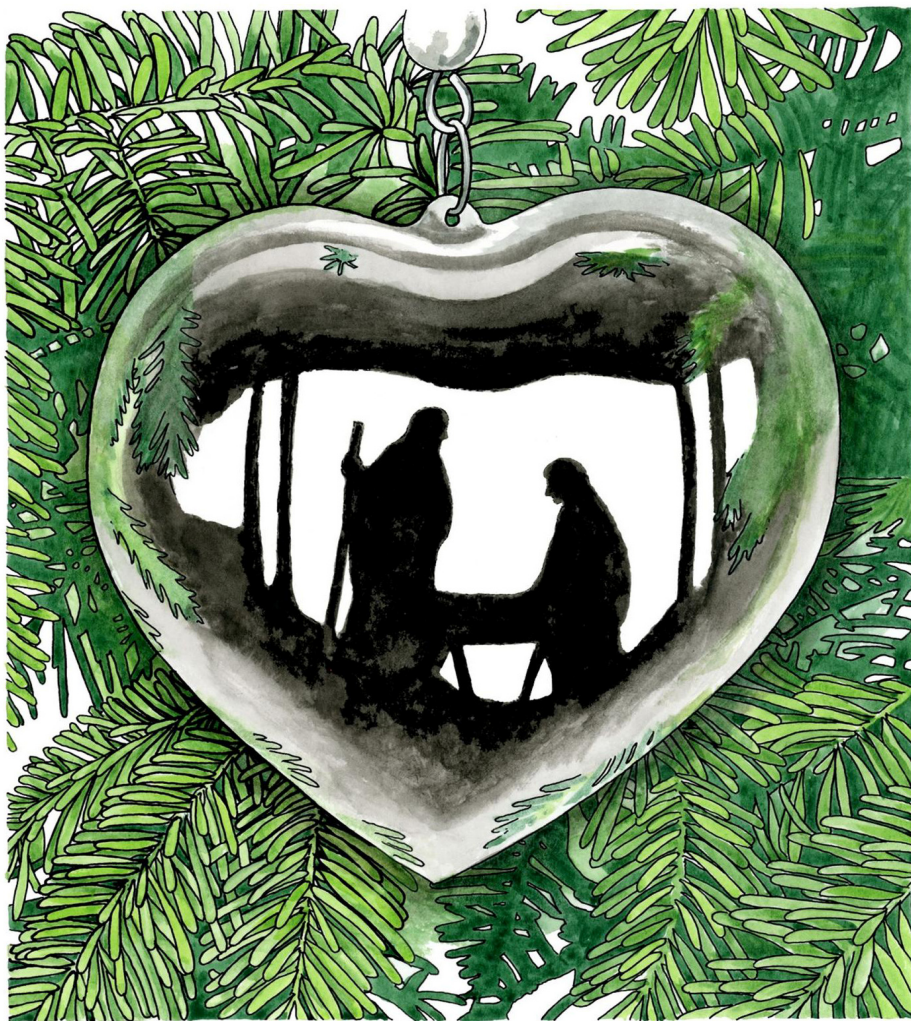


THE KING

DECEMBER 2020



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

VICAR

The Reverend Michael Miller (020) 8866 9230
The Vicarage,
2 Pinner Road, Northwood HA6 1QS

ASSISTANT CURATE

The Reverend Helen Hutchins

01923 824 741

e-mail: helenhutchins@hotmail.co.uk

LAY MINISTER

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 in Church, and other Services 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

Churchwardens:

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

(020) 8868 0482

01923 825 524

e-mail: churchwardens@stedmundtheking.org.uk

Hon. Secretary:

Mrs Clare Moses

07950 863 250

e-mail: claremoses@hotmail.com

Hon. Treasurer:

Mr James Mair

(020) 8428 1349

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

(020) 8868 0482

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".

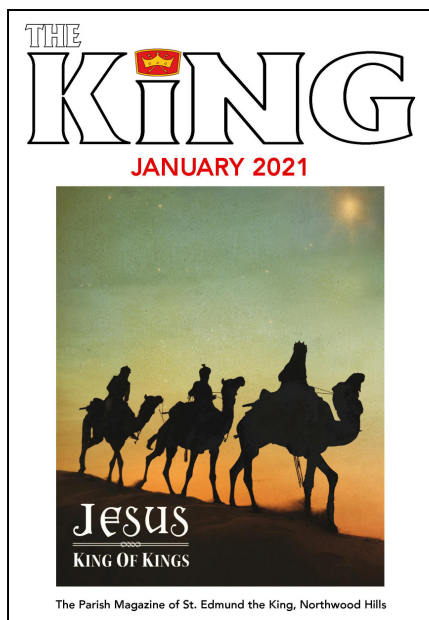
**When permitted by government regulations,
The 10 am Sunday Eucharist is celebrated
with a congregation inside Church as well as online.**

2-metre distancing in Church continues to mean that seating capacity is much reduced; it is allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. Holy Communion is offered in one kind. Demand for places in Church will continue to be monitored and extra Services may be provided. The weekday Eucharists will continue to be available online only for the time being.

There are a number of conditions and guidelines that must be observed in attending the Services. The latest information on Services is available in the weekly St. Edmund's Newsletter - see above for how to access the Newsletter.

FOR INFORMATION ON CHRISTMAS SERVICES, SEE pages 11 & 12

JANUARY MAGAZINE



All contributions for the January Magazine to be with Jenny Jones by
Friday 11th December
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.**

**SPECTRUM
ON
SUNDAY**

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

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

More information: 01923 825 434

COMPLINE DURING ADVENT

"I have uttered your praises seven times during the day" Psalm 119: 164

In the early sixth century, Saint Benedict founded many monastic communities in northern Italy. The monks lived by a Rule written by Benedict. At its core was the community gathering for prayer seven times each day; this was the work of God. Each service consisted of prayers, hymns, reciting psalms and listening to scripture. The rest of the monastic day was divided between communal meals, manual work, rest, private reading and prayer.

Compline was the service or office at the end of the day, the monks would then retire to bed as the day was over. It is intended to be quiet and reflective, with space to recall the day's events and confess our sins. This time of self-examination is followed by a hymn, a psalm or psalms, a short scripture reading, a responsory, the Nunc Dimittis and then prayers. The service lasts for approximately twenty minutes.

Compline (or Night Prayer) can be found in Common Worship's Daily Prayer. The App can be downloaded with Morning Prayer, Evening Prayer and Compline, all with the daily lectionary readings. No need for books!

Advent is one of the Church's penitential seasons, before the major festival of Christmas. The build-up to Christmas, with all the seasonal preparations, is often hectic and it can be difficult to put aside additional time to be reflective through prayer and spiritual reading. I hope Compline on Zoom will provide an opportunity for some quiet time, with the addition of one or two poems and seasonal music. I look forward to seeing you there!

Dates: Thursdays December 3rd, 10th and 17th at 8pm
Zoom details will be on the weekly newsletter.

Mother Helen, Assistant Curate

See also www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/worship-texts-and-resources/common-worship/daily-prayer/night-prayer-compline

PRINCIPAL SERVICE READINGS FOR DECEMBER 2020

6th December	2nd Sunday of Advent	Isaiah 40.1-11, 2 Peter 3.8-15a, Mark 1.1-8
13th December	3rd Sunday of Advent	Isaiah 61.1-4,8-11, 1 Thessalonians 5.16-24, John 1.6-8,19-28
20th December	4th Sunday of Advent	2 Samuel 7.1-11,16, Romans 16.25-27, Luke 1.26-38
24th December	Midnight Mass	Isaiah 52.7-10, Hebrews 1.1-4, John 1.1-14
25th December	Christmas Day	Isaiah 9.2-7, Titus 2.11-14, Luke 2.1-14
27th December	1st Sunday of Christmas	Isaiah 61.10-62.3, Galatians 4.4-7, Luke 2.15-21

“LIGHTS OF LIFE” MEMORIAL TREE

DECEMBER 2020



The “Lights of Life” Memorial Tree will be placed in the Church Foyer as usual this year, but it won’t be possible for individuals to put their own tags on the Tree.

Instead, please contact Marjorie Pimm (see below) and give her the details of what you would like on your tag(s), and she will arrange for them to be placed on the Tree.

The Tree will be in the Foyer
from Thursday 10th December 2020 until Wednesday 6th January 2021

Marjorie Pimm 01923 821869 or marjoriepimm@btinternet.com

“THE KING” 2020

I just wanted to record and thank Steve Castle, Terry Diggins and Mike Godden for coming to the rescue of the magazine when the first lockdown occurred, at the end of March. Previously, the magazine had been printed at the church, collated by a few parishioners and then distributed around the district by a number of distributors. This came to an abrupt halt, but within three weeks the King was rescued and essentially turned into an on-line publication which could be e-mailed out to the readers. Some people were unable to receive the magazine by this route, so a number of hard copies were produced which were either taken by hand to local addresses or posted farther afield. None of this could have been achieved had it not been for the three people named above. So, apart from the April magazine (the contents of which were incorporated into the May edition) the magazine continues to be published each month! Thank you to the contributors - especially Mike Godden and Sarah Parnaby. I hope that in various ways you will be able celebrate Christmas - at least we can all welcome the birth of our Lord Jesus. It is to be hoped that we shall be allowed back into church, but if not we are so fortunate that the main services can be streamed. Our heartfelt thanks to Steve and Terry who have worked so hard to achieve this. Let us hope that the new year will see the Coronavirus vanquished and that our lives will allow the companionship of others to return.

Jenny Jones, Hon. Editor.

ST. EDMUND'S DAY - 20th NOVEMBER 2020

Our Patronal Festival, held each year on St. Edmund's Day, is always a joyous gathering of our congregation; a marvellous occasion starting with a Sung Eucharist, usually with a guest preacher, followed by a splendid Supper in the Hall. But this year, it had of course to be very different, with no congregation and no Supper. Nevertheless, the Day was celebrated. One of the features of the Sung Eucharist is the solemn procession at the end of the service to the statue of Edmund, where this prayer is said ...

Sovereign God, who called St. Edmund to be a ruler among his people
and give him grace to be their servant:

help us, following our Saviour Jesus Christ in the path of humble service,
to see his kingdom set forward on earth and to enjoy its fullness in heaven;
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. Amen.



Fr. Michael writes in the online newsletter ...

I do hope that you found our St Edmund's day Eucharist as uplifting as I did. I think under the circumstances it went really well. Obviously if there had been a congregation in church it would have been so much better but despite the cold (the heating failed) everything went very smoothly thanks to the technical wizardry of Steve and Terry, Mark's wonderful organ playing (his rendition of Widor's Toccata was something else and although it sounded wonderful on the broadcast was spine chilling in church!), Sarah's beautiful singing of Psalm 126 and God be in my Head, Helen and Marjorie's reading and Fr. Paul Reece's very thought provoking sermon. All of this made it a wonderful occasion - thank you to you all. I only hope and pray that next year we can all enjoy the worship together in church again (and of course feast together afterwards).

This time last year! -I was excitedly getting ready for my trip to South Africa, to visit Mitta and Sizwe. Now Sizwe has been over here for nearly a year. It's been a long and frustrating time for him, but he has continued to get assistance from Social Services with his accommodation and with finding employment - which is hopeful in these days when it's so hard for young people to move forward. He has also kept creative, producing 'albums' of music regularly online, and having fun designing their 'covers'.

I attended for the first time (to my shame) a meeting of 'Ladies in Faith Together' (LIFT) on 10th October. LIFT is for Christian women in the Northwood area, and normally their meetings take place at the London School of Theology (LST) - and include breakfast! Obviously this isn't possible at present, so we met on Zoom. After the welcome, a spiritual song called 'You say' (concerning God's promises) was sung by Lauren Daigle, and illustrated on screen by some of the inspiring religious art of Iris Michel. This was followed by our being directed to 'breakout groups' in which we discussed what we'd seen and heard, and got to know some of our local fellow-Christians.

We then received greetings from LST, and were informed by Kate Patterson about her new book, called 'Living for Eternity: knowing the God of Forever', in which she explores 'what it means to be 'eternally minded' - living with a long view, keeping our eyes set on the eternal life we were made for - and how that reality has the power to transform our lives now.' I imagine it will be a helpful aid to faith, and a great comfort in these dark times.

After this, there were more worship songs sung by Lauren Daigle, and then a talk by Emma Brown. She looked at Isaiah 54 vv 11-14, which is full of promises which encourage us to deepen our trust in God during challenging times. We returned to our breakout groups and discussed the questions which had been suggested for reflection on the passage. It was really good to study the Bible with fellow-believers and to share our thoughts with them.

The session ended with another worship song. I've never been mad about the idea of just women (or just men) making up a group like this, but anything that helps us to meet and break bread (metaphorically at present!) with other Christians in our community is a good thing, and helps to further the Kingdom. I would encourage others to participate.

The other major event I took part in recently was the recording of carols and hymns by the Choir for the Christmas services, including some for the Crib Service. This was a big undertaking and we are very grateful to Mark, Steve and Terry for masterminding it. It was a long session and I was certainly wilting by the end, but it was very satisfying: I hope you will judge the outcome to be worth the effort!

As I write, we're about to go into a month's lockdown, and today was our last Sunday in church before another closure of religious buildings for public worship. We were lucky, therefore, to be able to celebrate All Saints' Day at our November all-age service, with joyful traditional hymns and newer lively worship-songs. A passage

from the First Letter of John, read with clarity and conviction by Joash, made us reflect on our role as God's children. Fr. Michael's sermon reminded us that the Saints (who could and should include any of us) are blessed because they are the ones who want what God wants - as the passage on the Beatitudes demonstrated in our Gospel reading. In tune with this, the Intercessions, presented with feeling by Abigail and Joyline, emphasised our own part in the fulfilment of our prayers. Jenny Jones sang 'Panis Angelicus' angelically at the Communion and we had some dramatic organ pieces from Mark, the first of which (by Vierne) sounded a bit Hallowe'en-ish to me!

In the afternoon we combined the All Souls' service with the Service of Remembrance for those who have died recently. This was opportune, considering the approaching Lockdown. The service took the form of a Requiem Mass - more solemn than the morning service, but the sense of sadness was always interspersed with the joyful hope of the Resurrection, in the readings, the hymns and Rev. Helen's thoughtful sermon. Ann Hughes gave a lovely rendering of 'God be in my Head' for the Communion motet.

With things changing so quickly at present, some of the details in the following poem may end up being out of date - but I think you'll get the point!

CHRISTMAS 2020

'Christmas won't be Christmas', they're saying in the street;
'We won't be seeing family: we're not allowed to meet.
The High Street shops are shutting, and we've cut the pantomime,
And we can't be sure the presents will reach our friends on time.
We won't be buying turkey - the size of it's too vast -
And we'll cut back on the puddings - you know how long they last!
We won't be going into town to see the Christmas lights
Or visit Christmas markets, in case the virus bites.'

But there will still be Christmas - at least among the poor,
For CRISIS will admit all those who knock upon its door.
The good Salvation Army may not play in malls this year
But they'll be helping lonely folk and bringing them good cheer.
And food-banks will be busy, preparing many a treat
To help the needy families who can't afford to eat.
And even if church buildings are closed to everyone,
They'll still be celebrating the birthday of God's Son -

And we shall all be watching, wherever we may be,
And thanking Him for His great love, extravagant and free
That sent His blessed child to earth to save us from our fall
By dying on the cross for us, to reinstate us all.
So Christmas will be Christmas, for those who truly see
The reason for Christ's coming to deliver you and me.
So let us all rejoice and sing, our praise can never cease
Towards the One who set us free - beloved Prince of Peace.

CHRISTMAS REFLECTIONS

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

Christmas may look different, but the story is still the same.' Coronavirus will make our celebrations this year look very different from usual, but the message of the baby born in Bethlehem still lights our lives.

In one nativity play, the highlight was to illuminate Jesus, with a light in the manger, when all the other lights were turned off. At the appropriate time, all the lights went out, including the manger one. The silence was broken when one of the young 'shepherds' loudly whispered: 'Hey, you turned off Jesus.' Of course, nobody can turn off Jesus this Christmas.

The angels announced, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; He is the Messiah, the Lord.' (*Luke 2.10,11*). The birth of this baby brings great joy and good news for everyone. As the King of the universe, He has come as our Saviour. In an uncertain world, He offers joy and hope, because He holds this pandemic in His hands. This is a real cause for joy!

'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom His favour rests.' (*Luke 2.14*). We may feel anything but peace amid the anxieties over our current circumstances. How can a Jewish infant born to a peasant family in first century Palestine bring peace to our lives today? But Jesus established peace with God through His death on the cross. Trusting the Prince of Peace for our lives brings God's peace amid the huge uncertainties we face.

As the carol says, 'Joy to the world, the Lord has come, let earth receive her King.'

Every year it happens - we hear Christians lamenting how 'Christmas comes earlier every year.' Since this September (or before) supermarkets, shops and garden centres have been selling Christmas jumpers, socks and pyjamas and all kinds of other seasonal merchandise. Should we be annoyed or exasperated? Should we have gone around reminding people that it's much too early for tinsel and mistletoe? This year, of all years, the answer from churches and Christians of all denominations must surely be a resounding 'NO.'

As people began looking to Christmas for some light in the gloom of the pandemic – and hard-hit businesses desperately need to increase their income and chances of survival – it sounds a woefully wrong note if the Church is saying 'hold back, it's not time yet...'

Because Christmas is that time of year when increasing numbers of people want to come to church services and share in the story of the new-born King. It is when carols are played in shopping centres, and there are openings to speak of the meaning of the season.

Churches might not be able to host big indoor carol services this year, but the challenge is how we take the Christmas message out into the streets and neighbourhoods around our buildings.

This year has been one like no other for millions of people, with little prospect of better news into the New Year. So we need to be declaring the Christmas message of hope and light and joy in the darkness. And to be doing so at every opportunity.

But also, we need to be doing so with sensitivity and care, for the many who will find it hard to be celebrating this pandemic year, and with the prospect of large family gatherings in doubt because of Covid-19 regulations.

Archbishop of York Stephen Cottrell wrote in his 2009 book 'Do Nothing Christmas is Coming', "Christmas is one of the most joyful times of the year. It is also one of the most stressful. It is laden with expectations. It is often overtaken with grief. It might be the season of goodwill, but it can feel like the last straw on an already overburdened camel." He added ruefully, "Wise men would not ride this one."

Archbishop Cottrell is right that Christmas has to be approached sensitively, that we need to take care in how we celebrate, that for many people who have lost loved ones and livelihoods during this traumatic year, Christmas will not be easy.

We come alongside people with the news that the baby born in the manger grew up to be the Man of Sorrows, acquainted with grief, who experienced suffering and bereavement. God, born as Man, who shared our pain as well as our celebrations, ultimately died on a cross to rise again.

Our mission is to bring a message of hope, and to do so with love, humility and sensitivity to a hurting disorientated world – one that's eager for light in the gloom.

For us, Coronavirus brings deep uncertainty as we come to another New Year. We live with the threat from the virus, economic uncertainty, separation from family and friends, the loss of loved ones and the anxiety that isolation brings. Yet the message of Emmanuel brings hope. Christmas changes everything forever. God has declared in Christ that He is with us and for us, not absent from or against us. His love is larger than our sin, fears or guilt: 'If God is for us, who can be against us?' (*Romans 8:31*).

As we prepare for the most unusual Christmas ever, let's not forget ...

God with us means that He is on my side and by my side. In the uncertainties of life I am never alone.

God with us means that everything will work out according to His plan. My life isn't just a series of meaningless occasions or mistakes.

God with us means that even when others show they are not there for me, God is.

God with us means when circumstances change, He will give me the strength I need. God is with me: He isn't far away, but has made the journey into my world. Here is the hope for the future, once we get past the trees, gifts, turkey, stuffing and pudding.



CHRISTMAS AT ST EDMUND'S



It is hoped that all Christmas Services
can be attended in Church,
subject to Government regulations at the time.

In addition, all will be available online,
either streamed live or pre-recorded

See www.saintedmundschurch.org.uk for the latest information,
including how to make bookings.

Bookings can also be made by telephone from Sunday 6 December,
from Jenny Jones 020 8866 7173. There is no charge for bookings.

SUNDAY 20th DECEMBER

6.30 pm

CAROL SERVICE

admission by advance booking only

CHRISTMAS EVE

4 pm

BLESSING OF THE CRIB

and NATIVITY STORY

admission by advance booking only

5 pm (approx.)

EUCCHARIST (Said)

11.30 pm

MIDNIGHT MASS

admission by advance booking only



CHRISTMAS AT ST EDMUND'S



It is hoped that all Christmas Services
can be attended in Church,
subject to Government regulations at the time.
In addition, all will be available online,
either streamed live or pre-recorded
See www.saintedmundschurch.org.uk for the latest information.

CHRISTMAS DAY

10 am
FAMILY EUCHARIST

27th DECEMBER
(1st SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS)

10 am
PARISH EUCHARIST

NEW YEAR'S EVE

5.30 pm
DEVOTION and BENEDICTION

MISTLETOE

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

There are many and various traditions involved in the annual festival of Christmas decorations. As far as greenery is concerned, much use is made of the age-old favourites of holly, ivy, conifer sprigs and of course, mistletoe. While holly, ivy and conifers are commonplace in gardens and hedgerows, mistletoe usually only appears in greengrocers' shops, or high in a tree well out of reach.

Mistletoe is *hemiparasitic*, meaning that although its leaves enable it to feed itself through photosynthesis, its roots invade the host tree or shrub to extract water and other nutrients. Its favourite host trees are apple, lime, hawthorn, poplar or oak; it normally hangs as a large globe, tantalisingly high and totally visible once winter arrives and it is the only green left on the tree. There are some spectacular examples in Windsor Great Park, clearly visible from the path on the opposite side of the River Thames.

The plant has almost translucent white berries, fleshy and sticky, which form in the forks of mistletoe's many branches. While they are toxic to humans, they are attractive to birds. When birds have enjoyed the juicy flesh, they wipe the remaining seeds off their beaks onto the nearest branch, and with luck the seed remains stuck to the bark, and solves mistletoe's problem of reproduction.

In Greek mythology, mistletoe gave access to the Underworld. Romans thought it represented Peace, Love and Understanding and perhaps that is how it has sidled into our Christmas celebrations. The Greeks and Romans, and pre-Christian Celts and Druids all regarded mistletoe as a fertility symbol. The earliest documentary evidence for kissing under mistletoe dates from the 16th century. Some people think a berry should be removed after each kiss. Given the small size of pieces generally available these days, that might not be a good idea.

Mistletoe is the county flower of Herefordshire, presumably because of the abundance of the plants in the apple orchards of that region. There are various "Cutting the Mistletoe" events thereabouts. Every year, (except, sadly, this year) Tenbury Wells in Worcestershire holds a mistletoe festival and crowns a "Mistletoe Queen"; it also has a major (trade only) mistletoe auction.



THE ADVENT ‘O’ ANTIPHONS

Mike Godden

The Advent Antiphons (sentences sung or recited before and/or after a psalm or canticle) are sung as antiphons to the Magnificat at Evening Prayer from 17th to 23rd December (the 7 seven days before Christmas Eve). They are prayers, written originally in Latin, dating back to at least the 8th century. Beginning with the cry “O”, each goes on to address Christ, not directly, but by an allusive title, drawn from Old Testament prophecy, and each ends with a fervent petition calling on Christ to come to us.

O Sapientia - 17th December

O Wisdom, coming from the mouth of the Most High,
and reaching from end to end of all creation, and ordering all things well:
Come, and teach us the way of understanding!

O Adonai - 18th December

O Lord, ruler of the House of Israel, who appeared to Moses
in the fire of the burning bush, and on Sinai gave him the Law:
Come to redeem us with outstretched arm!

O Radix Jesse - 19th December

O Root of Jesse, who stands as a sign for the people; kings fall silent before you,
and the nations acclaim you: Come to free us, delay no longer!

O Clavis David - 20th December

O Key of David and sceptre of the House of Israel, what you open no one can
close; what you close no one can open: Come to lead the captives from prison,
and free those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death!

O Oriens - 21st December

O Morning Star, the splendour of eternal light and sun of justice:
Come, and enlighten those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death!

O Rex Gentium - 22nd December

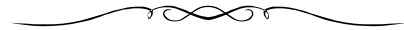
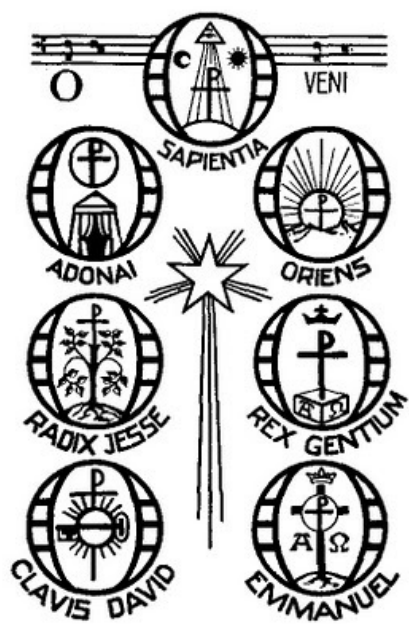
O King of the Nations, for whom they long, cornerstone that binds all together:
Come, and save all people, whom you made from clay!

O Emmanuel - 23rd December

O Emmanuel, our King and judge, hope of all the nations:
Come, save us, O Lord our God!

In the mediæval rite of Salisbury Cathedral that was widely followed in England before the Reformation, the antiphons began on 16th December, and there was an additional antiphon - “O Virgin of virgins”).

Over the centuries, these antiphons have been the inspiration for many musical settings, including Alan Bullard’s “O Come Emmanuel”, performed by Eastcote & Ruislip Choral Society at St. Edmund’s in December 2017, but perhaps the best known interpretation is the Advent hymn “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”, in which each antiphon has its own verse.



A DAILY PRAYER FOR ADVENT

Come, Lord Jesus, do not delay;
 give new courage to your people
 who trust in your love.
 By your coming, raise us to
 the joy of your kingdom,
 where you live with the Father
 and the Holy Spirit,
 God, for ever and ever. Amen.



NOVEMBER Crossword Solution

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

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

PART 11

Jenny Jones

1999 - The beginning of the Decade of Evangelism for London.

FEBRUARY (8th) The Emmaus Course for adults began 8.0-9.30pm and continued each week with holiday breaks until 12th July.

(9th) The Emmaus course for young people began 6.0 0-6-50pm and continued with holiday breaks until 29th June.

(14th) The Cub Scouts went on a trip to the London Aquarium.

(17th) Diocesan Day of Prayer and Pilgrimage to St. Paul's Cathedral.

(24th) The Lent Course started, entitled 'Practical Spirituality'.

MARCH (10th) The Women's Guild Lunch, in aid of the Leprosy Mission.

APRIL The PCC agreed to set up of a Fund Raising Committee to organise public events to raise money to assist the work of the church.

JUNE (12th) Pilgrimage to the Hindu Temple at Neasden.

There was a notice that the Magazine price will be increased in August to 30p (*still the same price in March 2020!*)

(15th) Baptism and Confirmation Service - The Rt. Rev'd. Graham Dow, Bishop of Willesden, officiated.

JULY (3rd) Rev. Paul Baguley was Priested at St. Alban's, North Harrow.

(24th) Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Willesden. This began with a procession around the local streets followed by a Eucharist in the church. Lunch was shared at the Parish Centre. Then St. Mary's Youth group presented 'The Willesden Story', which explained the history of the Shrine. The day ended with prayers at the Shrine and Holy Well.

AUGUST (23rd -27th) The Holiday Club took place.

SEPTEMBER (19th) Harvest Festival. Bishop Graham Dow officiated, and stayed to enjoy the Harvest Lunch.

(23rd - 25th) Arrow Players presented an "Old Time Music Hall", including a Gala performance on the 25th.

OCTOBER 5th Classic Concert season began. The Caspian String Quartet played a selection of pieces. One of the players was Rebecca Boyle (née Whalley), a member of this church from a very young age.

NOVEMBER (20th) St. Edmund the King Patronal Festival Sung Eucharist followed by supper. Guest of Honour Fr. Brian Moore, Vicar of St. Saviour, St. Albans

(30th) Pilgrimage to the Holy Land departed, led by Fr Bruce

DECEMBER (9th) Return of the pilgrims from the Holy Land.

(14th) Holy Communion at 7.15 pm in the Lady Chapel followed by a Meditative Quiet Evening for Advent

Everyone was invited to place the name of a loved one on the branches of the inaugural 'Lights of Life' Memorial tree, which had been placed in the Foyer and also to take a Millennium candle home to use when at prayer.

(31st) 5.30 pm - Service of Devotions before the Blessed Sacrament, including prayers for the third Millennium. (*An adapted form of the service has been used on every New Year's Eve since then.*)

2000

JANUARY (1st) 11.55 am Bell Peal and lighting of a "Millennium Candle" - a symbol of hope, peace, love and joy to remind us of God's gifts to us through Jesus Christ - the Light of the World, followed by a Celebration Service.

(10th) Vicar's day off- changed from Friday to Monday in future.

Notice that Service times of Morning and Evening Prayer are altered:

Morning Prayer at 8.00am on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday, 9.30am on Thursday, 9.00am on Saturday, Evening Prayer at 7.00pm on Tuesday, 6.00pm Wednesday to Saturday.

FEBRUARY (19th) Arrow Players celebrated their 35th anniversary with a Dinner Dance at Pinner Hill Golf Club; music by Lucy Godden, Adam Clark and his brother Liam.

MARCH (4th) A concert by the Hillingdon Community Band - 7.00 pm followed by supper including pancakes.

Lent Offerings will be shared between St. Edmund's Lesotho and the Northwood and Pinner Community Hospital.

(12th) Sale of Traidcraft goods to support the Traidcraft charity.

(15th) First lent talk, preceded by Holy Communion at 7.30 pm. Three more talks in the following weeks. The theme is a consideration of the visual imagery of Christ painted in various parts of the world.

(21st) Women's Guild Ploughman's Lunch in aid of the Lent project.

(25th) AGM of the Saturday Market. The profits allowed the purchase of 156 cutlery settings and 144 wine glasses for use in the Hall at various gatherings. A donation was also made towards the ongoing work on drainage around the church.

APRIL (2nd) Mothering Sunday; after the service a yew cutting was planted as part of the Millennium celebrations. The Conservation Foundation had prepared a number of cuttings from ancient Yew trees to be distributed to all parishes in Britain to help to mark the third Millennium since Christ died. Ours came from a Yew in the churchyard in the village of Molash, near Canterbury, in Kent. This Yew will be a symbol of our faith in the future. (*Our Yew continues to flourish; it is in the bed at the top of the Church car park, and is kept trimmed to a bush.*)

(6th) APCM. Information was given about the Child Protection Policy.

Freda Varcoe had donated a set of The Stations of the Cross in memory of her husband Winston.

The Women's Guild gave a candle and flower holder to celebrate the 25 years of the Guild since its setting up.

(13th) Holy Land Pilgrimage evening to watch a video and hear the experiences of those who took part.

(29th) 'Pilgrimage' by tube to visit the National gallery to see the Exhibition 'The Images of Christ', on which the Lent talks had been based.

(30th) Celebration to mark 50 years that Norman Rogers has served as a Reader in the Church of England.

JUNE (9th) Chaconne Brass Day - an event partially financed from profits from Classic Concerts plus generous donations from the Friends of Classic Concerts. The Day took place at Northwood School; senior pupils from the three local primary schools, Harlyn, Hillside and Pinner Wood attended. The children were entertained by the five members of the quintet by music and shown how the instruments were played.

(11th) Beating the Bounds was held - the revival of an old custom, as part of Millennium celebrations. Members of the church walked around the parish boundary and enjoyed tea afterwards. (*Held every year since then*)

(20th) Confirmation Service. The occasion was the farewell visit of Graham Dow, Bishop of Willesden, who had been appointed Bishop of Carlisle. Bishop Graham appointed Mike Godden 'Bishop's Lay Chaplin', which involves being responsible for the smooth running of the Liturgy for special Services (mostly Ordinations).

JULY (12th -15th) Four Performances of 'Hopes and Dreams' took place in the church on successive evenings. The production, organised by Arrow Players, is based on the words of the Lords' Prayer including music, dance, monologue and comedy. The money raised from the production was shared between three charities: Christian Aid, The Mildmay Mission, and The Alzheimer's Society.

AUGUST (13th) Last service of Dr. David Hughes, Choir Director and Organist since 1980.

SEPTEMBER (2nd) Parish afternoon picnic in Cassiobury Park, Watford.

OCTOBER (8th) Dr. Hughes returned to have a formal farewell from St. Edmund's due to his moving from the area.

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

DECEMBER (3rd) The 10am service used liturgy from 'Common Worship', which now replaces the Alternative Service Book for all Services.

Fr. Tony Andrews was welcomed as a Non Stipendiary curate at St. Edmund's.

After the service the Millennium Rose Arch (a symbolic 'bridge' from one Millennium to the next) in the Garden of Remembrance was dedicated.

HYMN OF THE MONTH

Mike Godden

Advent is a season of expectation and preparation, as the Church prepares to celebrate the coming of Christ in his incarnation, to be born among us, to live among us, and to be our eternal salvation - or to put it another way ...

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
Announces that the Lord is nigh.
Awake and harken, for he brings
Glad tidings of the King of kings!

Then cleansed be every Christian breast
And furnished for so great a guest
Yea, let us each our hearts prepare
For Christ to come and enter there.

For thou art our salvation, Lord,
Our refuge and our great reward.
Without thy grace our souls must fade,
And wither like a flower decayed..

Stretch forth thine hand, to heal our sore,
And make us rise, to fall no more;
Once more upon thy people shine,
And fill the world with love divine.

All praise, eternal Son, to thee,
Whose advent sets thy people free,
Whom, with the Father, we adore,
And Spirit blest, evermore.

The text from which this hymn was drawn was written in Latin by French academic Charles Coffin. It was published in 1736, as a poem adapted from an original chant, "*Jordanis oras prævia*" in his "*Hymni Sacri Auctore Carolo Coffin*". Coffin was born at Buzancy (Ardennes), near Reims, in 1676. His academic career culminated in his appointment in 1718 as Rector of the University of Paris. Among his other works is an ode in praise of the wines of Champagne. He died in 1749.

The hymn as we know it today was translated (rather freely) into English by Rev. John Chandler (1806-1876), in 1837. Chandler was a prolific author and translator of hymns; he was born in Surrey, educated at Corpus Christi College, Oxford, and ordained in 1831.

The tune most often used for the hymn is "Winchester New". Its original version was published in Hamburg, Germany, in 1690 by Georg Wittwe. It was re-arranged to its present form by Rev. William Havergal (1793 - 1870) in his "Old Church Psalmody" of 1864. Havergal's version closely resembled its original 1690 form. Havergal was born at High Wycombe, educated at the Merchant Taylors' School, Northwood and St. Edmund Hall, Oxford, and was ordained in 1816.



SOME DECEMBER CUSTOMS

Mike Godden

BRIGHTON BURNING THE CLOCKS. Started in 1994, and taking place on the winter solstice, 21st December, this is a lantern parade through the streets of Brighton. Participants carry their handmade paper and willow lanterns during the procession, which brings the whole city together to celebrate and reflect on the past year. When the parade has wound its way to the beach, people pass their lanterns, filled symbolically with their hopes and dreams, into a blazing bonfire and prepare for the spectacular fire show and firework display. The event is about welcoming the return of the sun and bringing some celebration to the long, dark nights; it was created as an antidote to the excesses of commercial Christmas and as a way to celebrate the festive season regardless of faith, embracing the entire community.

YORK SHERIFF'S RIDING. Another winter solstice custom, a blend of two ancient traditions: that of the Sheriff's Ride around the streets on horseback accompanied by musicians, which in earlier days took place during November, and Yulegirthol which originally involved brief proclamations at set locations around the city. Now the two are combined and the Sheriff, on foot, is accompanied by the York Waits in their livery; they process around the city, music playing all the while. The event begins with a proclamation at Micklegate Bar and further proclamations and horn blowing take place at several points on the tour, which ends after about three-quarters of an hour or so with the Sheriff's speech at the Mansion House. The proclamations welcome to the city various "unthrifty folk" for the period of twelve days of Yule. Afterwards the participants celebrate with venison pasties and sherry.

MOUSEHOLE TOM BAWCOCK'S EVE. In the 16th century, on 23rd December, Tom was a local fisherman who braved the midwinter weather to land a fine catch, after a period of storms had prevented the men from sailing and the villagers faced famine. His act of heroism is commemorated annually and the story is re-enacted in the harbour ; the streets are illuminated with the famous harbour lights, there is a lantern parade and a special local delicacy called star-gazy pie is served. After the parade, there is Carol singing on the beach.

DUNSTER & AXMOUTH ASHEN FAGGOT. The Ashen Faggot is a West Country Christmas custom – it's a large log with withies (strips of ash or willow) bound around it to make a bundle which is burned indoors in the hearth. A sip is consumed as each withy breaks in the flames, which sounds like an excuse for a good drink! The practice still survives in country pubs notably the Lutrell Arms in Dunster, Somerset and the Harbour Inn at Axmouth in Devon on Christmas Eve. At Dunster their faggot consists of twelve thick sticks bound in a bundle using ash withies and the Dunster Carol is sung while it burns in the vast fireplace. It's a revived custom dating back to the 1930s but with much older roots. At Axmouth a six-foot-long faggot is constructed in a bundle of hazel twigs, filling the fireplace; as the faggot burns carol singing and recitations take place.

RICHMOND POOR OLD HOSS. The Poor Old Hoss of Richmond is a hobby horse with a real horse-skull on a pole as his head. He is accompanied by a group of mummers in huntsman costumes who sing his special song and bring him back to life with a blast on a hunting horn when he “dies”, accompanied by much merriment and mayhem. The day begins with a morning get-together of the participants at a local hostelry and most of the action takes place around the Market Place area, in and out of the pubs and the bank! T’Owd ’Oss (as he is locally known) is an amiable beast and seeing him can bring luck. The custom is believed to have pagan origins, with known records dating back to the 17th Century.

DEWSBURY TOLLING THE DEVIL’S KNELL. Many churches ring in Christmas Day with a peal of their bells, but at Dewsbury in Yorkshire they do things differently. Starting at around 10.30 pm, the bell-ringers toll the tenor bell once for every year since Christ was born – it is timed so that the last stroke is rung at exactly midnight. The ringers take it in turns to perform 100 strokes. A local legend explains that Black Tom de Soothill, the landowner hereabouts, presented the church bell as penance for murdering a servant but this doesn’t explain why the bell is rung on Christmas Eve. Alternative theories suggest that it’s rung as a passing-bell because the Devil died when Jesus was born. A special service takes place in the church whilst the ringing is happening, then when the peals are complete the bellringers leave the ringing chamber and join the congregation for the end of the service.

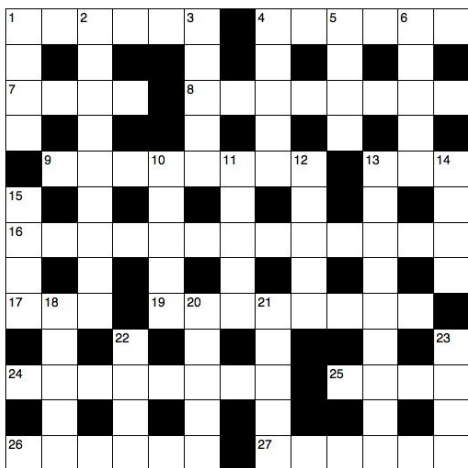
BUCKS GREEN CHRISTMAS HORSE. At the Fox Inn at Bucks Green, Sussex, on Christmas Day, a horse walks through the bar at the pub preceding Christmas lunch, perhaps in order to preserve an ancient right of way, though nobody seems to know the origin of the custom for certain. The horse is usually treated to carrots and sometimes beer, then after his visit lunch can be served. The horse walks in through the front door and follows a brick path right past the bar to the back entrance, where he meets the crowd and has a graze on the lawn.

THE BA’ AT KIRKWALL, in the Orkneys, is a fiercely contested mass-handball game in the streets of the town. It takes place twice a year on Christmas Day and New Year’s Day, (unless they fall on Sundays in which case the game is played on Monday instead), between teams of Uppies and Doonies. The Uppies goal is the end wall of a house opposite the Catholic Church, while the Doonie goal is in the harbour - the ball needs to get wet to score and once it is hailed, the Champion gets to keep it for life. Kirkwall Ba’s are heavy, just larger than a conventional football, and filled with cork dust; they’re always brown and black. The history of the game goes back hundreds of years; documentation started in 1684. Over the years it has evolved from football into the handball game of today, tightly packed into the narrow streets.

THE LONDON PETER PAN CUP takes place on Christmas Day each year in the Serpentine lake in Hyde Park over a 100 metre course. The first cup was presented by “Peter Pan” author J.M. Barrie in 1907, although the event began in 1864. It’s open to members of the Serpentine Swimming Club and the swimmers use a handicap system in the race to make it more unpredictable. Usually around 50 competitors brave the icy waters.

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

DECEMBER CROSSWORD



ACROSS

1. Rely (*Psalms* 62:7) (6)
4. 'He stretches out the heavens like a — , and spreads them out like a tent to live in' (*Isaiah* 40:22) (6)
7. What the dove carried the olive leaf in, when it returned to Noah's ark (*Genesis* 8:11) (4)
8. Annoy (*1 Samuel* 1:6) (8)
9. Judah's last king, who ended his days as a blind prisoner in Babylon (*Jeremiah* 52:11) (8)
13. 'They all — and were satisfied' (*Luke* 9:17) (3)
16. Eliphaz the Temanite was one; so was Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite (*Job* 2:11; 16:2) (4,9)
17. National Association of Evangelicals (of the USA) (1,1,1)
19. Popular song for New Year's Eve, Auld — — (4,4)
24. Able dock (anag.) (8)
25. The number of stones David chose for his confrontation with Goliath (*1 Samuel* 17:40) (4)
26. Elgar's best-known 'Variations' (6)
27. Soak (*Isaiah* 16:9) (6)

DOWN

1. Money owing (*Deuteronomy* 15:3) (4)
2. Conciliatory (*Titus* 3:2) (9)
3. 'Do this, whenever you — it, in remembrance of me' (*1 Corinthians* 11:25) (5)
4. A group assisting in the governance of the Roman Catholic Church (5)
5. One of the gifts Joseph's brothers took with them on their second journey to Egypt (*Genesis* 43:11) (4)
6. 'Reach out your hand and — — into my side. Stop doubting and believe' (*John* 20:27) (3,2)
10. Be outstandingly good (*2 Corinthians* 8:7) (5)
11. 'What — — that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him?' (*Psalms* 8:4) (2,3)
12. Horse's feet (*Judges* 5:22) (5)
13. Notice (*Deuteronomy* 17:4) (9)
14. Comes between 2 Chronicles and Nehemiah (4)
15. One of Israel's northern towns conquered by Ben-Hadad (*1 Kings* 15:20) (4)
18. Narnia's Lion (5)
20. One of the two rivers in which Naaman would have preferred to wash (*2 Kings* 5:12) (5)
21. Avarice—one of the evils that come from inside people (*Mark* 7:22) (5)
22. Knight Grand Cross of St. Michael and St. George (1,1,1,1)
23. Jacob's first wife (*Genesis* 29:23) (4)

*The Church of St. Edmund the King has been serving
the Parish of Northwood Hills since 1934.*

*The Parish is in the Harrow Deanery of
the Willesden Episcopal Area of the Diocese of London*



*Edmund was the devout young King of the East Angles,
martyred by the Danes for his allegiance to Christ
in the year 869 when he was 29 years old.
The crown and arrows of the church crest
symbolise his Kingship and Martyrdom.*

