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Charity Commission Registration No. 1130247

Reports for the

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Wednesday 13th April, 2011 at 8 p.m.

in

The Derek Kneale Hall

Please bring this document with you to the meeting.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING REPORTS CONTENTS

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BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

Following a funeral taken by one of the staff from St Giles' Church or the United Reformed Church, bereaved families are offered a visit by a member of the Bereavement Support Group (BSG). This one-to-one support is usually given in the home of the bereaved person. The group was established in 1996 to support people within the Ickenham parish.

The BSG is a corporate member of Harrow Bereavement Care (HBC), a small charity which supports bereavement visitors and provides training (www.harrowbereavementcare.co.uk). HBC also runs training courses for children's visitors. There is a huge need for support for children who experience loss either through the death of a close family member or through the separation of their parents.

The BSG visitors receive ongoing training. Some members attend bereavement workshops organised by HBC and most attend the annual HBC Conference which each year focuses on a specific issue relating to grief and loss.

At 2pm on the third Monday of each month, a drop-in is held in the St Giles' Church Hall when anyone who is bereaved can come to talk informally with some visitors over a cup of tea. This is open to anyone who is affected by a loss which has occurred recently or a long time ago. The dates of the drop-in sessions are advertised each month in the Ickenham Church News.

In December in recent years, the BSG has taken part in the Christmas Tree Festival in St Giles' Church by providing a 'Tree of Remembrance' on which people can hang stars with a message or the name of a loved one. Many come into the church during the Ickenham Festive Evening for this purpose. A BSG member is available throughout so that those placing a star have the opportunity to speak in confidence about their loved one, if they wish.

Each year people who have been bereaved during the preceding year are sent a personal invitation to come with their families to the annual Memorial Service in May. Tea and cakes are provided afterwards in the church hall. Anyone who would find this helpful is welcome to come to this annual service. (The next service is on Sunday 8 May 2011 at 3pm at St Giles'.)

Jenny Reid

ST GILES' CHURCH HALL

Our hall provides both the Church and Community with excellent facilities for a range of activities and meetings in the centre of Ickenham. During the past year we have maintained bookings numbering 50 a week for all ages during both day and evenings. We have regretfully have had to turn some bookings down during the year. This is likely to become more regular as the Walter Davis room is to become a full time youth base from Easter 2011 following the appointment of a Parish Youth Worker.

This loss of income will affect the speed at which the Loan from the PCC is paid off and this is accepted by the PCC. We will however continue to pay the £300.00 a month promised. The outstanding amount in January 2011 is £51,000.

I am most grateful to the team who work hard on our behalf cleaning and maintaining the premises and looking after security and dealing with hall bookings. We were able to redecorate the front doors and lobby and the stairs up to the 1st floor during the summer break, an area which takes a lot of punishment and which now provides a welcome to our clients on arrival.

We thank those groups and users of our hall for supporting us and ask for their forbearance during the changes to provide facilities for the youth in our community.

David Millen

Hall Manager

CLICK 4WARD RUKIGA

This report is prepared for the St Giles APCM document.

We have completed phase 1 of the CLICK Rukiga project having raised sufficient funds to support the water program via world vision. The total amount raised for the water project was £22,000. The other parts of the project are ongoing namely the sponsoring by Ickenham people of children in Rukiga. To date we have over 25 children sponsored at £216 per annum. There is one slight issue to be resolved about the sponsorship and that is what happens to these sponsors arrangements after World Vision complete their programme in Rukiga in 2012. We are considering two or three options presently. It will be possible, we think, if there is no solution with World Vision, to continue some sponsorship via KWID, Kyabuhangwa Women in Development. We have until 2012 to find the best solution.

The prayer link with St James is church in Buhangezi, Rukiga has been reasonably successful but could be improved with better communications.(See later in this report)

We did not manage to place a volunteer in Rukiga via VSO, but have other possibilities to consider for the next phase.

This has been a very good three years, in that we have come to know many people within Rukiga and this bodes well for our next phase and beyond.

As you can see above, we are calling phase 2 **CLICK 4Ward**, because there are four elements to the next phase. I will explain a little about each.

Linking with KWID. This is a community-based organisation within the parishes close to St James's Church and other parts of the program. World Vision will use this organisation to ensure that there is sustainability of the programs that they have started. KWID both tries to ensure that there will be good healthcare, education agricultural income and other services for the people

of Rukiga, by working with other local groups and local government. Much of what they do is handled by volunteers and there is a need for some input to help build their capacity to do more. They have asked that we help fund their first three staff so as to enable them to undertake much more work. These staff will give support to their volunteers. This would mean us making a commitment to contribute about US\$7200 per annum to cover the first three years. Ultimately their team would hope to develop income generating programs for years beyond the first three years.

As part of developing our relationship with this body we have applied to the Community Global Links program managed by the British Council on behalf of DfID. The amount applied for was £8900 and included money to bring the head of KWID to Ickenham for three weeks and funds to spread the word throughout our community, in a variety of different ways. Unfortunately the first application was not successful but the British Council has encouraged us to apply again immediately. We are in the process of doing that. If this phase of developing a working relationship with KWID is successful, it will be central to future development.

The second element of this phase is to link Kamwezi Parents school with Vyners school. Meetings have been held in both schools with both Head teachers and they are extremely enthusiastic. We are in the process of developing a memorandum of understanding, MoU, between the two schools so that everybody is clear what each school can provide the other. As a part of this development we have been fortunate that a member of our Ickenham community has offered to donate a brand-new solar power system for Kamwezi Parents school. This system will be placed in the grounds of the school and will provide electricity for a whole variety of purposes, including charging the batteries of laptop computers. The Head teacher of Vyners school has suggested that they may be able to provide a few computers or cash to buy some and we are also pursuing a couple of other options from charities that provide computers to Africa. Vyners is also planning to establish regular visits to Uganda, and Kamwezi P S, each year. The visits will include sixth formers and teachers. They are hoping that they may have the first visit next summer. Again this is a very exciting development, which will enhance our community to community link, particularly given that Kamwezi Parents school is relatively close to St James's Church.

The third element of phase 2 is to improve our link with Canon Christopher and St James's Church. Initially we have to improve communications and following a meeting in Kabale with the Bishop we seem to have found a solution that enables e-mails to be exchanged via the Bishop's office. Once this arrangement is up and running and the Churches are communicating regularly there are other projects which we have discussed in principle with St James Church and which we would develop slowly over the years to come. We also have four people who are prepared to financially sponsor some orphans being cared for by Canon Christopher, along with his own three children. We are just working out the logistics of getting the money from the UK to him via our bank account.

The final element involves the use of football as a way of helping some young people. World Vision put us in touch with a local football team of young players, between the age of 15 and 20 years old. They had little or no equipment. Watford football club have now provided them with all the kit that they need and via their community trust will try to give support. On the last visit we took

photographs and video footage of the handover of the kit to the team, who now play in Uganda as young Watford. This film footage will be shown to the Watford supporters at their game. There was also mention of the project and photographs in the match programme when Watford played against Leicester on December 4.

The Rukiga team is now working to secure more detailed plan for phase 2 based on the strategy above. I trust that both the Members of both Ickenham Churches feel pleased that the project, which we started in 2007 is going from strength to strength.

Mike Whitlam

Climbers and Scramblers

- **Who are we?**

A group for children aged between 2 and a half and 7 years old.

- **When and where do we meet?**

Every Sunday at 9.45 a.m. in the back room of the Church Hall, apart from the Family Service on the 1st Sunday of every month (although we have a break at Easter and for the summer).

- **What's our purpose?**

We help the children to explore the Bible and discover more about God in a fun way.

- **How do we achieve this?**

Throughout the year we undertake a very wide range of activities,

- ◆ Colouring Bible story pictures to set the scene for the session
- ◆ Singing & playing music, a great way for the children to praise God and we have sung at the Family service (The Farmer Gathers his Hay Today and 10 Good Rules) to great reviews.
- ◆ Arts and Crafts. From Mother's day Cards to Ten Commandment Hedgehogs, finger painting and decorating murals to display in the Church hall, there has always been something different to do.
- ◆ Acting out with the children a number of Bible Stories, which have included this year the stories of David, Moses, Ten Good Rules and Jesus the Light of the World.
- ◆ Lots of fun and games, we don't want the children to get bored!

- ◆ Time for prayer, not always a very quiet time but with a message the children can take away. The children have also learnt the Lord's Prayer with actions and have performed this to the congregation in Church.
- ◆ We also have summer and Christmas parties and end the year with the annual Nativity Play, this year's was Jesus' Christmas Party. The children had a great time acting and singing and the congregation really enjoyed the spectacle.

- **Anything else?**

We also try and give something back - this year's Lent Collection was for the Rainbow Trust Children's Charity which provides emotional and practical support to families who have a child with a life threatening or terminal illness.

CRADLE ROLL REPORT



I send out birthday cards to babies and children on their 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th birthdays that have been baptised at St. Giles. Included with their card, is an "insert" advertising the various child friendly groups and activities we have to offer, e.g. Jack & Jill toddler group, Junior Church etc., together with contact names and telephone numbers. Also advertised on the "insert" are the church services, with particular emphasis on the monthly all age family service, with the opportunity to meet in the church hall afterwards for refreshments

Birthday cards are sent out at the beginning and middle of the appropriate month, to ensure no child receives their card too early. Having a "return address" on the envelope has once again proved very useful, helping to keep our records up to date and avoid sending out unnecessary birthday cards in the future.



Again, many thanks must go to Yvonne Edington and Stephanie White who provide me, on a regular basis, copies of the "Application for Baptism" forms for babies and children that have been baptised.

As at the end of December 2010, 102 children are on the cradle roll, (this compares with 101 children at the end of December 2009).

Sally Blackman

Essence

Working-age Women at St Giles'

- Designed for working-age women at St Giles' and their friends/neighbours and spouses too on occasions.
- Quarterly get-togethers (both evening and morning gatherings) in people's homes advertised in the weekly news-sheet/on the website and can be emailed on request
- A 'place' where people are welcomed in an informal setting to get to know each other better and also to encourage each other to get more involved in the life of St Giles by attending both social and spiritual events at church
- The sort of get-togethers we have had in the past have included amongst other things enjoying getting to know each other better and getting to know new folk, walking, laughing, socialising, chatting, learning how to play rummy, drinking coffee, discovering more about ourselves and our families, talking about people we admire and why, quizzing, sewing, being creative, garden-partying, watching films, having themed evenings, talking about how God guides, eating, learning about Christian Aid and getting 'stuck in', sharing recipes, enjoying poetry, being arty, discussing how to include more of God in our lives, enjoying taking part in community gatherings via Ickenham Festival events, as well as being part of the learning together groups and Sunday services and enjoying social activities with the rest of the church.

Juliette Guthrie

EXPLORERS

Explorers are the Junior Church group for children between the ages of 7 and 11 years. The number of children attending the Explorers group is about 6 - 10 children each week at present, with 27 on our register. We base our sessions on "Xstream" material produced by Christian Union, we are also using a monthly leaflet produced by Hexham Abbey called 'TakeThis', which is proving popular with the children, this is a colourful selection of games activities and stories on a Biblical theme.

Before each weekly meeting, a risk assessment of the hall is taken. The morning's planned activities are recorded in a log book and a register taken of all those attending the meeting.

On Sunday 24th January the children from Explorers, Pathfinders, Climbers, Scramblers and some of their parents came together in the front hall for a Christingle Service when the children enjoyed making their own Christingle.

During Lent Explorers have been looking at God's Covenant with us, as part of this the Explorers produced a joint picture of Noah's Ark, which was displayed in the Church. A collection in Smartie tubes for the work of the Rainbow trust was also taken.

On 11th September many of our Explorers took part in the fun day at the Willow Tree Centre. This event was very well organized and thoroughly enjoyed by those who took part.

During November the children supported the shoebox collection for "Operation Christmas Child" run by the URC, by collecting gifts like toys, gloves, pencils, notebooks and sweets.

The Explorers decorated a Christmas Tree for the Christmas Tree Display in the church, on the theme "Nativity".

Explorers joined with other church related groups to produce the mural for Easter, Summer, Harvest and Christmas.

As part of the Nativity Service in the church hall on 19th December, Junior Church organized a craft session for all the Junior Church groups with a Nativity play presented by Climbers and Scramblers, and a talk given by Adrian.

Leaders:

Pam Ash
Terry Blackman
Vanessa Kelly
Jenny Morrish

Helpers:

Sally Baxter
Camilla Bridge
Susan Harman
Holly Blackman

ST. GILES' FLOWER ARRANGERS

St. Giles' Flower Arrangers meet on Friday mornings to decorate the Church at 9.30 am. Usually three people are needed and this is organised by members filling in the list in the Porch. On special occasions such as Festivals and weddings more are required. People who join our group have a love of plants and flowers and enjoy the opportunity to arrange beautiful blooms, so do come along if you have this love and would like to learn how to arrange Church flowers.

This year we had more weddings than recently and throughout the year we welcome donations on anniversaries for loved ones, knowing that their personal flowers give comfort to the donors and pleasure to the congregations. It was Ickenham Festival year and once again we joined with the Uxbridge & Ickenham Flower Club to produce a Festival entitled 'Songs of Joy'. This comprised of arrangements depicting both joyful hymns and songs from the shows. It was greatly enhanced by the C.D. of a selection of all the music put together by David Millen. A mammoth task which was much enjoyed by the public and the stewards!

We held our annual workshop in November, producing arrangements to sell at the Christmas Fair. It is one of the few times when we are all together working hard and socialising too. The Flower Stall made again just over £300 as in 2009. Gill and Jean have already been to the January sales buying for 2011!

We will be having our annual 'Bring & Share' lunch during Lent, and would like to thank you all for your help and co-operation. We much appreciate the help Alan Grove gives us in preparing our accounts for Church Treasurer.

Jean Wilson

ST GILES FORUM GROUPS

Forum Groups are open to all of us who attend St Giles or the URC or are associated with either of our churches. They are organised through the year depending on what seems to be a helpful pattern. We were asked to co-ordinate the Forum groups and this we have been doing since Easter 2010. We have been guided in our planning by Adrian, Bernie and our other leaders and we have the benefit of a survey which many of you will have contributed to some time ago. Having said that, do please speak to us if there are topics or approaches to learning together in groups that you wish to share with us. We trust that our groups help us to grow in knowing God and serving Him and each other.

During Lent there were 5 Groups, meeting at different times of the day, in the homes of members of our 2 churches. We all studied the book 'Lentwise', exploring five different 'travel' essentials for our Christian journey.

The summer term seemed to be full of many commitments, in our community and our churches and although initially we looked into organising groups, it seemed to become clear that we should not add to the busyness of that time.

The group event of the autumn was the 'Understanding Islam' Course which lasted for 10 weeks and included a visit to a mosque. The course was very ably led by Dr Christopher Hewer and attended by about 50 very regular participants from our two churches. Comments throughout indicated that people found the course both stimulating and helpful.

There are already groups happened and happening in 2011. We have plans for quite a lot of activity in this year! Our hope is that increasing numbers of us will find meeting together, with opportunity to discuss our faith, will build us up individually and as a community of God's people serving God's community here in Ickenham and beyond!

Liz and Bryan Wadland



Girlguiding

2nd Ickenham Brownies

girls in the lead

BROWNIES REPORT

The beginning of 2010 saw 2nd Ickenham Brownies with 14 brownies after we had an intake of 5 new ones. Lizzie and Jackie still help me out and so does Louise who used to help out before she went to University. We have had regular attendance from most of the girls throughout the term and as usual at the beginning of term the girls decide what they like to do at Brownies for the term. The spring term saw us get ready for our pack holiday which was held at the end of January, at Willow tree Pack Holiday home. As 2010 was our centenary year. Our theme was the guiding centenary and we had a party as well as doing various crafts and games and cooking. Other things we did in our meetings were making mini pizzas and playing our musical instruments at the Guiding AGM. We continued doing our Adventure 100 challenges, towards gaining our Adventure 100 badge and we made a scrap book of everything we did. We also did Jumble noticing and collecting to help with the annual Guiding jumble sale that helps raise money towards the up keep of our Guide HQ. We wrote prayers which we read at the March Church Parade and to celebrate Easter we made Easter cards and had an Easter egg hunt.

The summer term sees the evenings get lighter and so we try to go outside a bit more weather allowing. We did planting at the memorial garden at the guide hut and played rounders with 1st Ickenham Brownies. We went swimming and had a cocktail party, where we tried non -alcoholic cocktails. The Brownies made photo frames for Father's Day, took part in the Ickenham Festival Quiz and had the local police come in to talk about Crime Prevention.

The Autumn Term saw us undertake a challenge evening, make gingerbread men and re-paint our six boxes. We had a pyjama party and made camp blankets. We participated in the Christmas mural and we ended the year with a Christmas Party.

Julie Spittle

ICKENHAM CHURCHES HOLIDAY CLUB

Holiday Club had yet another wonderful year in 2010. The Club's original format - welcoming children who worship in, go to school in, or live in Ickenham, to a week of worship, singing, model making, sports and outings - has grown to such an extent that we now enjoy the company of approx. 140 children every year.

A veritable army of helpers (behind the scenes, providing refreshments, managing the enormous amount of resources we use, doing the accounts, first aid, administration, running morning worship, the music.....you get the idea!) once again gathered together, took a deep breath, and provided the children with an amazing week, where we learned how much God loves us and how he plans such fantastic things for our lives.

The five stories we present change year upon year, but always build the message of the best news any of us could wish to hear and 2010 was no exception. Reliable storytellers reappear for us each year, and visitors from other parishes and organisations can sometimes be coaxed into joining us - bringing a freshness to our morning worship times.

We've done some amazing things in the URC building (where we are based) over the years - from swashbuckling pirates, really bbq-ing fish (really we did!) and having 140 children in spellbound silence hearing about the wonders awaiting us in Heaven.

There are always some staff changes - but more volunteers step forward each year, and it's so rewarding to know that the adults who participate receive as much of a blessing from being a part of it as the children attending do.

There are adults from both churches as well as our wider family in the community of Ickenham and beyond, reflecting the covenant between our Churches, and the co-operation this brings.

The celebration at our Grand Finale, on the Friday evening after Holiday Club finishes, means parents and family can come along and experience a taste of what their children have been up to all week.

It is an honour to be part of the current co-ordinating team, and we have every confidence that with the help of God, Holiday Club in 2011 and beyond will be all we hope and pray for.

Sarah Kershaw

HOLY MOWERS

The churchyard which surrounds St Giles is maintained on a weekly basis by the above group of volunteer gardeners. The group is currently made up of 12 men one woman.

Gardening falls into seasonal work and we are no different in this respect. Last year we had to contend with heavy snow in the New Year, periods of driving rain and a long period in the spring of very dry weather. However we benefited from the dry spring weather in April, which caused the grass to grow less vigorously and gave us a short respite from the weekly mowing. This is an ongoing task and is hard work, so we were glad of the break. Mowing between gravestones is a tedious task as in addition we also need use a heavy duty strimmer to access those parts that mowers will not reach!

We needed to look at the issue of overgrown hedges along the boundary adjoining the pavement in Ickenham High Road. This year David Edington did the hard work of cutting and pruning and we did the carrying away. It took about 5 hours to cut and clear the hedging but it has resulted in a more manageable hedge for future years and has opened up the view to the church.

The churchyard lighting is an ongoing issue involving several parties. We await decisions and progress on this and hope it is sooner rather than later.

We were deeply saddened in the summer to lose one of our founder members. Colin Kershaw was one of the first of our group to recognise the importance of churchyard maintenance and the results of his inspiration and enthusiasm are to be seen today. He was a great person to work with and much has been said and written about him. Those of us who spent Tuesday mornings in his company miss him greatly. We have needed to replace the roses in the front of the church for some time. As Colin was a rose enthusiast and his care and enthusiasm for our roses was always so clearly evident in June, we decided that we would each buy a rose to replace the old ones. Val generously contributed to the cost and on New Year's Eve this year we planted 12 new bushes to remind us of Colin. They will give us all great pleasure for many years to come and remind us of a dearly loved and sadly missed friend. The churchyard continues to be an attraction in the village and a source of comfort to relatives and friends who visit on a regular basis. But we continue to need helpers for an hour or so each Tuesday and would welcome any help on an occasional or regular basis. Due to council constraints and we now have to take out all our green waste which cannot be composted to the local refuse site. We would welcome anyone who could help to transport a few bags on an occasional basis. Please look on the St Giles website for details of our activities.

We also supply one of the teams who provide coffee after the 09.45 service on Sundays.

Patricia Lee

ICKENHAM CHURCH NEWS

GENERAL ACTIVITY

Ickenham Church News is a newsletter produced jointly by the two Ickenham churches, and distributed free of charge to every address - home and business - in Ickenham. Copies are also available in both churches and in the library. ICN is self-financing. It is produced and distributed by volunteers giving their time for free. Printing and other costs are covered by advertising

revenue and donations. Publication began over 40 years ago, and it is well known throughout Ickenham, among those who attend the churches, and those who do not.

In 2010, the usual ten editions of the newsletter were produced (January and August being the 'ICN-free' months). Of these -

- 6 were regular 6 page black and white issues
- 1 (April) was 8 page black and white
- 1 (September, for Holiday Club) was 6 page full colour
- 2 (July, with Festival reports, and December, the Christmas edition) were 8 page full colour

Content continued to focus on both church and community news: for example, Christmas and Easter events, and the 25th anniversary of the Churches' Covenant, as well as the Ickenham Festival, the retirement of popular local teacher and swing band leader Perry Parsons, and the record-breaking sale of a Chinese vase at local auction house Bainbridges.

The advance promotion of events - Holiday Club, musical performances, as well as the regular meetings of Ickenham's many clubs and societies - is appreciated by their organisers. And ICN provides a reasonably priced advertising medium for local businesses too.

Newsletter content, plus minimal additional material, is uploaded each publishing month to the *ICN website*, at www.ickenhamchurchnews.co.uk. Newsletter content is also recorded by a team of readers on to *audio cassette*, for copying and distribution to around 10 visually impaired residents.

Each issue, a *postal despatch* of around 80 copies is made, sending ICN to former residents who have asked to be kept up to date with Ickenham news, and to the few advertisers who live outside the distribution area.

COVENANT REVIEW QUESTIONNAIRE

At Adrian and Bernie's request, a questionnaire was included in the April issue to discover how the community felt about the ways in which the churches' work together. Over 100



questionnaires were returned and analysis of the responses given fed into the recent Local Ecumenical Partnership Review.

PLANS FOR 2011

Of the 2011 issues, three will be 8 page editions and at least two will be in colour. Print volumes will be increased and distributors recruited to deliver the newsletter to our new neighbours in Ickenham Park.

Despite the best intentions, resource constraints have meant we have not made progress in developing the website in recent years. This then, carries forward as a target for 2011.

We would also like to find a permanent replacement for Jenny Whittaker, who for family reasons, gave up the management of the reading and recording of ICN on to audio cassette in the summer. This has been handled since then on an ad-hoc basis by the Editor and her husband.

ADVERTISING

Slots in the paper version are sold in advance for the full calendar year to 49 advertisers. A further 12 slots are available in the three 8 page issues produced each year. This is achieved towards the previous year's end, and means that the bulk of the forthcoming year's ICN revenue is already secured as the year begins.

Continuity of advertising is high. Only 3 of the 49 all-issue advertisers failed to renew for 2011, and these were readily replaced from among those previously buying into the three larger issues who wanted all 10 exposures annually. A nominal fee increase took the 10 issue cost from £190 to £195 for 2011, this being the first price increase since the end of 2007.

Nineteen advertisers currently feature on the website, at a small additional cost.

FINANCES

The main outgoings are for professional printing, (£11,325 in 2010) which is effectively covered by our advertising revenue for 2010 (£11,100). Other costs of £359 (postage and website costs) are more than covered by the £1523 in donations received from individuals and from clubs and societies whose activities we promote.

This took the ICN fund (which is held separately within St Giles' accounts) from an opening balance at the start of 2010 of £3055, to a closing balance of £3994 at the year end.

So we move strongly into 2011, where our income should again adequately cover the production costs of the paper and audio versions. Some of our reserves may be budgeted to buy in help if necessary for any website development work we decide on but cannot cover ourselves. Our aim of course, is still to end the year with a strong balance.

THE ICN TEAM

The team producing and delivering ICN currently comprises:

- ❖ Heather Piper (Editor) ~ contact editor@ickenhamchurchnews.co.uk or 07900 828059
- ❖ Edwin Lee (Advertising Secretary) ~ contact advertising@ickenhamchurchnews.co.uk or 01895 622201
- ❖ Patricia Lee (Events / Donations Coordinator) ~ contact events@ickenhamchurchnews.co.uk or 01895 622201
- ❖ Alan Noad (Reporting, Proof reading)
- ❖ Janet Noad (Proof reading, layout)
- ❖ Joyce Arnold, Gavin and Karen McArtney-Roberts
 - plus their band of 120 volunteer postmen and women - (Distribution)
- ❖ Alan Grove (Postal despatch)
- ❖ Alastair Fischbacher (Webmaster)
- ❖ Michael Burton (Website material preparation)
- ❖ Heather and Richard Piper - plus Reading Team - (Audio Reading / Recording)
- ❖ Bryan Webb (Audio Duplication and Despatch)

I am grateful to them all for their hard work and helpfulness. Likewise I should like to thank the many contributors to ICN and all who offer advice and support. It makes the task of coordinating and editing so much easier.

Heather Piper

ICN Editor

ICKENHAM VILLAGE CONSERVATION AREA ADVISORY PANEL

Who is the organisation for?

Members of the Panel are intended to be representative of local interest groups and are drawn from:

- St. Giles Church
- Ickenham Arts Society
- Ickenham Women's Institute
- Ickenham Resident's Association
- North West London Institute of Architects
- Ickenham Morning Townswomen's Guild
- Oak Avenue, Parkfield Road and Greenway Resident's Association
- Additional members of the Panel may be co-opted because of their local knowledge, expertise or personal interests

The Panel is chaired by Pamela Jeffreys

How often do you meet and when and where?

The Panel meets in Ickenham Public Library, usually on the first Tuesday of each month.

What is the purpose of the organisation?

The Panel examines all new planning applications which fall within, or close to, the boundaries of the Ickenham Conservation Area. Written comments on each application are then referred back to the Hillingdon Council Planning Department in the form of Minutes. The Minutes are public documents available to all Council officials, not only those with planning responsibilities.

In order to represent the Panel's views, the Chairman of the Panel attends meetings of the Borough Conservation and Planning Committee.

A description of the activities

Plans and files relevant to new, or current planning applications are provided by the Hillingdon Planning Department for the Panel. These enable the Panel to keep abreast both of smaller individual developments and of progress in the larger schemes that are under consideration.

The Panel examines each application in the context of an advisory note which encourages a balanced and consistent method of dealing with each case and the particular issues that may arise.

How it benefits the community

Ickenham benefits from being a cohesive community and the Conservation Area status provides a key aspect to the overall ambience and presentation of the neighbourhood. The Panel is particularly conscious of the need to consider the impact of developments on near neighbours of the properties under consideration and to conserve as many as possible of the mature trees that are such a feature of the area.

Ickenham Conservation Area is bordered by several large and often contentious development schemes. These include the High Speed 2 Rail Project and the proposals from Tesco and IKEA for redevelopment of sites at Hillingdon Circus. The Panel has been given the opportunity to comment on these over their several years of gestation and to review and provide comments on progress as they have been refined.

Nick Sharwood -Smith

JACK AND JILL

Monday and Wednesday groups continue to be very busy throughout 2010. There are over 110 children on the combined Registers. Monday Leaders were Kate Day, Louise Hagan and Don Gwilt. Wednesday Leaders were Julie Spittle, Juliet Morris, Yvonne Connon and Brian. Dee Sims continued to support arts and crafts activities on both days.

FINANCES

Anne Howard continues to manage the accounts. Attached is a schedule of expenditure. We held a review meeting with her prior to the Ickenham Festival. As a committee we now meet twice a term to plan future crafts, activities and fundraising events. We continue to run a healthy bank balance. In light of this we have decided not to increase the entrance fee from £2.50 per family, which given the current economic climate we did not want to preclude any family.

CHARITIES

Through cake making, raffles and the 100 squares from the Train Day we have raised £650 for the 2010 charity of Peter Pan Ward at Hillingdon Hospital. We also gave a donation to Cancer Research when one of our grandmothers, Pat Lloyd (who was a founding member of Jack and Jill) sadly lost her fight against cancer in the spring. Alongside this we continued to support Click Rukiga through our annual sponsorship through World Vision of Derek.

ICKENHAM FESTIVAL

The Teddy Bear's picnic was again held in the grounds of Swakeleys House. Tracy from Tots to Teens entertained the children. Festival Day was held on a dry but extremely windy June afternoon. We had a bouncy castle for the under 5's. There was biscuit decorating and a refreshments stall. We raised just under £200 for the group. As a result of the support from parents and carers, the Train Day was a subsidised event attended by in excess of 120 people.

SUMMER

During the Summer Holidays there was a trip to Odds Farm. This proved to be an extremely well attended event. The planned trip to the Top Field had to be postponed due to bad weather.

CHRISTMAS

Both parties were entertained by Lisa from Patticakes Parties. There were face painting, games and many other activities. Lunch was followed by a trip from Father Christmas. Our thanks go to Henry Gardner who kindly agreed to undertake this task.

ST GILES' CHRISTMAS FAIR

This year Jack and Jill ran a couple of stalls which had been relocated to the main hall (previously having been upstairs). We raised £102 for the Church, which was double our previous year's donation. It was therefore felt that this relocation and reduction of stalls worked better and proved far more successful than in previous years. In light of this, we would be happy to be part of future St Giles' Christmas Festivals.

2011

The chosen charity for 2011 is Macmillan Nurses. The next planned Committee Meeting is during January.

Louise Hagan

MEN'S BREAKFASTS

Over twelve years, since the Parish Mission of late 1998, attendance at our quarterly breakfasts has averaged forty-two comprising members of our two churches, increasingly other churches in the area and several friends who are not regular members of any church.

Our much appreciated Christian speakers, during 2010, were:-

Allan Jones - retired head teacher of a large secondary school

Martin Cooper of 'The Navigators' on *How To Finish Well*

John Price of 'Christians Against Poverty' - *Changing Lives For Christ*

The Revd. Bernie Collins - *Experience of the Church in Papua New Guinea*

Missioner Roger Murphy of 'Through Faith Missions', who started us off in 1998, is coming to address our fiftieth breakfast meeting in St Giles' Church Hall at 8.30 a.m. on 16th April, 2011. Do come.

Don Gwilt

ST GILES' CHURCH MOTHERS' UNION

The earliest record of our Mothers' Union at St Giles' Church is 1818. From then, up until 1936, the number of members was about twelve.

Now, in 2011, we are part of Hillingdon Deanery in the Diocese of London and our membership is twenty-four.

It is daunting to realise that our Mothers' Union, in a small parish in a London borough, is part of an organisation consisting of 3.6 million members in seventy-eight countries.

In our own parish we are involved with various duties in our Church, such as cleaning the brass, serving refreshments at the *Jack and Jill* toddler group and taking our turn on the rota for coffee and tea after the 9.45 a.m. service.

In the Deanery we support A.F.I.A. (Away From It All) an organisation that helps to give families under stress holidays and days out.

We also support *Furnish* by collecting, and boxing up, household items for homeless people being re-housed.

Our members try to attend all Diocesan and area events, garden parties, 'Quiet Days' and the annual Festival Service held in St Paul's Cathedral.

Much of Mothers' Union work is carried out worldwide, helping to support families in poorer countries where women are often disadvantaged.

As a branch at St Giles' Church we are always inspired by the news of Mothers' Union members overseas, especially in these poorer and war-torn countries. These women work with such enthusiasm and dedication that we try to support them in every way we can.

Our Mothers' Union meets regularly on the second Thursday of each month (except August) from 1.45 p.m. to 3.30 p.m. in St Giles' Church Hall.

The speakers at our meetings choose a variety of topics. Sometimes we invite local, people while others may be Mothers' Union members.

During June of this year we look forward to hosting Diana Wilcocks who will inform us about the work of the Mothers' Union volunteers who visit mothers with babies in Holloway Prison.

Visitors are always welcome to visit us during our meetings.

Joan Field

PARISH BREAKFAST

I am pleased to report that we have had another pleasant and successful year at Parish Breakfast. We average around thirty-two members who rush out of 8 a.m. service, starving hungry, and thoroughly enjoy what is put in front of them.

It is usually brioche, white and brown rolls and croissants, coffee, orange juice, marmalade and jam.

We have Easter eggs at Easter and Stollen at Christmas. All this for £1. Prices have remained stable in church at least!

I have a marvellous band of helpers. Some help on Saturday laying the tables and all come early before church on Sunday for the final preparations.

I would like to say a big thank-you to all of them.

Anyone can join us as long as they put their names down on the list at the back of the church. It is there for a whole week prior to the first Sunday in the Month.

Freda Kneale

PASTORAL CARE TEAM

This group, which was set up in 2009, continues to assist the clergy with pastoral support for church members. We meet as a group every couple of months to discuss what we are all doing and for mutual support. Some members of the group have a particular responsibility for each service and can be approached with news of people who regularly attend these services.

We continue to follow up any referrals from church members or the clergy when people are ill or in need of support. We are able to offer visits, as appropriate, to the housebound and any who have not been seen at church for some time. We have also arranged lifts for some people who cannot get to church on their own. One of our members also send cards to anyone we know about who is ill, in hospital or has some other trauma in their lives. We feel it is important that they are aware that they are in our thoughts and prayers at these times.

We have also taken on supporting the clergy at the Monthly Communion Service at Woodlands in Long Lane.

This brings us to the very important point that without the cooperation of all church members we cannot fulfil this role. We need to know to act. We placed cards in the church for members to fill in and pass onto the group. (This method of referral has not proved to be well used and would ask that church members make use of this facility.) These can be placed in the box in the porch and will then be passed to Rosemary as the leader. Anything urgent or confidential can be given to Adrian, who will pass on as needed, or directly to Rosemary.

We still need more church members to offer their car for occasional lifts to church.

We are aware and grateful of many informal acts by all church members and do not seek to substitute this help but we hope to offer support and prayer, often in the short term, to show that our church community does care for everyone. Any ideas from anyone as to what this group might offer in the way of other help should be passed to Rosemary or any member of the group and we will consider if this is possible. If we expand our work we may need to recruit more members. If anyone is interested in joining us please can they speak to Adrian 01895 622970

Group members

Leader: Rosemary Hodgson, 01895 635898

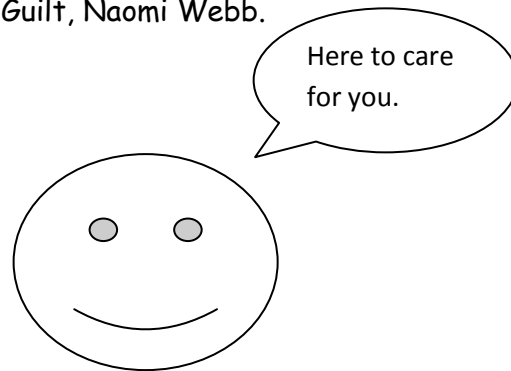
8.00am coordinator: Kitty Harvey,

9.45am coordinators: Joyce Arnold, Keith Arnold and Hilary Humphries.

11.00am and 6.30pm and Thursday 10.00am coordinator: Jenny Askey

Other members: Adrian, Jan Cameron, Don and Beryl Gault, Naomi Webb.

Rosemary Hodgson



PATHFINDERS

11-15 year olds, Sunday mornings at 9.45 a.m.

Part of Junior Church meeting in the Walter Davis Room.

Before Christmas we finished our study of the Ten Commandments, adapting materials from the "Just 10" study guides. Following this the Pathfinders joined in with the Junior Church Christmas service in the church hall. Several of the Pathfinders were confirmed at the Confirmation service in November. We have about 15 members with a regular attendance of around 8 young people.

Since the New Year we have started looking at the life of Christ in chronological order. The reason for this is that the leaders felt that although the young people would be familiar with parts of Jesus' story from earlier in junior church (for example events connected to major festivals and the more well-known miracles and parables) it would be a good idea to tell the story in order so that all these events can be put into context. With the birth of Jesus being covered by the Christmas services, this term's Pathfinders sessions started with the Epiphany, followed by a session on John the Baptist and Jesus' baptism, and then one on Jesus' temptation. We pray that as we look at Christ's life in detail we will all come to know him more.

The Walter Davis room is becoming a more comfortable place to meet as it is now the centre for the Youth Project at St Giles. The comfy chairs are much more conducive to relaxed discussion!

The Pathfinder Leaders

PRAYER AT ST GILES (PRAY FIRST)

Pray First continued to meet on the first day of each month throughout 2010, alternating venues and leaders between the United Reformed Church and St Giles, as has been the pattern since its inception in 2005.

Jesus said 'where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst'.

There is a yet greater power in prayers of a group, two or three or more meeting with one accord than individual members on their own, which is why these meetings are so important in praying for our churches' work and outreach.

In 2011 **Pray First** will meet on the first Saturday morning of each month 9.15-10.00. Never longer than 45 minutes.

There is something about community that increases spiritual energy. You are invited to come and add to the power and effectiveness.

Prayer Requests Do you know?

There is an opportunity to write requests for prayers in a book in St John's Chapel. Each week the requests are circulated to a group of people who have promised to pray for these situations and circumstances while keeping confidentiality. This is free for anybody to use.

Prayer Ministry is available every Sunday following 9.45 services.

WHY? When we pray together there is a real sense of God, something deep within us comes together,

co operating with God bringing about change and providing direction.

"Two are better than one," said the Preacher (Ecclesiastes), "for if they fall then one will lift up his fellow." Sharing and caring is a God-given way to forward spiritual growth.

The Prayer Ministry team have received training and are committed to confidentiality. Come and share your joys, sorrows and concerns.

Pre Service Prayer in St John's Chapel

Have you seen this listed every week in the Notice Sheet and wondered **WHY?**

The Clergy Team and others participating in the service join together to commit the service to God, asking His Holy Spirit to bless and enrich our worship to God's praise and glory. If you are an Intercessor, Bible reader, Communion Server or indeed would like to add your voice or thoughts to the prayer just come into the chapel. No invitations are necessary.

Naomi Webb

PRAYER FOR LIFE

This exciting new role began for me and for St Giles when I was commissioned as a lay minister in the church, in May last year by the Rev Neil Evans.

The idea of the role is to try and raise further the profile of prayer in the church, to encourage the congregation to explore new forms of prayer and through them to become more personally involved with God in their everyday lives. Another main role is to try to reach out to others in the

community not currently part of the church and encourage them, too, to explore prayer as part of their everyday lives.

I had lots of ideas of how I might go about doing some of this and have been trying many of these out over this past year. Many of you might remember our prayer stall at the Ickenham Festival last summer where people passing were invited to make a pyramid, or write on a stone as a prayer for a friend, member of their family or themselves. This was a joint venture with our friends at the URC and by the end of the day we had a large pile of prayers to take to church and give to God.

We are fortunate at St Giles to have a beautiful, well-kept churchyard. This enabled me to create a sensory walk there - a guided walk with places to stop to look, listen, taste, smell and touch. Many of you came with families and enjoyed the gentle reflections and activities in the sun, and each of you took away a personal letter from God at the end of the walk.

Since then, there have been quiet days in the church where people have come to work or sit quietly enjoying the peace and stillness of a time given to God. Some of you might remember our "free gift of peace and quiet in the Christmas rush" - our upstairs room at the church's Christmas fair. Lots of adults and children spent time in our quiet room making a gift for the baby Jesus, studying the pictures and icons around the room and lighting candles as prayers for friends and family. Many of you said that it gave you an "oasis of peace" in a time of stress and rushing about.

That's a flavour of the special events we have tried, but, alongside those has been the quiet support and encouragement of regular prayer activities such as "Pray First" (See report on this) and I am particularly pleased to have linked up with the "Church Watch" group on Saturday mornings.

On most Saturdays, between 10.30 and 12.30, when the church is open for visitors to study, browse, or sit quietly, we now offer the opportunity for people to come and ask for prayer for themselves or for a friend or family member. There are candles to light and someone to talk to if needed and there is a book into which requests for prayers can be written. Again, another quiet time with God.

I hope this has given a little taste of the work so far and that I have whetted your appetite for some more! If so, watch out for details of the Prayer Walk we are planning with the United Reformed Church. It is to be held in the Church there and will be from Monday to Wednesday in Holy week (18th-20thApril). There are lots of activities and reflections planned for all the family....no booking needed.....drop in and out at your leisure. I hope to see you there!

Anne Whitlam (coordinator, lay minister)

ST GILES' READING GROUP

"Reading maketh a full man" Francis Bacon

The group was formed some 15 years ago, in the aftermath of the Church Hall fire, as a modest fund-raiser towards the re-building. It has continued ever since, with our subscriptions now directed to the Rukiga project.

The members, drawn from both St. Giles and URC, (or indeed anybody interested with new members always welcome) contribute £1/month. We meet on the third Wednesday of the month in each other's houses at 2 pm. to discuss the month's choice (which we usually obtain from Ickenham library).

In 2010, we ranged from Oscar Wilde and E.M. Forster to contemporary novels: *Wolf Hall*, bringing Tudor England to life; *The Book Thief* set in Nazi Germany during the war; and *The Help*, the American South in the 1960s from the Black Servants' viewpoint; among a wide range of choices.

Ian Wilson.

THE CHOIR

The choir is open to anyone, children and adults, keen on singing and we have no formal auditions. It is certainly an advantage to have some music-reading skills, but beginners are also welcome. Everyone can join in with the hymns and the easier music and we also sing a number of full harmony settings of anthems and other music, which the more experienced singers enjoy.

We rehearse every Friday evening in the church, 7.30-9.00pm. We sing at the 9.45am service each Sunday morning and we also sing a full Choral Evensong on the second Sunday of every month, meeting at 5pm for a run-through before the service at 6.30pm.

The choir's role is to support and enhance worship throughout the year by providing music at many of the services. We aim to lead the congregation in the singing of hymns and other parts of the services and also to sing anthems and other music on our own at certain parts of the service. We support many of the special services during Christmas, Lent, Easter and Harvest and we may also sing at weddings and other special events. Members of the choir have joined other choirs to sing at St Paul's Cathedral and we also combine with the United Reformed Church two or three times a year.

Singing in the choir is hard work but ultimately rewarding. On Fridays, we usually do some warming-up exercises, to get our voices tuned up, before running through all the hymns for the Sunday services. We then move on to our special music, which takes up most of our time. This includes anthems and settings of the canticles and psalms for Choral Evensong. We work for part of the time with the piano or organ and, once we are more confident with the notes, we sing

unaccompanied to work on our tuning and ensemble. We try to learn plenty of new music but will often include items that we know quite well to keep them in our repertoire.

We hope that we enhance worship at St Giles. We are pleased to have received favourable comments from the clergy and congregation from time to time and we take note of suggestions when we can. Singing in the choir is a great experience and can help develop skills of discipline and team work. There is a great sense of achievement when mastering tricky music and singing together in full harmony. In the future we hope to expand the choir and possibly start a new music group - so if you are interested in finding out more, please do get in touch.

Andrew Browning

ST. GILES' HAS A NEW AND EXCITING YOUTH PROJECT!

Hi everyone,

In case you have not met me, I am James Wood and I have recently been appointed by St. Giles' to assist in setting up the new youth project. I am just going to tell you about a few things you can expect to see over the next couple of years.

The project will be looking to engage with 11-18 year olds in the area of Ickenham. The main aim of the youth project is to build relationships with the young people, and to give them a real sense of community life and an encounter with God. To achieve this, the project hopes to listen, and put on events for young people as needed.

The youth project has many aspirations, and a team will be assisting in enabling these to unfold slowly over the next few years.

We have started 2011 well and at present the young people meet weekly on a Sunday morning and afternoon, we chill out, watch interesting and funny movie clips, laugh, play games, and eat snacks.

Soon the project will roll out a programme letting young people know of set days, time, and places for sessions in the year. By May the project will have its own room, so we will be looking to get it kitted out; from about this point onwards you will be hearing of new sessions, events, and activities.

So watch this space!

Upcoming sessions for young people include

We have a few things lined up and suggestions are more than welcome.

Pathfinders; this session takes place every Sunday morning at 9:45 am in the Church Hall, except for the 1st Sunday of every month. The group is to provide 11-14 year olds with a fun, lively, interactive and relevant environment where they are empowered to explore Christianity, faith, and

the Bible for themselves.

Drop in Nights; a night in the week when you can drop into the church hall, play games, hang out, listen to music, chat to friends and get to meet new people. Includes snacks and soft drinks.

Have Your Say: A session where young people can have their say on shaping the youth project and its outcomes. This will include games, chat, and snacks of course!

Sofa Sessions: This is a session to voice thoughts, ask questions and to be challenged by each other on the important issues around everyday life and God. Includes snacks and hot chocolate.

In short, the project is a movement of young people passionate and living life to the full. Art, fashion, community, music, fancy dress, food, pizza, schools stuff, competitions, shows! We want to do the lot! So enough talking, get in touch and come be a part of something new and exciting!

James Wood, Youth worker

E-Mail: james.youthworker@gmail.com

Phone: 07943339948

