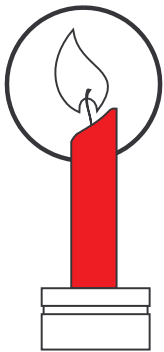




NOTICES & ANNOUNCEMENTS SUNDAY 3RD DECEMBER 2023

A very warm welcome to everyone joining in worship today.
If you are a visitor, or new to the area, please make yourself known to the worship leader, duty elder, or sidespersons and write in the Visitor's Book on the table at the back of the church.
Tea and coffee will be served in The Oasis after the service – please join us for a time of fellowship if you are able to.



SUNDAY 3RD DECEMBER – FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT:

11.00 a.m. Morning Service led by Geoff Easton.

During the service the first candle will be lit on the Advent ring (John & Celia)

Reading: Luke 1:1-25 (Richard)

Duty Elder: John Miller

6.30 p.m. Advent Service with Carols & Readings at St. Giles' Church – all are welcome and members of our URC choir will be singing in the service.

COFFEE SHOP IN THE OASIS open Monday to Friday 10.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY 6TH DECEMBER:

1 – 2 p.m. 'Food for Thought' in the Oasis Café – *full details overleaf.*

FRIDAY 8TH DECEMBER:

6 – 9 p.m. **Ickenham Festive Community Night** .

Our church will be decorated with a display on the theme of 'Peace' and there will be refreshments in The Oasis, gift stalls and a Raffle.

SATURDAY 9TH DECEMBER:

10 a.m. – 12 noon **Festive Coffee Morning** in The Oasis and gift stalls.

SUNDAY 10TH DECEMBER:

11.00 a.m. Morning Service led by Sue Clifford.

During the service the second Advent candle will be lit on the Advent ring.

Duty Elder: Dorothy Vickery

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*Copies of NIV Bibles are available for you to use during the service.
Please collect one from the shelves at the back of the church and return them,
along with your hymn books, at the end of the service*

Meeting for prayer before the service, from 10.40 for 10 minutes in the Hardwick room.
Anyone is most welcome to join in.

Pauline Woodham will usually be available after the service for anyone who would like to chat about concerns or worries and would like someone to pray with them.

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world.
Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life."
John 8 v. 12

Contributions to the Offertory to support the work and Worship of the Church may be made by cash or cheque in the bag during the Service or by bank transfer.

Gift aid envelopes are available to use, if appropriate. All donations are gratefully received and will be dedicated during the service. Further details from the Elders if required.

'FOOD FOR THOUGHT' - Wednesday 6th December – The Oasis Café 1.00 to 2.00 p.m.

Come and enjoy a time together with soup, a roll and a speaker.

Revd Manoj Raithatha, Minister at Pinner Baptist Church speaking on – *'The Power of the Gospel'*.

Please indicate if you wish to attend, either by signing the list at the back of the church or by calling the Church Administrator on 07792143888 (Please note - no meeting in January)

ICKENHAM FESTIVE COMMUNITY NIGHT - Friday 8th December

A reminder that there is a box outside Shellie's office for raffle prizes and items for the stalls on Festive Community Night. Our church and the Oasis are open that evening as part of this event.

TREE OF REMEMBRANCE – This year the tree on the path between St. Giles' Church and the Church Hall will be our Tree of Remembrance. If you would like to place a star on the tree, there are two ways you can do this: either by making your own star or bauble, writing on it the name of the person you want to remember, adding a ribbon or cord and placing it on the tree, or there will be a basket of wooden stars available in our church vestibule by Shellie's office. (Stars also available at Ickenham Butchers, 3 Swakeleys Road).

From Friday 8th December (Ickenham Festive Night) the tree will be decorated with lights. During the afternoon of Wednesday 3rd January the stars will be removed from the tree and placed on the altar in St. Giles' Church. On Thursday 4th January the stars will be blessed during the 10 am Communion Service.

NOMINATIONS FOR CHARITIES 2024 – each year we usually nominate charities to support through our fundraising events. (In 2023 we have supported The British Red Cross and Asthma+Lung UK)

We are now asking for nominations for 2 charities to support in 2024 – one international & one national.

***Please send your nominations to Shellie TODAY** so that she has time to prepare the relevant paperwork. Shellie will need details of the charity name, charity number, address & brief details.

The result of the ballot will be announced at the Church Meeting on 28th January 2024.

REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR – We are suggesting that in the coming weeks you might like to consider a 'Reverse Advent Calendar', whereby you buy an item for the Foodbank for each of the days in Advent and make up a bag. Your donation will help families in need and make a really big difference this Christmas. Your bags/donations may be placed in the Foodbank Box at the back of the church whenever you can and definitely by **December 15th**

HILLINGDON CHORAL SOCIETY CHRISTMAS CONCERT

SATURDAY 9TH DECEMBER – 7.30 p.m. at Ickenham URC

Tickets £15 adult & Children free. Programme: Handel's *Messiah* Part 1 & Carols for choir and audience.

PRAYERS FOR OUR COMMUNITY & FOR THE WORLD

Please remember the following people and situations in thought and prayer:-

Richard Boyes who is recovering at home after spinal surgery.

Joan Howells who is now living at White Plains Care Home, Denham.

All who will be involved in preparations for the events taking place in Ickenham on the Community Festive Night in our churches and elsewhere

The people of Iceland who have had to leave their homes because of an imminent volcanic eruption.

Our earnest and heartfelt prayers continue for the end of the war in Ukraine and other war-torn areas, thinking especially at this time of all the innocent victims of the conflict between Israel and Palestine, that a peaceful resolution may be found in that devastating situation.