account of the fact that net fishing has been replaced by line fishing and to incorporate a blessing on the River Tweed and the local ecology.

FORTY SHILLING DAY. When William Glanville, a Treasury official, died on 2nd February 1717, he left a bequest to provide £2 (40 shillings) each to five poor boys of his Wotton, Surrey, parish. To qualify for this sum there were conditions; on each anniversary of Glanville's death, the boys had to place both hands on his tomb in the parish churchyard, then recite by heart the Lord's Prayer, the Apostles' Creed and the Ten Commandments. Next, they were to take up a bible and read aloud the 15th chapter of the First Epistle to the Corinthians, and write out two verses of this chapter in legible hand. The custom continued into the 20th century, but eventually fell into abeyance.

ST. BLAISE'S FEAST DAY. An illuminated ram is the centrepiece in a lantern parade marking the feast of St. Blaise, patron saint of wool combers and of those with ailments of the throat, on 3rd February. This traditional event was revived in the early 21st century in the Cornish town of St. Blazey, near St. Austell. The lanterns illuminate the dark lanes of the town accompanied by traditional Cornish music and led by the Bishop of Truro, before a special Blessing of the Throats service at St. Blaise church, which involves crossed candles being held. (Blessing of Throats is widely held in many Roman Catholic and Orthodox communities across Europe.) Halfway through the parade there's a stop at King Edwards Gardens for hot apple juice and Cornish wassailing songs around a tree in the park. After the service, refreshments follow at the Football Club, which often includes local speciality saffron buns.

SOMERLEYTON PENNY AND BUN DAY. Each year since the 1840s, on (or the nearest school day to) St. Valentine's Day (14th February), the children of the local Primary school visit Somerleyton Hall, near Lowestoft, where they present a concert of songs and music. They then receive from the Lord of the Manor iced buns, and a 50p piece each (originally a one penny piece).

BLIDWORTH CRADLE ROCKING SERVICE. The Church of St Mary of the Purification (Church of England) at Blidworth, near Mansfield in Nottinghamshire, hosts a unique survival - the Rocking Ceremony, which is held usually in February, close to the festival of Candlemas - the commemoration of the presentation of baby Jesus in the Temple. The male baby born nearest to Christmas Day in the parish is baptised during the morning service and in the afternoon is rocked by the vicar in a flower-bedecked cradle in the church at a special candle-lit service. It is believed that the baby represents the infant Jesus and that in former times perhaps a more elaborate play took place, which has evolved into the current ceremony. The custom dates back hundreds of years, though it has lapsed and been revived twice. The Rocked baby is also presented with a special Bible and his name is added later to the roster of Rockings Babies in the parish on a board at the back of the church.

COLLOP MONDAY is the day before Shrove Tuesday. With a similar intention to the consumption of eggs in the form of pancakes on Shrove Tuesday, to use them up before the fasting period of Lent, meat was eaten up on Collop Monday. Collops are chunks of meat, often specifically bacon. In Cornwall the day has a different name - Peasen Monday - because pea soup is the dish of the day. It is thought that the word “collop” has a similar origin to “escalope”. The notion of Collop Monday might have some renewed traction in these days of reducing meat consumption?

SHAFTESBURY SNOWDROP FESTIVAL. The annual flower festival in early February at Shaftesbury in Dorset is part of a unique project to create the Britain's first “snowdrop town”, following on from its beginnings in 2012 with the public planting of snowdrop walks to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II. The festival still includes snowdrop walks and planting, and a range of other themed activities including the Snowdrop Lantern Parade, the main focus of the weekend. Held on the Sunday evening, at twilight, there is a parade with children dressed in snowdrop costumes carrying lanterns, accompanied by dancers and the Shaftesbury Snowdrop Dragon, Galanthus. Legend has it that Galanthus grew from a special bulb plated during the reign of Alfred the Great, and is enticed from his fastness under the local hill by chanting a unique verse, which happens as part of the parade.

SLAITHWAITE MOONRAKING FESTIVAL. This is usually held every other February at Slaithwaite, near Huddersfield, to commemorate a local legend of cunning smugglers, who nearly got caught retrieving their contraband hidden in the local pond; they pretended to be simpletons raking the pond for the cheese caught in it (the reflected moon) - so the revenue men passed them by and the “Moonrakers” evaded capture. Nowadays, the event is a spectacular lantern parade with a huge moon; the moon arrives by barge on the canal and a procession follows around the village accompanied by fireworks, street entertainers and music.

WAKEFIELD RHUBARB FESTIVAL. Wakefield was a centre of rhubarb growing, where it has been grown for over 150 years; the modern festival celebrates this each February. Much of it is grown in dark forcing sheds, which an early crop. Tours of the sheds are arranged as part of the festival; and the main event is the Market, which includes cookery demonstrations, street entertainment - and plenty of rhubarb!

HYMN OF THE MONTH

Mike Godden

This Lenten hymn picks up the theme in the Lord's Prayer that we might be spared the time of trial, to be not led into temptation, and draws the parallel with the temptation of Christ during his "Lent", his 40 days in the wilderness.

Be thou my guardian and my guide,
And hear me when I call;
Let not my slippery footsteps slide,
And hold me lest I fall.

The world, the flesh, and Satan dwell
Around the path I tread;
O, save me from the snares of hell,
Thou quickener of the dead.

And if I tempted am to sin,
And outward things are strong,
Do thou, O Lord, keep watch within,
And save my soul from wrong.

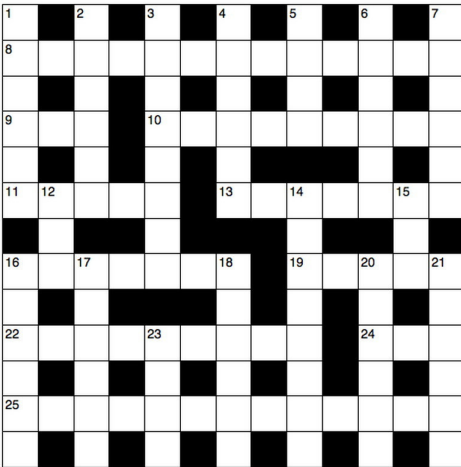
Still let me ever watch and pray,
And feel that I am frail;
That if the tempter cross my way,
Yet he may not prevail.

The hymn was written by Rev. Isaac Williams (1802-1865), who was born in London, the son of a barrister, and educated at Harrow School (where he distinguished himself in Latin verse and at cricket) and Trinity College, Oxford. He was ordained in 1829, and became a prominent member of the Oxford Movement, and a student and disciple of John Keble. In 1831 he was made a Fellow at Trinity College, and in 1833 he was made Dean of the College. Soon after his return to Trinity College he also became curate to John Henry Newman (later Cardinal) at St. Mary's Church in Oxford. He wrote numerous hymns, and many works of theological analysis and philosophy.

The tune used for the hymn is "Abridge", written by Isaac Smith (1734-1805) and first published c. 1770 in his "A Collection of Psalm Tunes". The tune is sometimes referred to as "Abridge (St. Stephen)". In Scotland the tune, slightly modified, was published by A.M.Thomson in 1820 as "St. Stephen". Abridge is the name of a village in Essex, after which the tune is thought to have been named.



FEBRUARY CROSSWORD



ACROSS

8. Interrogated (*Acts 12:19*) (5-8)
9. 'Burn it in a wood fire on the — heap' (*Leviticus 4:12*) (3)
10. Tobit, Judith, Baruch and the books of Esdras and the Maccabees are part of it (9)
11. Science fiction (abbrev.) (3-2)
13. Clay pit (anag.) (7)
16. Went to (*John 4:46*) (7)
19. 'Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to — your bodies as living sacrifices' (*Romans 12:1*) (5)
22. David's plea to God concerning those referred to in 14 Down: 'On — — let them escape' (*Psalms 56:7*) (2,7)
24. Royal Automobile Club (1,1,1)
25. How the book of Ezekiel refers to God more than 200 times (*Ezekiel 2:4*) (9,4)

DOWN

1. Seas (*Proverbs 8:24*) (6)
2. One of the sons of Eli the priest, killed in battle by the Philistines (*1 Samuel 4:11*) (6)
3. Specialist in the study of the Muslim religion (8)

4. 'Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but — him as if he were your father' (*1 Timothy 5:1*) (6)
5. One of Esau's grandsons (*Genesis 36:11*) (4)
6. Taking a chance (colloq.) (2,4)
7. God's instructions to the Israelites concerning grain offerings: ' — salt to — your offerings' (*Leviticus 2:13*) (3,3)
12. Confederation of British Industry (1,1,1)
14. 'All day long they twist my words; they are always — to harm me' (*Psalms 56:5*) (8)
15. The crowd's reaction to Jesus bringing back to life a widow's son in Nain (*Luke 7:16*) (3)
16. Disappear (*Psalms 104:35*) (6)
17. How Jeremiah was likely to die if he wasn't rescued from the cistern where he was imprisoned (*Jeremiah 38:9*) (6)
18. What the prophets do to a wall, with whitewash (*Ezekiel 13:10, RSV*) (4,2)
20. Made by a plough (*Job 39:10*) (6)
21. Noah was relieved when the flood waters continued to — (*Genesis 8:5*) (6)
23. Jesus gave the Twelve the power and authority to do this to diseases (*Luke 9:1*) (4)

JANUARY Crossword Solution

C	O	G	K	S	H	A	C	K	L	E	S
U	H			E	H	O					L
P	L	A	Y	P	A	R	A	D	I	S	E
O	R	T	P	P	L	S					W
F	A	I	T	H	F	U	L	L	Y		
T	S	E	P	E	L						U
E	N	M	E	S	H	U	N	S	E	E	N
A	A	E	D	G	W						E
			A	R	M	A	G	E	D	D	O
B	S	V	N	D	N						D
B	E	N	J	A	M	I	N		B	E	R
F	A	N	E						S		N
C	A	P	I	T	A	L	S	U	S	P	G

*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.*

