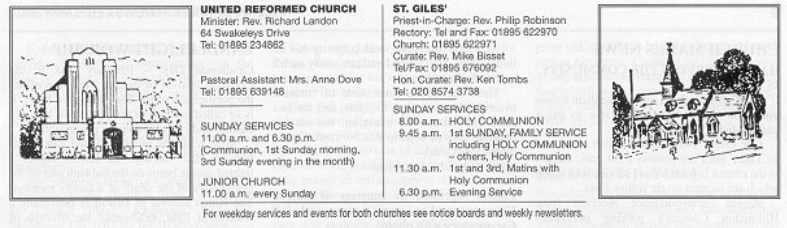



July/August

## ICKENHAM CHURCHES' JUNIOR HOLIDAY CLUB 2001

***'SEEING IS BELIEVING'***

**Monday 23rd - Friday 27th July**

Holiday Club 2000

Are you all ready? The great Ickenham Churches' Junior Holiday Club 2001 is ready for 'lift off'. As all Ickenham children know it is the **'must be there'** event of the year which brings another school year to an exciting close. To miss the club would be a tragedy as hundreds of children can testify! Hold back your holiday, never mind your plans for shopping, the Holiday Club countdown has begun!

The club is particularly exciting because what you do, and learn there, will last you until 2002. It is a talking point for the entire summer, and is entirely free. **Don't miss out!**

For all Ickenham children aged 7-11 (school years 2-6) at the United Reformed Church.
There are Choruses, Bible Stories, quizzes and model-making from 10 a.m. to noon.
Crafts, games and outings take place in the afternoon from 2 - 3.30 p.m.
There is no charge for the for Holiday Club (other than most outings) but we welcome voluntary contributions towards our expenses. Enquiries and offers of help to Rosemary Hodgson (01895 253217).

Holiday Club 2000

Holiday Club 2000

***REGISTRATION: 13th. July 3.30 - 6.00 p.m. at The United Reformed Church.***

**Parents:** Although preparations are well under way for Holiday Club CAN YOU COME ALONG AND HELP? Whatever you can offer, we can use you - helping with a group, crafts, catering, driving for outings - you'll have as much fun as the children! Come for half a day, or the whole week. Remember 'phone Rosemary on 01895 253217.

## CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 2001 - ANOTHER RECORD

It is gratifying to report another increase in the total raised during Christian Aid Week 2001. Last year direct giving at £5764 passed the five thousand pounds mark for the first time; this year's collection passed another milestone at £6327. The total declared as gift aid for the recovery of income tax was a bit lower this year, but if it's all allowed it will add another £675, making a grand total of £7002 to help make a difference to the lives of the world's poorest people.

We were short of collectors in some parts of the parish and once more we apologise to the residents of the few streets we had to leave unvisited. The good result overall though reflects

a lot of effort and enthusiasm on the part of everyone who took part as collectors and area organisers, and we are very grateful to them all, and even more to the people of Ickenham for their generosity and concern. It was very wet during Christian Aid Week this year, and special thanks are due to the many householders who invited collectors to shelter, inside, at moments when the rain was exceptionally heavy.

*Walter Davis*

A big thank you too, to all those who **"Walked the Heart of London"**. The walkers, and their sponsors, raised £720 and if all the gift tax is added, this should become £920.

With the addition of this sponsorship to the sum from the envelopes, the grand total that may have been raised during Christian Aid Week is a remarkable £7,922.

***Ickenham is making a difference to the poorest people in the world.***

*Bernard Pearce*

**DROP-IN FOR THE BEREAVED** Third Monday of each month. St. Giles' Church Hall, 2-3.30 p.m. A friendly, informal opportunity for a chat, over a cup of tea, with other bereaved people and pastoral visitors. The next meeting is Monday 16th. July. (Also Monday 20th. August). Just come along, or ring the Rectory (622970) if you would like to talk to someone first.

**ICKENHAM GOOD NEIGHBOUR SCHEME** exists to serve the whole of Ickenham. We're here to assist in an emergency. If you need help, the daytime contact numbers are: 01895 673095 or 01895 235061.

## ST. GILES' HOSTS FILMING OF BBC TV SITCOM

*The cast and crew in St. Giles' Churchyard on the set of 'Chambers'.*

On Thursday 31st. May the St. Giles' churchyard, and church, was packed out with a BBC film crew and its equipment as well as the 'Stars', and the extras, appearing in the new series of the sitcom 'Chambers'.

The show stars John Bird and James Fleet, both of whom were on the set for most of the afternoon. In relaxed and jovial mood they both remarked on how beautiful were the church and its grounds. "There is a really 'villagey' atmosphere about Ickenham and St. Giles'" said Mr. Bird. Mr Fleet added "I'm sure we are going to have a successful afternoon's filming in such lovely surroundings". The one star missing was Sarah Lancashire, who was not needed for the scenes being filmed.

The church was being used to stage a mock funeral, and after a few rehearsals, the first 'take' involved mourners entering the church along the path. There were five attempts to capture the scene, and long pauses between each 'take' to ensure that the sun was shining appropriately. Some of the crew expressed the opinion that a large proportion of the time taken in shooting a scene revolves around 'hanging about' for some minor technical matter.

*John Bird and James Fleet in St. Giles' Churchyard on the set of 'Chambers'.*

Whenever a pause occurred, there was much done to hair and make-up whilst 'continuity' ensured no changes to attire, or the general scene. At one point even an artificial bush was placed in shot. The reason was uncertain!

*Let there be light*

Finally the scene was in the can, and work could begin on interior shots involving the funeral service. After rehearsals, many takes, and scene changes, the director was happy and everyone was able to go home.

The first series of 'Chambers' is currently being re-shown on BBC2 on Friday evenings at 10 p.m. The new series will be shown later this year , probably on BBC1.

## ICKENHAM MINIATURE RAILWAY Part 2

*The station shortly after the opening of the continuous track.*

Work continued on the club house during the winter months and the completed building was opened on 18 June 1955 by Councillor, Lt. Comdr. Staples R.N. Inside an exhibition of members' work had been arranged while outside a 1931 Sentinel Steam Wagon visited the Coach and Horses car park.

September 1957 saw the bank overdraft cleared and members immediately thought of ways to spend the remaining money. At the 1958 AGM it was decided to lay on mains power to the site and thanks were given to the live steam section for raising the necessary funds. In January 1959 the headquarters was connected to the mains electricity for the first time and heating was installed before the 1959/60 winter.

January 1960 saw the purchase of the club's first locomotive from member Peter Fairburn. This was an 0-6-0 tank locomotive to the Speedy design.
Hoover Ltd. generously offered the Society a 5 inch gauge locomotive and trolley built by their apprentices. These were gratefully accepted and the hand over took place at a special meeting on 2 February 1962. The loco had been started in 1949 and was some four years older than the club's Speedy.

A project that was to take a considerable time was suggested in September 1964, that of laying a continuous track from the station situated where the steaming bays now are. The Council was generally in favour of the idea but once again obtaining planning consent caused several delays.

*Official opening of "Ickenham St. Giles' " Station name board on 8th. May 1982*

By the end of July 1965 the circuit was completed and the first inaugural run was undertaken by the club locomotive Speedy, which had just been overhauled. The official opening was undertaken by Mrs. Rosea Kemp, a radio weather forecaster, on 27th. September 1969. The railway was opened to the public on Sundays in 1970 but was not well supported, so from 1971 the current practise of opening on the first Saturday of the month during the summer and autumn was established.

*Signal Box*

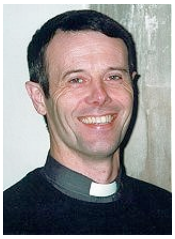
1976 projects included putting the loop on a concrete base. 1978 and 1979 saw work continuing on the new extension to the station, the station itself and the turntable pit. Mains water was connected in 1980.

The signalling system to the station was used for the first time in 1981. The next year, 1982, 2,382 passengers were carried and, in May, the opening of the new station as "Ickenham St. Giles" took place.

In February 1983 a fire extensively damaged the interior of the club house. During the rest of the 1980s repairs took place, the steaming bays and the workshop were completed and equipment installed.

The 1990s saw many projects come to fruition, the signal box, the new inner circuit, the short and long tunnels and the whole track fully signalled. December running days were added to the calendar assisting us to reach 10,000 passengers a year. In 1998 we carried our 100,000 passenger through Ickenham St. Giles Station.
*Ian Mortimer*

## FROM THE CURATE



I am something of a fan of the writer C S Lewis. I was reminded the other day of the part in *'The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe'* where the lion, Aslan, tells the children that this life is like the first chapter of a book. The scene is set, the characters have been introduced, but the best, the real story, is yet to come.
Jesus told us that he is the way, the truth and the life and that in him is fullness of life in this world, and life after death. This life that he speaks of is the best life possible - a life of discovery - discovering God in the everyday things of life as well as the big things. And of being set free from guilt and the fear of death to be able to enjoy this life to the full in the certainty of all that he promises, and to know his peace. Jesus came not to bring God down to the level of mankind but to raise mankind up to relationship with God. Jesus also said that he is the truth. Christianity is not true because it works; it works because it is true. But truth requires a response from us. The dignity that God has given to us is that we have freedom to choose. God pays us the compliment of allowing us to choose whether to live with him in this life, or not. But to decide not to live with God in this life has eternal consequences.
A number of people reading this will be facing major decisions and changes over the summer period. Students will be awaiting exam results, some will be going on to 6th. form, to College or University, or perhaps out to work for the first time. For us at St Giles' it is the season of weddings. These are all major events in our journey through life. It is often at these times that people turn to God for comfort and guidance and we in the churches come into contact with them.
We do not need to wait for moments of crisis to reach out to God. He is nearer than we think and is ready to be our guide through this world and into the next.
This life is but the opening chapter in a book, of whom God is the author. The best is yet to come.
Mike Bisset (Curate)

## FROM ST. GILES' REGISTERS

**Baptisms**
May 20th. Joshua David Peter Morgans.
June 3rd. Francesca Elizabeth McInnes.

**Weddings**
June 2nd. Keith Anthony Hollingsworth and Jacqueline Anne Parkes.
June 9th. Christophe Roussy and Elizabeth Ann Veale.
**Cremations at Breakspear Crematorium**
May 25th. Daisy Westbrooke, aged 81
30th. Rosina Harvey, aged 89.
June 2nd. Helen Morris, aged 92
4th. Diane Luch May Knock, aged 82.
7th. Peter Nigel Andrews, aged 40.

## FROM THE U.R.C.

I recently had the pleasure of having groups of year 3 children from a local school visit the church. They had lots of fascinating questions about what goes on there. Some of them were interested in the curtain that hangs at the back of the church, and they wondered what was behind it. I showed them that there was just a wall!

When I was a boy myself I thought that God lived in the church: perhaps behind a curtain. Or was he the elderly man in black who mysteriously appeared from a door at the beginning of the service, who everyone looked up to in his high pulpit? One little boy, who was told by his mother that the church was God's house, said "if I was God I wouldn't want to live here!"

It made me realise that many people who are not familiar with churches, and their services, may have some strange, if understandable, ideas about what goes on there. I was glad to dispel some of the mystery for the children (who now know what a pulpit is, and that the three letters on the pulpit fall are the first three letters of Jesus in Greek). I hope others in Ickenham, both young and old, might like to meet with us on Sundays to discover the meaning of what we do, and above all to meet with God. He does not live in houses made by human hands, as Stephen said (Acts 7.48) - but he does live in the hearts of his people and is present with them in a special way when they meet in the name of his Son Jesus (Matthew 18.20).

I am always glad to show folk round the church on a weekday - just phone 01895 234862.
RICHARD LANDON

## FROM THE U.R.C. REGISTERS

**Marriage**
May 19th. Andrew Davis and Jo Cook
**Cremations at Breakspear Crematorium**
June 8th. William Kay, aged 82
14th. Alan Dove, aged 76 (after service in the U.R.C.)
**Burial at Northwood Cemetry**
June 8th. Helen Davis, aged 86 (after service taken by Mike Bisset in the U.R.C.)

## CHELSEA FLOWER SHOW SUCCESS

*Gill Roker with her silver-gilt prize winning display for 'Chelsea'.*

Many congratulations to Gill Roker on her Chelsea Flower Show success. The winning of a silver-gilt medal for her stunning creation 'Romeo and Juliet' in the category 'Dramatic Moments' was a triumph. Although not her only medal, it was the first time Gill had entered as a lone contestant, thereby making the award particularly memorable and special. After seeing the award card, Gill burst into tears and had to be consoled by the BBC TV team which comforted her then 'whisked' her off to 'make-up' in readiness for her interview. Alan Titchmarsh, who was in the room, heard of Gill's emotional moments and gave her a hug to cheer her up. For those of you who missed the TV interview, Gill came across as a very cool, calm and down-to-earth winner. We even got the chance to see how she maintains lilies at their best by keeping them in her w.c. at home. Perhaps the house can be re-named 'Flushing Meadows'.

The one awful moment, on the Friday, after a wonderful, and emotional week, was to find that her car had been damaged at the Chelsea Show, by persons unknown. Unfortunately this was so bad that the car had to be towed away to be repaired. We all hope that the incident did not take too much shine from a wonderful win. Well done Gill.

## ST. GILES' CHURCH REMEMBRANCE GARDEN

*St. Giles' Church Garden of Remembrance*

Following on from the recent article on St. Giles' Church Garden of Remembrance and the group of dedicated 'young' men who look after the churchyard, I would like to thank everyone for their kind comments on the work that is being undertaken. We are getting pleasant feedback from many people who either walk through, or have specifically come to visit, the churchyard.

We are trying to ensure that each section of the churchyard is looked after. When you visit you will see that there is a lot of land to maintain and it is a constant battle against nature to control what would be a wilderness if left alone. Recently more and more families are returning to tend family graves and doing their own bit to keep the area well maintained.

Offers of plants would be appreciated which we can try to place in the garden. For example, plants such as pelargoniums are ideal as they produce colourful flowers and can withstand the summer sun with little water.

If you can help, please contact Sue Williams on 01895 232261.

Sue Williams
P.S. Ken Tombs has taken some stunning photographs of the churchyard which are being entered into a national 'Beautiful Churchyard' competition by John Ralph. We await the outcome with anticipation.

# RETIREMENT - DO WE NEED HELP AND ADVICE?

What happens when you finish your working life, after decades of daily effort, and still find yourself healthy, young at heart and full of vitality? Why should you have to retire, and why won't our local authority employ the over sixty-fives? In this article Anne Irving outlines how she felt when required to leave the working environment she had enjoyed for so many years. How does one come to terms with the experience, and should your employer be prepared to train you for retirement just as you might be trained for employment?

Retirement. The word used to conjure up a slow moving person sitting in a rocking chair knitting, wittering and moaning while their children are 'doing for them'! Today, thank goodness it's very different.

I retired at Christmas after 20 happy years as a laboratory technician at Vyners school. Come to think about it, why is one expected to retire when a 'certain' age is reached? I guess it's to make way for new blood.

The school gave me a truly wonderful send-off (a party and dinner, presents and flowers) which was something I will never forget. The feeling of sudden separation from the hustle and bustle of school life is taking some getting used to. I am still doing the chores etc. at breakneck speed and my husband is saying "what's the hurry? You have all day and there's no train to catch". Still it's only six months so far and my former colleagues keep in touch regularly.

My husband, David, retired seven years ago and is now well established in his niche. He swims three times a week and I now partner him. He is an avid walker, goes to cooking classes, loves anything to do with World War Two and is very well adjusted to retirement.

For me, it's going to be trial and error. This is the time of my life when I can really do anything I want (within budget) but I'm not sure what I want to do yet! I know I won't sit around and 'twiddle' my thumbs, nor will I try hiking around the world. There has to be a happy medium. I know, definitely, that I will have more time for our grandchildren, and that will be wonderful.

We have already had a lovely week in Majorca, and a couple of four day breaks. Also, I'm planning on visiting my sister in the United States during their 'Thanksgiving' time.

So life will be full. Fortunately we live in a country that offers a tremendous amount for 'seniors' (now that word is going to take a lot of getting used to). There are travel benefits and discounted tickets for most events.

I'll definitely find my niche. Only a few weeks ago I joined the local fitness centre, so if you see a grey haired stick insect, on a Harley Davison, zooming around the village it might be me. But then again it might not!

Anne Irving

## ST GILES CHOIR NOTES

On Sunday 10th June some of the choir members visited the famous Battle of Britain bunker at RAF Uxbridge. We had been invited as guests following our performance last Christmas at the Officers' Christmas dinner. Nick Rayner had the privilege of sitting in the seat used by the controller of RAF forces both in the Battle of Britain and in the Normandy landings and subsequent battle for Germany. We were shown a video which highlighted the heroism of the fighter pilots and their support staff, and the people of London in the Blitz which followed the battle. Members of the public can make arrangements to visit the bunker if you would like a day out with a difference.
On Saturday 9th June, St. Giles hosted a concert by Harrow School Chamber Choir and instrumentalists. A wide variety of music was performed on a fine summer evening, and the visiting parents of the Harrow boys were greatly impressed by the ambience of our historic church and the superb presentation of the churchyard.
A busy period for the choir was completed with our involvement at the Mothers Union 125th Anniversary Service at St. Paul's Cathedral on Tuesday 12th June.
John Miley

## DEAR GOD (*Letters from children)*

Dear GOD,
Instead of letting people die and having to make new ones, why don't You just keep the ones You have?
-Amy

Dear GOD:
Maybe Cain and Abel would not kill each other so much if they had their own rooms. It works with my brother.
-Larry

Dear GOD:
I bet it is very hard for You to love everybody in the whole world. There are only 4 people in our family and I can never do it.
-Nan

## PARISH PUMP

Receipt is acknowledged of the following donations towards the cost of *I.C.N.*: Anonymous of Vyners Way via Sue Crane, Mrs. Chapman from Swindon via Pauline Shelborn, Weight Watchers, Anonymous of Campden Road via Mary Cooke, Mrs. Winter of St. Giles Avenue,
**Copy for the September edition** should be with me by **15th. August.**
Additional photographs, and articles, plus last month's I.C.N. can be found on the Online version at: www.ickenhamchurchnews.co.uk

## IT MAKES YOU THINK!

If we could shrink the earth's population to a village of precisely 100 people, with all the existing human ratios remaining the same, it would look something like the following:

There would be: 57 Asians, 21 Europeans, 14 from the Western Hemisphere ( both north and south) and 8 Africans. 52 would be female, 48 would be male. 70 would be non-white, 30 would be white. 70 would be non-Christian, 30 would be Christian. 89 would be heterosexual, 11 would be homosexual.

***Six people would possess 59% of the entire world's wealth and all 6 would be from the United States.***

80 would live in substandard housing, 70 would be unable to read, 50 would suffer from malnutrition. 1 would be near death. 1 would be near birth. 1 (yes, only 1) would have a college education. 1 would own a computer.

When one considers our world from such a compressed perspective, the need for acceptance, understanding and education becomes glaringly apparent.

The following is also something to ponder...

If you woke up this morning with more health than illness, you are more blessed than the million who will not survive this week. If you have never experienced the danger of battle, the loneliness of imprisonment, the agony of torture, or the pangs of starvation you are ahead of 500 million people in the world. If you can attend a church meeting without fear of harassment, arrest, torture, or death you are more blessed than three billion people in the world. If you have food in the refrigerator, clothes on your back, a roof overhead and a place to sleep, you are richer than 75% of this world. If you have money in the bank, in your wallet, and spare change in a dish someplace you are among the top 8% of the world's wealthy. If your parents are still alive and still married you are very rare, even in the United States and Canada. If you can read this message, you just received a double blessing in that someone was thinking of you, and furthermore, you are more blessed than over two billion people in the world that cannot read at all.

Someone once said: "What goes around comes around."

"Work like you don't need the money. Love like you've never been hurt. Dance like nobody's watching. Sing like nobody's listening. Live like it's Heaven on Earth."

## WEIGHT WATCHERS

Weight Watchers now runs at St. Giles' Church Hall every Tuesday morning. The weigh-in is from 10.00 -10.30 a.m. and the talk from 10.30 -11.00 a.m. Come and meet Paula who can help you to lose weight. You can contact her by telephoning 01895 259407.

## ICKENHAM CHIROPODIST

***The Ickenham Foot Clinic*** now operates from Wallasey Crescent. Mrs. Kelly Ma BSc(Hons), SRCH, MChS, RGN, is a State Registered Chiropodist/Podiatrist. Home visits are available and surgery is by appointment. Telephone 077 888 62367.

# FORTHCOMING EVENTS
# for which your support would be appreciated

**HILLINGDON CHORAL SOCIETY**
**With Hillingdon Philharmonic Orchestra**
21st. Anniversary Concert at the South Bank Centre, Queen Elizabeth Hall.
*ELGAR: THE MUSIC MAKERS*
Thursday 12th. July 7.45 p.m.
Tickets £15, £12.50, £10 plus concessions from Hayes Book Shop
or Tel. Dorothy Vickery 01895 674223

**ICKENHAM MINIATURE RAILWAY**
is open on the first Saturday of each month April to December.
ENJOY A RIDE OR COME AND WATCH.
***Saturday 7th. July. 12.00 noon to 5.30 p.m.***
***Also Saturday 4th. August and Saturday 1st. September***
Entrance behind The Pump, Ickenham
**ADMISSION FREE. RIDE 25p**

**HILLINGDON D.F.A.S**
Meets at Winston Churchill Hall, Ruislip at 2.00 p.m.
***Wednesday 11th. July - Peter Medhurst***
***"The Musical World of Gainsborough and Zoffany, with piano."***
No meeting in August. September 12th "Priam's Treasure - The Gold from Troy".

**ICKENHAM (AFTERNOON ) WOMEN'S INSTITUTE**
Next meeting Thursday. 5th. July in St. Giles' Church (rear) Hall at 1.45 p.m.
A talk will be given by John Tillier on ***'The Royal Mail'.***
At the meeting of 2nd. August (same time and in the same place)
you are invited to an ***'Afternoon of Fun'.***
Members and non-members welcome.

**ICKENHAM CHURCHES' WOMEN'S GROUP**
Next meeting 5th. July for a 'Walk Round Ickenham' with Eileen Bowlt.
Meet at the URC forecourt 7.30 p.m. sharp.
Thursday 12th. July teas will be served in the U.R.C. Hardwick Room
from 2.30 to 4 p.m. (and outside if there is good weather) at a cost of £1.
Proceeds to the Arthritic Research Campaign.
No meeting in August

**ICKENHAM (EVENING) WOMEN'S INSTITUTE**
Next meeting is Thursday 19th. July in Ickenham Village Hall 7.30 to 10 p.m.
The talk by Mrs. Nan Arland is on ***'Old Glass Paperweights'.***
Members, guests and everyone welcome.

**ICKENHAM & SWAKELEYS HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY**
Hold their ***Summer Flower Show*** on Saturday 7th. July.
Ickenham Village Hall. Doors open to the public at 2.30 p.m.

**SWAKELEYS HOUSE**
The next Open Day is Sunday 8th. July 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. 50p entrance charge

**RED BANDANA'S LINE DANCING**
***For the Visually Impaired***
*It's a great way to keep fit, have fun and make new friends.*
Every Thursday from 10 a.m. to noon in the Guide Hut, Community Close.
Classes are run by the visually impaired. Sighted helpers are welcome.
Entry £3 in advance or £4 on the door.
For more information contact Doris on 020 8930 6799

**FESTIVAL OF ICKENHAM**

***GRAND JUMBLE SALE***

Ickenham Village Hall, Saturday 18th. August - 10 a.m.

Jumble would be welcomed at the Village Hall on Friday evening 17th. August, or Saturday morning before 9.30 a.m.

In cases of difficulty, collection of jumble may be arranged from 13th. August by telephoning (01895) 637932, 636736 or 477877

**VYNERS SCHOOL DRAMA DEPARTMENT & FRIENDS OF VYNERS**

Present an evening of Music, Dance and Drama with Vyners pupils and staff.

***'Compulsory Forces and Moveable Objects'.***

Thursday 12th. and Friday 13th. July at 7.30 p.m. in Vyners School.

Tickets:£2 Concessions £1.50 from Vyners School Office (01895 234342)

Licensed Bar available.