UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
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64 Swakeleys Drive
Tel: 01895 234862
Church: 01895 634280

ST. GILES' CHURCH OF ENGLAND
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Ickenham URC Online: www.ickenhamurc.org.uk
St Giles' Church Online: www.st.gileschurch.co.uk
Ickenham U.R.C. covenanted with St. Giles' Church of England

For weekday services, special services, joint evening services and events for both churches, see notice boards and weekly newsletters

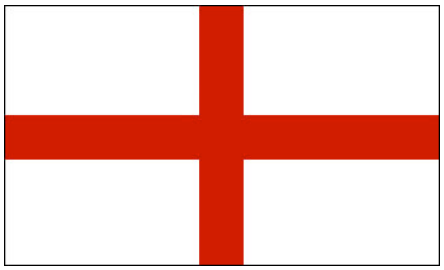
ICKENHAM CHURCH NEWS

April 2002

ST. GEORGE'S DAY – TUESDAY 23RD APRIL

St. George Patron Saint Of England

The life of Saint George is shrouded in legend, so much so that it is quite difficult to untangle fact from fiction. Much of the problem lies in the *Acta Sancti Georgii* (*Acts of Saint George*) written at a very early date and outlawed by Pope Gelasius in AD 496. Meanwhile the Greeks also had a set of *Acts* which were more accurate and quoted by Saint Andrew of Crete.



From them and the writings of Metaphrastes, we can piece together that he was born in Cappadocia of noble, Christian parents and on the death of his father, accompanied his mother to Palestine, her country of origin, where she had land and George was to run the estate. He was martyred at Lydda in Palestine (Nicomedia). He held an important post in the Roman army - the rank of tribune, or perhaps colonel in modern terms - during the reign of the Emperor Dioclesian (245-313). Dioclesian was a great persecutor of Christians (from about 302) and when the persecutions began George put aside his office and complained personally to the Emperor of the harshness of his decrees and the dreadful purges of Christians. For his trouble, though, he was thrown into prison and tortured.

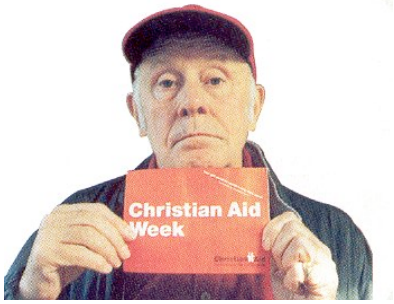
He would not recant his faith however and the following day he was dragged through the streets and beheaded. It is uncertain whether he also tore down the Emperor's decrees as they were posted in Nicomedia. So he was one of the first to perish. The Emperor's wife, Alexandria was so impressed at the Saint's courage that she became a Christian and so too was put to death for her trouble.

For more details, the legends and cult of St. George, log on to *www.ickenhamchurchnews.co.uk*
EDITOR

Christian Aid

WEEK 12-18 MAY 2002

Collectors needed urgently



In last year's Christian Aid Street collection, nearly 120 of our caring Ickenham friends visited about 5,000 houses in the village and delivered the characteristic red envelope. A record £6,327 was collected, thanks to the commitment, dedication and generosity of our community.

This year we are short of:

- Street collectors (who will each deliver and collect about 40 gift envelopes)
- Area organisers (who will support six - eight collectors)

If you are already a collector why not ask a friend to collect with you or help support other collectors by becoming an area organiser.

You can make a real difference to the poorest people in the world. *The most frequent reason people give for not contributing is that we were not asked!*
Please help us to visit each and every home in Ickenham.
If you would like to collect for Christian Aid Week, or for more information, please call **Bernard Pearce 01895 673596,** who will be delighted to hear from you.

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 15th April (Also Monday 20th May). 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 633020 or 01895 235061.

FROM THE RECTORY

Tensions in many places in our world continue to abound. Abroad there's the on-going, appalling situation in Israel and the aftermath of the Presidential elections in Zimbabwe. This is drawing in other African countries as well as Europe and the US, to say nothing of Afghanistan, Iraq and other nations. The tensions at home within the Police Service, with teachers and other public service employees, although raising important issues for those groups, pale into insignificance when compared to the potential consequences for world stability which is threatened by the unsettled state of affairs in an increasing number of places abroad.

Perhaps a major contributor to unstable situations arises from the abuse of power either by individuals who have risen, by various and sometimes dubious means, to positions where power can be exercised or by groups who have formed themselves into a force which has domination as a prime objective.

Mutual respect for fellow human beings is cast aside in the interests of self-aggrandisement. The 'plot' has been lost. The 'plot' being that humanity, created in the image of a loving and caring God, has strayed away from basic, fundamental principles of living with respect for and understanding of others, the environment and a fair distribution of resources. Unless and until those who lead recognise this, tensions will abound, with potentially devastating consequences for the human race. Those who have any faith should be praying for the right use of power for the good of all.

Greetings and peace to you all
Philip

FROM ST. GILES' REGISTERS

Baptisms

Feb 24th Peter James Leslie Garrod
Mar 10th Lawrence Scott Langley
24th Georgia Shannon Jade Delmaine

Cremations at Breakspear Crematorium

Feb. 22nd Mabel Trease, aged 90 (burial at Northwood Cemetery after a service in St Giles')
Mar. 11th Doris Maskill, aged 94
12th Kathleen Vinter, aged 73

Burial of Ashes

Feb. 23rd Julia Thomas
28th Margaret Ann Evans
Ronald Henry Mawby
Mar. 15th Frederick Jenkins

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR THE BEREAVED

There will be a special joint churches' service in St Giles' on Sunday 28th April at 3 p.m. for those who have been bereaved during the past twelve months. The name of their departed loved one, whose funeral was taken by the U.R.C. or St Giles' clergy, will be read out during the service. The preacher will be Revd. Olwen Field from St Martin's Church, West Drayton. Members of the churches' Pastoral Support Group will be present.

After the service, the congregation will be invited to refreshments in the St Giles' Church Hall.

Anyone who would find this service helpful is welcome to come.
JENNY REID

MARGARET ANN EVANS 1931-2002

The sudden death of Ann Evans, reported in March I.C.N. resulted simultaneously in unexpected generosity together with a need for voluntary help.

Firstly, her husband Brian and his three sons Andrew, Nick and Paul, are filled with a mixture of amazement and pride that Ann's untimely demise brought about such a show of respect from people in the village.

In tribute to the work she had done for the community and beyond, St. Giles' Church was filled to capacity for her funeral, and over £2,000 was amassed in her memory for ***Cancer Research U.K.,*** with pledges still to come. This is the name of the newly founded charity formed by the amalgamation of the Cancer Research Campaign (for which Ann was the local committee secretary) and the Imperial Cancer Fund.

Brian and his sons thank you for this wonderful support.

Secondly, there now comes the problem of finding volunteers to undertake the tasks for ***Cancer Research U.K.*** previously carried out by Ann.

These vacancies need to be filled quickly if the Ickenham and Ruislip Group is to continue with its work. This consists of helping out with the eight Saturday morning mini-markets each year, and superstore collections at Tesco, Sainsbury and Waitrose. Additionally, eight collections per year are organized in The Chimes and The Pavilions but four of theses have been completed already.

Anyone who feels they can now turn their condolence, and offer of help, into action should 'phone one of the following people: Brian Evans 01895 678347; Joan and Alan Crisp 01895 230170; Vanetta Daymond 01895 234119; Janet Shortman 01895 630571 or Barbara Cater 01895 238090 to obtain more information. As the old saying goes 'Many hands make light work'. *(See this month's article by Brian T Davies – The Saw).*

FROM THE U.R.C. MINISTER

One of our Sunday morning services last month, on 10th March, was taken by our elders (people who are chosen by church members to lead the church, as outlined in the Bible). I sat in the congregation, and I very much appreciated the way they each contributed to the service. It was an all-age service and as well as the prayers and readings we had a humorous sketch about parents shopping and losing their son; an activity involving the whole congregation about being forgiving, unselfish, trusting, without envy, kind and patient (which are aspects of Christian love, see 1 Corinthians 13.4-7); and a talk based on the story of Jesus' parents losing him, from Luke 2.41-52. It was good to be reminded of the Christian basis of relationships in families and with others, the kind of love which is God's gift and which is so desperately needed today.

It was also very encouraging to me to be reminded that Christian ministry is not limited to ministers. All Christians are given gifts and abilities by God to use in serving him, and some of those are for leading worship. Ministers are simply those who have been recognised and enabled by the church to serve full or part time in preaching and caring. Recently a person who had not been to church services for some years told "me that services had changed for the better in involving the people much more. It is an exciting privilege to be part of what God is doing among us. I hope you will join us.

With best wishes.
RICHARD

FROM THE U.R.C. REGISTERS

Cremation at Breakspear Crematorium
Feb. 25th Nellie Eunice Walker, aged 82 (after service at the U.R.C.)
Burial at Hillingdon Cemetery
Mar. 5th Dorothy May Suckling, 96 (after service at the U.R.C.)

MOTHERS' UNION

For last year's 125th Anniversary of the Mothers' Union, our local branch was asked to raise £125. However, we managed to generate £179 through ploughmens' lunches and coffee mornings.

During the year an amazing £173,000 has been raised nationally, and money is still coming in.

The money raised will fund 'Parenting Courses', in this country, and 'Literacy Projects' in the three pilot countries of Burundi, Sudan and Malawi.

Twenty 'Parenting Courses' have been run. These trained the facilitators who, in turn, will lead further courses. The Literacy Projects are proving most successful.

The 'Literacy and Development Programme' enables men and women to acquire literacy and numeracy skills whilst taking the opportunity to deal with issues important to them.

The programme aims to reduce the inequalities in society by empowering women and their families. Thus they can benefit from, and contribute to, sustainable development in their own communities.

Research shows that educating women and girls is the single most effective strategy for reducing poverty "Educating a woman means educating a nation".

Readers may be interested in looking at the Mothers Union Web site: www.themothersunion.org
Also a new site for the London Diocese is being launched: www.mothersunion-london.org.uk
ANN RALPH

GLEBE SCHOOL GOLDEN JUBILEE

50th Anniversary Celebration- 1952 – 2002

Do you recognise yourself from this 1952 photograph?

The staff, pupils and parents are aiming to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of Glebe School, Ickenham on 29th June, this year.

We intend to hold a party and/or picnic on the school site and are hoping to hear from former staff and students via local advertising, the 'Friends United' website, local press and word of mouth.

The idea is for everyone to bring their own picnic and drinks. There will be a 'Disco' and admission will be by ticket. A small charge will be made for this to defray any expenses.

For further details contact Carol – Tel. 01895 634857, Pat – 01895 630378 or Ronald 01895 634857

We look for to hearing from you, and seeing you, on 29th June.
Another photo on *www.ickenhamchurchnews.co.uk*

RONALD PIDGEON

GOLDEN JUBILEE STREET PARTIES?

Napkins tucked in, the Ickenham children prepare for a Jubilee feast.

Remembering back to the ***Queen's Silver Jubilee in 1977***, there were three days of celebrations (May 27th to 29th) organised by the Festival of Ickenham Committee which had only just recovered from the 1976 Ickenham Festival and were already planning for the Festival in 1978.

They must have been exhausted, but for Ickenham residents it was three years of 'Heavenly Community Spirit' which even the Council could not dampen when in 1976 it charged the Scouts and Cubs a 25p per hour insurance indemnity for giving a demonstration of tent pitching on the grass verge in Community Close!

The Jubilee celebrations included an 'Olde English Fayre in the Grounds of Swakeleys Manor, a Carnival Procession through the village, a Jubilee Dance and a Community Concert.

The local press gave substantial coverage to all three Festivals not least because the then Editor of The Gazette lived in Rectory Way!

This year we have, once again, Ickenham Festival, but how many of you are intending to organise a street party to celebrate the Jubilee? If you intend so to do you might wish to log onto the Official Site at www.streetparties.info

ICN would like to have your ***Ickenham reminiscences, and photographs***, of any Royal Jubilees past, for publication over the next few months. If you are willing to share your memories try to keep these down to between 200 and 300 words and send them to the editor as soon as possible. Treasured photos that are borrowed will be returned quickly. Don't forget them!

EDITOR

ICKENHAM FESTIVAL

15TH – 23RD JUNE 2002 ADVANCE NOTICE

We invite people who are prepared to open their gardens to the public during Ickenham Festival Week to start their preparations now and contact Ickenham Garden Centre and Ickenham and Swakeleys Horticultural Society for further details.
David Millen

ICKENHAM MINIATURE RAILWAY - NEW SEASON

Re-opens Saturday 6th April, 12.00 noon to 5.30 p.m.. Let the Fun Begin!
Website: www.ickenhamchurchnews.co.uk
ENJOY A RIDE OR COME AND WATCH.
Also Saturday 4th May
Entrance behind The Pump, Ickenham.
ADMISSION FREE. RIDE 25p

SWAKELEYS HOUSE THREE OPEN DAYS 2002

Sunday 7th April; Sunday 7th July & Sunday 6th October

Between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. Entrance charge 50p per person

Check with Bristol Myers (Mrs Marsh) to ensure that dates remain as published Tel:01895 628000
Last year one date was cancelled at the last moment.

THE ICKENHAM & SWAKELEYS HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
FLOWER SHOW
Saturday 6th April – Doors open to public at 2.30 p.m. in Ickenham Village Hall

ICKENHAM IN SPRINGTIME

THE SAW

The saw is one of the most ingenious and simplest of tools man has made.
We know from archaeological finds they were used over 4000 years ago by the Egyptians and the Assyrians, and there is a possibility they could even have been used by Noah in shaping the wood for the ark. By different designs as we know they can be made to cut not only wood but iron and stone. Saws were used in helping shape the huge stone blocks in the building of Solomon's temple. Today, with little greater precision they would be cut in the same way although we can add power to our muscles.

Once it was found that wood could be more easily cut by means of a toothed blade it would have still needed considerable experimentation to cut through harder materials such as stone and metal. However, the principle remains the same where each tooth removes a little at a time, more with softer materials and lesser amounts with finer teeth in the case of harder ones. It is easy to test the difference by attempting to cut metal with a saw used for wood.

There is a lesson in this for us. It follows on the lines of many hands make light work. Sharing the burden of life, building up teamwork, the more working together the more is achieved, even sometimes the seemingly impossible. Each of us can be a 'tooth', for every little helps especially as with a saw where the effort is applied over and over again. Paul speaks of fellow workmen as those he appreciated who helped him in the work, however small, on a regular basis. Initially it was the closest disciples of the Lord who took the Christian faith to the world, but eventually it was the combined efforts of many hundreds of believers which finally led to Rome under Constantine turning to acknowledge the value of Christianity to the State. it may not have been the kind which we would have preferred but it does show how change came about. It was as if saws had been used to cut through the block of pagan beliefs which had marked the Roman empire.

Little by little, a little at a time, where all combine towards a given end, much can be achieved. By the constant drip drip of a spot of water a channel is made, a pool is formed, and then it becomes a pond. We may not be able to do great things on our own, but we must not underestimate the contribution we can each make by persistent and constant support of each other. Pounds are made by collecting pennies is almost a forgotten maxim.

Whenever you pick up a saw just note the teeth for the material you are going to cut and think of the contribution each makes for its purpose. And remember too little kindnesses often made add up.
Brian T Davies

PARISH PUMP

Receipt is acknowledged, with grateful thanks, of the following donations towards the cost of *I.C.N.*: Anonymous of Campden Road via Val Kershaw, Timber Kings of Edinburgh Drive, Gladys Athey of Swakeleys Drive via Daphne Kissane, Anonymous of Parkfield Road via Ruth Gear, Mrs Byrne of Burnham Avenue, Juliet Bonnet Hypnotherapy and Counselling. ***Readers would wish to know that Mr. George Pullen*** of Campden Road was an anonymous donor to ICN funds for many years until his untimely death, at the age of 89, on Saturday 2nd March. This section includes his last donation. We wish to send our condolences to his family, and friends, as well as paying final tribute to his long term generosity. A very generous donation from Ickenham Churches Women's Group, Anonymous from Ruislip via Alan Grove, Doreen Williams of Enstone Road, Ickenham and District Society of Model Engineers, Mrs Kelly Ma – Chiropodist of Wallasey Crescent,
Copy for the May edition should be with me by **13th April.**
More Standby and Permanent I.C.N. Deliverers and Distributors. Please contact the Editor if you can help. Standbys are needed who are prepared to help out when someone is sick or on holiday. Those prepared to take on permanent assistance are needed too. We have used all previous volunteers who came forward some months age, and the untimely death of several stalwarts has reduced our reserve list to zero.
Additional photographs, articles and much more, plus last month's magazine, can be found at **ICN Online:** www.ickenhamchurchnews.co.uk

ICKENHAM CHURCHES' JUNIOR HOLIDAY CLUB 2002

The annual Holiday Club for all Ickenham children aged 7 – 11 (school years 2 – 6) will be held one week later than usual. This year it is from ***Monday 29th July to Friday 2nd August inclusive***. Registration will be on Friday afternoon ***19th July at the U.R.C. from 3.30 p.m. to 6 p.m.***
More details will be published in the coming months as will be the usual request for volunteers to assist in the smooth running of the event.

CHURCH BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

Taken from real church weekly newsletters

- The senior choir invites any member of the congregation who enjoys sinning to join them practising mid-week and Sundays.
- For those of you who have children, and don't know it, we have a nursery in the crypt.
- The ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.
- *From an old St Giles' weekly bulletin* – All welcome to Evensnog at 6.30 p.m.

AN APOCRYPHAL STORY!

In the late 1940s a family from a remote part of the country was making its first visit to a big city. They checked in to a modern hotel and stood in amazement at the impressive sight. Leaving the reception desk they came to the lift entrance. They'd never seen a lift before, and just stared at it, quite unable to work out what it was for. An old man hobbled towards the lift and went inside and the door closed. About a minute later, the door opened and out came a stunningly good-looking young man. Mum couldn't stop staring. Without turning her head she patted her daughter's arm and said, "Go get your father".

ICKENHAM CRICKET CLUB

New members and players from all age groups are being sought for the 2002 season. New associate members for the active Social Committee are needed too. For full details, and all contacts numbers Tel. Derek Tomlin on 01895 673573.

SIGNS & SYMBOLS

This month we'll look at a few more symbols to help us think about God using abbreviations from ancient Greek words.
The most common and often the most misunderstood is this one - IHC. People sometimes think they come from the Latin 'Jesus Hominum Salvator' meaning, 'Jesus, saviour of the world', or even 'In His Service'. But they don't. They are the first three letters of the Greek for JESUS - which in Greek was IHCOYC.
Just to confuse you Greek has two ways of writing the sound 's' as in the middle of Jesus. It can be either a 'C' or what looks like a rather stylised 'E'. To confuse you more, when you translate the Greek letters IHC into Latin they come out as 'IHS'. So you can see both spellings that mean the same thing.
In my church this abbreviation has been repeated and used to decorate the whole length of the white cloth covering the altar.
A much easier abbreviation is the next one which is the first and last letters of the Greek capital alphabet - Alpha (A) and Omega (Ω). In English I suppose we'd have had 'AZ'. It's used to mean the infinity of God, that he is eternal; from the beginning to the end.
You'll sometimes also see AW because this was the lower case Greek. Another Greek word used is NIKA which means 'Victor'. So sometimes you'll see a cross with the four corners having two letters in each:
IC meaning Jesus
XC meaning Christ
NI being the first two letters, and KA the last two letters of NIKA
So you get, 'Jesus Christ, the Victor'.

Sometimes the alpha and omega will be placed either side of another letter or letters. One example is with the letter 'M' which is sometimes used to mean 'found blameless' So AMΩ would mean something like, 'He who is blameless from the beginning of time to the end of time.'
JO WHITE

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The Ickenham Foot Clinic, Wallasey Crescent. Tel. 077-888-62367

FORTHCOMING EVENTS
for which your support would be appreciated

Ickenham Residents' Association
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
will be held in Ickenham Village Hall on Friday, 19th April 2002, at 8 pm.
More details of the evening, the full Agenda and Minutes of the 2001 AGM were included in our regular Newsletter, circulated in March.

ICKENHAM CHURCHES' WOMEN'S GROUP
Next meeting is on Thursday 4th April in the U.R.C. Hardwick Room at 8 p.m.
Mr W Andrews illustrated talk on ***St. George's Chapel, Windsor***
Followed by a short Annual General Meeting.
Thursday 2nd May "I Knead The Dough" Bread-making talk by Kevin White.

ST. GILES' CLIMBERS & EXPLORERS
Invite you to their Coffee Morning
Saturday 13th April from 10.15 a.m. to 12 noon in St. Giles' Church Hall.
Cakes and plants for sale. See the children's craft work done during Lent on the theme of 'The Bible'.
Proceeds to underprivileged children in Romania

ICKENHAM WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

The next meeting is Thursday 18th April in Ickenham Village Hall 7.30 to 10 p.m.
Mrs P J G Smith will speak on ***'Encore To Japan'.***
Members and visitors welcome. Charge for visitors is 50p which includes tea.

THE MOTHERS' UNION

Next meeting will take place in St. Giles' Church (front) Hall on Thursday 25th April at 2 p.m.
Marion Hayman speaks o**n *'Christ's Hospital'.***
Everyone is welcome.

ICKENHAM OVER 60s CLUB

Which meets every Monday afternoon in Ickenham Village Hall is also holding a
Coffee Morning on Saturday 13th April – 10 a.m. to 12 noon
in Ickenham Village Hall. Entrance 20p

HILLINGDON D.F.A.S.

The Society meets on the second Wednesday of each month at Winston Churchill Hall, Ruislip.
Next meeting is Wednesday 10th April at 2 p.m.
Phillipa Barton speaks on ***'English Furniture 1550 – 1820'.***

MUSIC IN ST. MARTIN'S, RUISLIP

Lunchtime Concerts in St. Martin's Church Hall
Wednesday 24th April at 12.15 p.m. (lasts about one hour)
'Nicholaos Laaris – Piano'
Free Admission – Retiring Collection to defray expenses. Surplus goes to the Myosotis Trust.

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LEMON WEDGE THEATRE COMPANY PRESENT

'The Darling Buds of May' at the Compass Theatre, Ickenham
Set in the late 1950s, The Darling Buds of May is a timeless comedy that has
delighted audiences for decades. ***Tuesday 7th May to Saturday 11th May at 7.45pm.***
Tickets: £8 and £7 concessions. Box office: 01895 673200.

THE ICKENHAM & SWAKELEYS HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

FLOWER SHOW
Saturday 6th April – Doors open to public at 2.30 p.m. in Ickenham Village Hall

ANGLO GERMAN CLUB

Next meeting Friday 26th April from 7.30 p.m. to 9.30 p.m. at the North Hillingdon Adult Education Centre, 86 Long Lane, Ickenham. (Use playground to park).
'German Cheese and Wine Tasting Evening'.
Non-members welcome at £2 per meeting. Annual fee £12 - refreshments included.
For more information call Marie Cull on 01895 254723

ANGLO GREEK CLUB

Next meeting Friday 12th April from 7.30 p.m. to 9.30 p.m. at the North Hillingdon Adult Education Centre, 86 Long Lane, Ickenham. (Use playground to park).
Jim Neville speaks on ***'Stepping Out On The Greek Island Of Symi'.***
Quiz evening Friday 3rd May.
Non-members welcome at £2 per meeting. Annual fee £12 - refreshments included.
For more information call Lena Markou on 01895 631865

' LULU & JOJO'S SATURDAY CLUB '

Every Saturday 10 - 11 a.m. at Ickenham United Reformed Church, Swakeleys Road
For Children Aged 6 months up to 4 years.
Arts & Crafts - Music & Movement - Toys - Messy Play. Refreshments Included.
For more information Tel. 01895 676553 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m.

COUNCIL OF CHRISTIANS AND JEWS

Thursday 11th April at 8.15 p.m. at Northwood and Pinner Liberal Synagogue,
Oaklands Gate, Northwood
Sr. Margaret Sheperd (National Director of the CCJ) will speak on:
'Rabbi Translates The New Testament'.
Talk takes about an hour followed by questions and light refreshments.
Everyone is welcome. For more information 'phone Sidney Moss 01923 841990
www.ccj-hillingdon.org.uk

THE UNITY CHOIR

Spring Concert

At the United Reformed Church, Swakeleys Road on Friday 27th April at 7.30 p.m.
Tickets: £3 from Patricia Sparke Tel. 01895 632554 – 18 Elgar Close, Ickenham.