



East Dartford Benefice
St Edmund &
St Alban
www.2dartfordchurches.org



Happy New Year 2026

January 2026

Sunday 4th January (Epiphany)

10.30am: Holy Communion, St. Ed's.

Bible readings: Sharon E: Wisdom 10.15-end, and Ryan: John 1.10-18

Prayers: Andrew Chalice: Andrew Leading and Preaching: Mandy

Sunday 11th January (The Baptism of Christ)

10.30am Holy Communion, St. A's.

Bible readings: Alison: Isaiah 42.1-9, and Segun: Matthew 3.13-end

Prayers: Ryan Chalice: Ayo Leading: Mandy Preaching: Andrew

Sunday 18th January (2nd Sunday of Epiphany)

10.30am: Holy Communion, St. Ed's.

Bible readings: Theresa E: Isaiah 49.1-7, and Adam: John 1. 29-42

Prayers: Sharon E Chalice: Ryan Leading and Preaching: Mandy

Sunday 25th January

10.30am: Holy Communion, St. A's.

Bible readings: June D: Jeremiah 1.4-10, and Andrew: Matthew 19.27-end

Prayers: Ayo Chalice: Robin Leading and Preaching: Mandy

Please note: If you are allocated above and are not available, please arrange your own cover. Just let the person leading know. With thanks.

January at our 2 Churches (from 5/1/26)

Mon-Wed	9.30am	Drop-in Café, St Ed's
Tuesday	9.30am	Kindness & Wellbeing Community, St Ed's
Wednesday	8.30am	Stepping Stones Toddler Group, St A's
	11am – 2pm	Community Cafe, St A's
	7.00pm	Slimming World Group, St E's
Thursday	9.30am	Morning Prayer, St Ed's
	9.30am	Holy Communion/Prayers for healing (15 th)
	11.00am	Steady, Strong & Able, St Ed's (15 th and 29 th)
	12 noon	Over 60s lunch, followed by bingo, St Ed's
Friday	9am	Little Edz Toddler Group, St E's
	9.30am	Drop-in Café, St Ed's
Saturday	10.00am	Knit & Natter, St A's (1st and 3rd Saturdays)

Epiphany

On 6th January we celebrate Epiphany - the visit of the Wise Men to the baby Jesus. But who were these Wise Men? No one knows for sure. Matthew calls them 'Magi', and that was the name of an ancient caste of a priestly kind from Persia. It wasn't until the third century that they were called kings - by a church father, Tertullian.

Another church father, Origin, assumed there were three - to correspond with the gifts given. Later Christian interpretation came to understand gold as a symbol of wisdom and wealth, incense as a symbol of worship and sacrifice, and myrrh as a symbol of healing - and even embalming. Certainly Jesus challenged and set aright the way in which the world handled all three of these things. Since the 8th century, the Magi have had the names Balthasar, Caspar and Melchior.



How to help in 2026

1- Time and energy:

We are in interregnum and we would really value your help. Here are some ideas. Please have a chat to Lorraine or Roy our Church Wardens if you have any suggestions, or can help in these areas:

- **Refreshments** - after church
- **Website**
- **Sound and tech** - during service
- **Lifts to church** - perhaps on a monthly rota – some people have to pay for a taxi every week , please help if you can.
- **Sunday School** - a little team, so parents can stay in church sometimes
- **Before/After Church** - Setting up or tidying up
- **Deep clean working party** – setting up a schedule of regular deep cleans of kitchens at both churches

2 - Pray:

- Pray for our future Vicar, that God is preparing them, even now.
- Continue to pray for Dame Sarah Mullally as she prepares for installation as our new Archbishop of Canterbury.
- Join our email prayer group, contact community.prayerline.edb@gmail.com

3 - Financially:

St Edmund PCC Dartford

Metro Bank

Sort Code 23-05-80

Account No. 46339673

St Albans Parochial Church Council

The Co-Operative Bank

Sort Code 08-90-36

Account No. 50004739

East Dartford Benefice

Metro Bank

Sort Code 23-05-80

Account No. 48471757



This QR code links to “Give A Little East Dartford Benefice” to make a single or monthly donation.

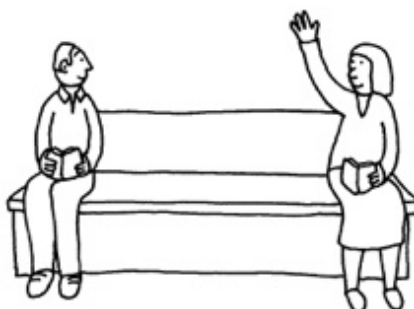
Regular giving makes a big difference. We also use a card reader and/or plate every Sunday. Thank you for this support.

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

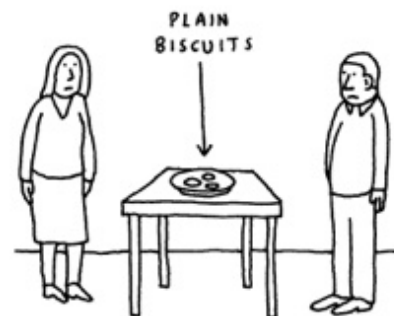
HOW THE CHURCH CAN HELP



EXERCISE



MEETING NEW PEOPLE



HEALTHY EATING



GETTING ORGANISED

AT THE PCC WE'LL DISCUSS THE APCM,
CW VS THE BCP, THE LLM'S CRB,
AND THE OLM'S BAP. OH, AND
THERE ARE LETTERS FROM THE DAC,
THE DDO, THE HOB AND THE ABC



LEARNING A NEW LANGUAGE



TRAVELLING TO NEW PLACES

Cartoonchurch.com

Contact us:

We are in interregnum, so we don't have a full-time priest at the moment. However, there are people to speak to and places to get information.

Priest: Canon Mandy Brown 07772121277 mandykbrown26@gmail.com

Available: 9.00 – 4.00 Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday

Reader: Andrew Carr admin@transformingministry.co.uk

PA: Debbie Westerby 01322311201/ 07305593610

albanandedmundonline@virginmedia.com

Church Wardens: Lorraine Bathgate (lorraine.bathgate@hotmail.co.uk)

Roy Brown (roydfc@icloud.com)

Prayer: Join our email prayer group: community.prayerline.edb@gmail.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/eastdartfordbenefice/

Website: www.2dartfordchurches.org