Ickenham Church News

September 2001

THE STORY OF ST. GILES

by Morris W. Hughes

(This is reprinted from I.C.N. July/August 1973)

Some people think it desirable to know something of the life of the saint to whom their parish church is dedicated. The story of our own St. Giles is quite a simple one, and was brought about by the young man's conscience.

In the early part of the 7th century A.D., there lived in Athens a Greek family, greatly respected by all who knew them. The head of the family was a wealthy man who had great influence in high places. While journeying into the beautiful countryside surrounding his home, purely for pleasure, Giles, the son of the house saw the plight of the lepers, the lame and the beggars, and there were many of them. Living a life of consummate ease without the slightest effort on his part, the young man became uneasy in his mind.

After giving the matter some thought, he left his comfortable home, taking nothing with him, to drift aimlessly, seeking food and shelter wherever it was to be found. His wanderings took him into France, where he lived a monastic kind of life at Arles for a time. Not satisfied, he travelled on to Nimes, where he found a cave to live in among the Garrigue Hills. He was a kindly man and offered help and spiritual guidance to all who sought it. His kindness extended to animals as well as his fellow creatures. He so befriended a young doe, that it became tame enough to allow him to milk her and so solve one of his food problems. It seldom strayed far from the hermit's home in the cave, where the entrance was shielded by a dense thicket of thorn bushes.

One day a Gothic king was out hunting with his courtiers, when some of his dogs gave chase to the young doe. She easily outpaced them, and disappeared in the thicket which guarded the hermit's cave. A few days later the same thing happened again. This rather intrigued the king, so that he hunted in that part of the hills again. When the elusive doe had evaded them for the third time, the hunters gathered before the thicket. It seemed to them to be almost impenetrable. One of them shot an arrow into the bushes. They heard a noise which sounded like a gasp of pain. Forcing a way through the bushes at the least dense part, they came upon the deer at the feet of Giles, who was sitting in his cave, wounded by the arrow.

The king was overwhelmed with sadness at the turn of events. He offered gifts of money as compensation, but these were firmly refused. Giles did accept the offer of the help a physician would be able to give, which the king had promised him. Thereafter the king visited Giles on many occasions and frequently offered him gifts of money. These were always civilly but firmly refused. One day Giles suggested to the king that he should devote the money he had offered so many times, to the building of a monastery. The king readily agreed to this, but in his turn suggested that Giles should

become the first abbot. This too, was agreed upon, and it came about that the monastery was built, and Giles did become its first abbot.

The commemoration day of St. Giles is the First of September. He is the Patron Saint of beggars, cripples and lepers. The sign of the Saint is a doe and an arrow. During the restoration of the Ickenham Parish Church in the years 1921 and 22, the more flamboyant gilded cock was taken from the stables at Swakeleys, to replace the insignificant, but much more appropriate arrow of St. Giles on the weathervane of the Church of St. Giles.

St. Giles day is 1st September. You may find more about our Patron Saint by looking at: www.ickenhamchurchnews.co.uk and selecting the menu item reserved for him.

Front page story

HOLIDAY CLUB 2001

How often do you witness two hundred children loving a church club and desperately wishing it would go on all summer? Answer: every July.

This year's Holiday Club took place in the United Reformed Church between July 23rd and July 27th. Two hundred children attended, enjoying choruses, prayers, stories, model making, crafts and outings. The theme this year was "Seeing is Believing" with the stories from the bible showing God's love for us, through actions that were witnessed by those present at the time.

David's defeat of Goliath, the walls of Jericho falling, a man healed, the man who could walk on water and the empty tomb following the resurrection of our Lord. The final outdoor service on Friday evening saw the Rectory garden bursting at the seams with children, parents and helpers singing out their hearts to the Lord.

Thanks must go to the many helpers who made it so successful. ***Holiday club 2002*** will take place from ***July 29th to August 2nd.***

Rosemary Hodgson (Coordinator)

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 17th September (Also Monday 15th October). 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.

FROM THE RECTORY

Holidays, for most people, will be beginning to fade into the memory as we enter the month of September. Activities kick back into gear, and there are lots of new starts for people, young and not so young. We can look back on yet another successful Holiday Club for the 7-11 year olds at the end of July, and our hope is that many of those youngsters will have so enjoyed their time that they will want to start coming regularly to one of the young people's activities in either of our two churches. A special invitation is being sent to them all this year.

We hope that our autumn programme at St Giles' will see the start of an intensive

programme to achieve the extension planned for our Church Hall. We would like to think that soon we shall have the long-awaited Building Regulations Approval from the Local Authority so that we can go out to tender with a view to work starting early in 2002. More of this as the autumn progresses.

On the spiritual side our Study Groups start up again this month and details can be found on our weekly newsheet a copy of which is always placed on the Noticeboard at the end of the church path. Later in November my colleague Ken Tombs will be leading a short course entitled 'Models of Prayer'. There's more than one way to pray and this course will explore some of the options which might prove to be helpful. A number of our young people as well as adults are joining in preparation groups for Confirmation on 18 November by the Bishop of Willesden; that's a new start for them - a commitment to full membership of the Church.

As we enter the autumn session we do so in the confident hope that the God we worship has good things in store for us; do come and share them with us.

Greetings and peace to you all.
Philip

FROM ST. GILES' REGISTERS

Baptisms

July 1st Eva Valerie Whittall
8th William David Bignell, Holly Elizabeth Prower
22nd Stephanie Alana Brown, Samuel James Oldfield
Aug 12th Laura Louise Kilby

Weddings

June 30th Lee John Crawford and Joanna Mary Garner
Mark Alan Robert Collins and Nicola Lorraine George
July 7th Carl Jason Reid and Joanna Savage
14th Michael James Brannigan and Caroline Jane Fitzgerald
28th Thomas Charles Ernest Stancombe and Sian Elin Evans
Denis Thomas Golden and Jane Elizabeth Williams
Aug 4th Peter Scott Appleby and Kim Ashley Bicker

Cremations at Breakspear Crematorium

June 29th John Seagar, aged 77
July 3rd Winifred Watson, aged 95
18th Diana Leigh, aged 78
19th Anne Lane, aged 89
26th Ellen Emily Hinde, aged 87
31st Grace Mears, aged 91
August 2nd Husnu Demir, aged 54 (burial at Cherry Lane Cemetery)
6th Kenneth Thomas Jerome, aged 83
8th Joyce Florence Anetta Fitchet, aged 76

FROM THE U.R.C.

When we were visiting Bath recently, we happened upon a small museum called "The Impossible Microworld". As we had an hour to spare we decided to go in, and soon found ourselves fascinated at what we saw.

The museum houses a display of what are reputedly the smallest manmade creations on earth. They are micro-miniature sculptures, invisible to the naked eye, but revealed under magnifying glasses. They included models of a horse standing on the head of an ant, Tower Bridge in the eye of a needle, Adam and Eve carved into the point of a cocktail stick, and a polar bear on a granule of sugar. I would not have thought it possible - but seeing is believing!

"Seeing is Believing" was the theme of this year's Holiday Club. Over 200 children. had a great week making models and craft work, singing, playing games and going on outings. Each day a visitor came to tell of one of the miraculous events recorded in. the Bible, including David and Goliath, Joshua and the walls of Jericho, a paralysed man healed by Jesus, and the resurrection of Jesus. The people who saw these events at the time they happened were amazed at the power of God and believed in him.

We can still see plenty of things around us which show us God, the Creator, and help us believe in him. If you have been out and about during the summer, you may have visited tranquil lakes, awesome mountains, stunning stretches of coastline, peaceful green countryside, or colourful gardens. When I see the beauty of the world I cannot help being filled with wonder at the God who made it all. For me, it is a case of "seeing is believing"

Anne Dove

A CONCERT TO REMEMBER

On July 12th Hillingdon Choral Society hired the Queen Elizabeth Hall on the 'South Bank' complex to celebrate its 21st Anniversary with an almost capacity audience. Hillingdon Philharmonic Orchestra provided solid support and the instrumental soloists did a fine job. The evening was a great artistic success with all parties rising to the occasion and venue. The Mayor of Hillingdon, Councillor Catherine Dann, graced the concert with her presence and remarked how greatly she had enjoyed the performances.

Under the guidance of its long time Director and Conductor, Peter Williams, the Society chose a varied programme which included both Sacred and secular music. Mezzo-soprano Deborah Miles-Johnson, was in fine voice taking the alto solo during renditions of Elgar's

'The Music Makers', and *'Where Corals Lie'*, and the soprano lead in *'Easter Hymn'* by Mascagni. The former work is played infrequently and, therefore, was of great interest to the members of the Elgar Society who were present.

The evening opened with the *'Festival Overture'* by John Bell who was for many years an instrumentalist with Hillingdon Philharmonic. He wrote the piece for the Ickenham Festival and it was premiered by the Orchestra in June 1994. The concert closed, to enthusiastic acclaim, with the chorus *'Achieved Is The Glorious Work'* from Haydn's *'Creation'*.

Thank you to everyone involved. It really was a night to remember.
Editor

LIBRARY LEARNING

Dropping into Ickenham Library recently I was agreeably surprised to find a number of new books in the religious section, more so on seeing they had been donated to the library by the local churches. What was disappointing was to note that on the five I'd borrowed none had been taken out since 15th February. The question does loom, is no one interested in knowing more- even something - about this faith that has been so much a part of Western civilisation? There are many paperbacks today dealing with some aspect of the Christian faith and they are highly readable (with no obscure words) facing familiar day-to-day issues. Incidentally it amazes me, when talking of obscure words that there is nothing more baffling to me than computer 'speak'. Downloading certainly isn't uplifting.

One appreciates that religion today doesn't fire many peoples' interest. The books nearest the entrance of Uxbridge Library are all fiction, romance and crime. Unlike the tempting 'choc' bars at the supermarket checkouts, the religious section is at the extreme end of the fourth floor as if were subversive material. Some of the books aim to decry the faith so one has to choose carefully. In Ickenham the religious section is immediately to the left of the counter, a conveniently shadowy corner for anyone shy about being seen there.

One volume that especially interested me, was the book *On Work and Worship.* It puts both subjects into one category. It is not about church work such as cleaning, and flower arranging, but *work* - what one does for a living, including the home, hobbies and sport. These are hardly the sort of things we associate with worship. Aren't they two contrasting functions - money-grubbing work and spirituality ? It makes the case that our everyday work could be better conducted if we relate all as service first and foremost to God, not just to our immediate employer, or solely for personal gain.

Regarding God as our overseer should enhance the quality of what we do even if, on the face of it, we seem to be serving Mammon. Money can have a very useful function when it is used to benefit society, and God's purpose, rather than self alone. What a difference it could make to the Government of the day if all matters were conducted as if under the searching eye of God.

Melvyn Bragg says that he prefers to go into empty churches. That is the view of many. After all, churches are only for special events and national tragedies aren't they? These books tell us much more and in my view are well worth a read. Have a go.
Brian T Davies

AN OPPORTUNITY FOR PATIENT SERVICE

One part of the duties of the Chaplains at Hillingdon and Mount Vernon Hospitals is to conduct a communion service on Sunday mornings in the Hospital Chapel at 11.00 a.m. Although anyone can attend, the services are primarily for patients many of whom need collecting from wards in wheelchairs. To do this, volunteers are provided by local

churches on a rota basis and St. Giles has four dates at Hillingdon and three at Mount Vernon each year.

The St. Giles team now numbers only four and we need some willing help, particularly at Hillingdon, for what is generally a rewarding couple of hours. We report to the Chapel at 10.20 a.m. and are given names and wards of those wishing to attend the service. Sometimes at Hillingdon we are asked to 'cold canvas' wards.

The next three dates are 2nd September (Hillingdon), 23rd December (Mount Vernon) and 6th January (Hillingdon). Anyone who is willing to assist in this little known activity, please contact Alan Grove (020-8868 9220).

THE SAMARITANS

"To be or not to be that is the question.....?"
Could you be a Samaritan volunteer?
Hillingdon Samaritans are recruiting now, full training given.
Open day 6th September (evening)
Please contact 01895 253355

CANCER RESEARCH CAMPAIGN RECIPE BOOK

I am trying to produce a book of people's favourite recipes which could be sold at the Cancer Research Campaign bazaars in the village hall. Would you be prepared to 'donate' recipes for me to use? The name of the person would be included with their entry. If there is an interesting history or origin attached to it (or simply why it is a favourite) then that could be included too. All recipes are welcome, whether for food or drinks! Anyone who would like to help should send their recipe to Janet Shortman - 98 Edinburgh Drive, Ickenham. UB10 8QZ or E-mail: shortman@btinternet.com

PARISH PUMP

Receipt is acknowledged of the following donations towards the cost of *I.C.N.*: Mr. Brian Davies of Campden Road, Mrs. Finch formerly of The Chase, Ickenham Women's Institute, Anonymous of Swakeleys Road via Pauline Shelborn, Phyllis Turner from Ruislip via Alan Grove, Anonymous of Swakeleys Drive via Christine Beauchamp, Mrs Byrne of Burnham Avenue via Marion Smith,
Copy for the October edition should be with me by **13th September.**
NEW CHURCH WEB-SITES. Additional photographs, and articles, plus last month's magazine can be found at **ICN Online** www.ickenhamchurchnews.co.uk whilst the **URC Online** is at www.ickenhamurc.org.uk and **St. Giles' Online** is at www.stgileschurch.co.uk
Volunteers are always needed to deliver I.C.N. **We need people now!** If you think you can help please contact me as soon as possible using the contact details on the front page.
Editor

READING THE BIBLE

What books are in the Bible? When I say books that's a bit confusing.
We think of the Bible as one book. Yes, I know it's a library of 66 books - 39 Old Testament and 27 New Testament - but to us it's still one book. The first 'Bible' was completed a few centuries after Jesus' death. Until then people did not know the techniques necessary to bind such a large amount of literature into a single volume.
The original texts would have been written on material that had been painstakingly made by hand. The individual sheets would then have been glued or stitched together to make a strip long enough for a single book. This would then have been rolled up for storage.

When the Christians eventually produced a single-volume Greek Old Testament, they made their selection from the translations that were available to them. This selection of 66 books that are in the Bible that we use today is called 'The Septuagint'.
However, in some Bibles you will find 17 books in a separate section called either 'The Apocrypha' or 'The Deutero-Canonical books'.
There has always been a debate about the place of these books in the Bible. The Roman Catholic church included them in their version of the Bible, the Anglican church views them as, 'examples of life and instruction of manners'. So are they part of the Bible or not?
History tells us that they were probably just stored together for convenience, and because they were similar, but that they were never actually thought of in the same way by most Jewish people.

Jo White

WORKERS EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

Come and join the Ruislip and Uxbridge branch, at the Compass Theatre, Ickenham or the North Hillingdon Adult Education Centre. Classes commence Monday 24th September and full details can be found in our brochure at any local library.
Mondays: Opera and politics - a.m. Antiques, pottery, porcelain, silver, glass and the Roman Empire - p.m.
Tuesdays: 20th Century American Art - a.m. Eminent Victorians - p.m.
Wednesdays: A beginners' guide to stockmarket investment - a.m. Current affairs in a changing world - p.m. Victorian London - evenings.
Thursdays: The natural history of North West London - a.m. Exploring poetry in the 20th century - p.m. Musicals - Evenings.

NEWS FROM THE M.U.

The Mothers' Union is celebrating its 125th Anniversary this year, branches throughout the Diocese are being asked to support the millennium initiatives of Literacy and Parenting, already Literacy pilot schemes have reached 2000 non-literate people in Malawi, Burundi and the Sudan.

One of the events which St. Giles' M.U. has planned is a Ploughman's Lunch, on Thursday 20th September, in the church Hall, from 12 noon to 1pm. The cost will be £3.00, There will also be a home made cake stall. We hope that all our friends will come and enjoy a good lunch and find a delicious cake to take home with them. We have been given a target - £125 in this anniversary year. Please help us to achieve it!

Mother's Union Outing to Oxford. On the River.

On 26th June our branch joined others in the Deanery for the annual outing - this year to Oxford. Our coach driver took us on the scenic route to Abingdon, where we boarded the river vessel 'Mapledurham' for a two hour cruise in glorious sunshine along the Thames, through locks at Abingdon, Sandford and Iffley, to Folly Bridge where we disembarked.

Relaxing on the River.

The members then made their own way round Oxford, enjoying the Cathedral, Colleges, Botanical Gardens and other attractions before meeting at the Cathedral for Choral Evensong at 6 p.m. This was a very well attended Service, and the Bishop was present to give his blessing at the end.
Afterwards it was back to the coach for the journey home. All the members agreed that we'd had a really wonderful day out and our thanks go to Ann Ralph and all who helped her in organising this event.

Earlier in the year the Union was delighted to welcome Mike Bisset to speak about the Festival of *Corpus Christi* and to open the meeting by admitting Pat Kume to membership.
G. Allen, M. Gowers and A. Ralph

GLEBE SCHOOL'S GOLDEN JUBILEE 2001

I am writing on behalf of the Governors of Glebe Primary School in Ickenham. We are celebrating our Golden Jubilee in 2002 and have been looking for ways of marking the occasion. From September we will be collecting pictures and (hopefully) ciné film of the school that can be used for displays at the school and then to tour the local libraries. We would be grateful if readers could search their attics and albums and see if there are any suitably nostalgic pictures or any other material that we can include. We would particularly like any items that show how school life has changed over the last 50 years, for example if anyone is brave enough the old school reports!. Any material handed into the school will be carefully copied by the committee and the originals sent back to the owners as quickly as possible. Please contact the school about your 'finds' on 01895 634169.
Delyth Williams - Organising Committee

'HEALING GARDENS' - VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Healing Gardens offers people with severe and long-term health problems the opportunity to re-discover and find enjoyment in life through their gardens. It is looking for volunteers of all ages and abilities to help with every aspect of running the group. This includes: Management Committee members, gardeners, people to help with day-to-day running of the project, publicity and recruitment personnel and organisers for monthly social meetings.
Gardeners are needed for: Tuesday Volunteer Squad, Garden Swap Scheme, Hi-Lets Scheme, Caretaker for the Healing Gardens Allotment.
For more details of the scheme call Barry Watson or Tony Grimes on 01895 832662

DEAR GOD …..?

Dear GOD,
In school they told us what You do. Who does it when You are on vacation?
-Jane

Dear GOD:
Are You really invisible or is it just a trick?
-Lucy

Dear GOD,
Is it true my father won't get in Heaven if he uses his bowling words in the house?
-Anita

Dear GOD:
Did You mean for the giraffe to look like that or was it an

accident?
-Norma

U.R.C. TABLE TENNIS TEAM

Ickenham U.R.C. recently achieved local sporting fame when its table tennis team (in only its second year of membership) won the third Division of the Chalfont and District League. However, it is understood that the number of points scored during the season was comfortably exceeded by the collective ages of the players!

U.RC. Table-tennis team plus 'mascot'.

The team was formed from a group of retired people who started playing together, just for fun, some seven years ago and realised that some of them could still 'turn on' a useful game. The group, which meets at the U.R.C. on Tuesday mornings, comprises enthusiasts from both the U.R.C. and St.Giles' churches, but owing to the lack of table capacity is currently limiting membership to existing numbers.
Keith Holland

WEIGHT WATCHERS

Weight Watchers will be re-opening on **Tuesday 4th September** at St. Giles' Church Hall, and every Tuesday thereafter. 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.

FREE CAREER ADVICE

The JGA Group, Panstar House 13-15 Swakeleys Road is offering ***FREE*** career information, and advice, to all adults over 19 years (no upper limit). If you are changing career, job seeking or planning your next move contact Chris on 01895 623135 8.30 a.m. to 6 p.m. (Weekends and evenings by arrangement).
The JGA Group is your local member of the Information, Advice and Guidance Partnership. It is nationally recognised by the Guidance Accreditation Board and has a substantial range of resources including computer packages.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS
for which your support would be appreciated

ST. GILES' M.U.

St. Giles' MU is holding a Ploughman's Lunch on Thursday 20th September in St. Giles' Church Hall, from noon to 1p.m. The cost is £3.00.
There will also be a home made cake stall.

ICKENHAM MINIATURE RAILWAY

is open on the first Saturday of each month April to December.
ENJOY A RIDE OR COME AND WATCH.
Saturday 1st. September 12.00 noon to 5.30 p.m.
Also Saturday 6th October.
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 September 12th "Priam's Treasure - The Gold from Troy".

ICKENHAM CHURCHES' WOMEN'S GROUP

Next meeting is on Thursday 6th September in the U.R.C. Hardwick Room. 8 p.m.
Eric Goodall will speak about 'Australia'.
At the meeting of 4th October (same time and place)
Chris Wren will give an illustrated talk about 'The Battle of Britain'
Note: *Because the July walk was rained off Eileen Bowlt has agreed to reschedule the event for Saturday 13th October at 2.30 p.m.. Meet at the U.R.C. No charge to those who paid in July. £1 to newcomers.*

ICKENHAM (EVENING) WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Next meeting is Thursday 20th September in Ickenham Village Hall 7.30 to 10 p.m.
The talk by Margaret Collins is called *"Down The River"*
Members, guests and new members welcome.

SWAKELEYS HOUSE

The next Open Day is Sunday 7th. October 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. 50p entrance charge
Check first (01895628000) to ensure that the Open Day is not cancelled suddenly.

ICKENHAM OVER 60s CLUB

Coffee Morning in the Village Hall Saturday1st September 10 a.m. to noon.
Raffle, Tombola, Cards, Fancy Goods, Bric-a-Brac, Plants and Garden Items,
Cakes. Tea, Coffee and Soft Drinks at reasonable prices.
Meet your friends and support the Club. Entrance 20p.
Note: It is with regret that the sudden death is reported of Mr John Seager, former Chairman of the over 60s Club. He was admired and respected, and will be missed greatly by family, friends and club members.

THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

City Churches Trail Saturday 22nd September.
Be a sponsored trailfinder and visit London's historic churches.
The Children's Society needs money to continue its vital work with vulnerable children.
For more information call **Janet Amoako 020 7639 1466**
CS Online: www.the-childrens-society.org.uk

COMPASS THEATRE

Argosy Players present:
'A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum'.
Music & Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim **-Wednesday 10th - Sat. 13th October at 8 p.m.**
Compass Theatre and Arts Centre - Glebe Avenue, Ickenham.
Tickets £8.50 (£7.50 Concessions Senior Citizens, Students and UB40s)
Box Office: 01895 673200 (credit/debit cards) 01895 639954 (non card)

VYNERS SWING BAND

Annual Farewell Concert/Dinner
Saturday 15th September 7.30 p.m. Vyners school. Supper and Bar
Tickets: £7.50 (includes supper) £6.50 senior citizens/students
Ticket hotline: 01895 234342.

ICKENHAM DISTRICT GUIDES

Jumble Sale at Guide H.Q., Community Close, Ickenham
Saturday 6th October 10 a.m. to noon. Admission 25p