



Left: Covenant with St Giles'

Over the years, even before the Covenant came into being, there has been a long history of our two churches in Ickenham working together; through such things as Holiday Club, the Good Neighbourhood Scheme, Women's Group, fundraising for Christian Aid, Good Friday Walk of Witness and at the Ickenham Festival and joint services, to mention but a few. In 1992 the area between the main hall and the church building was enclosed to provide more internal accommodation and new toilet facilities with a disabled toilet. In 2006 the church sanctuary was re-decorated after an extension was made to the chancel area, providing a larger raised space for the serving of Communion and for drama and other activities to

enhance worship. In addition the church floor was carpeted and new doors hung. The worship area now contains comfortable chairs which can be linked together or moved about for different purposes, allowing us greater flexibility in the use of the sanctuary.

It was due to a generous bequest from the estate of the late Ted Wiseman, in addition to profit from the sale of the Manse in Swakeleys Drive, loans from church members, a grant from the URC and a lot of work and effort and years of planning, that the church was able to move forward with its most recent building project. The idea was to enhance the front and side area of our building and make its appearance more welcoming. The vision was that the worship space should become more integral to the whole life of the building and to have the church sanctuary opened on a regular basis to be available for private prayer and contemplation.

Finally there was to be a "café space at the side of the building and we have continued to explore the ways that this space, now called The Oasis, has been able to enhance our church life, our ability to provide hospitality and our outreach to the community. All this came into being with the dedication service in June 2018.



Ickenham United Reformed Church - a short history



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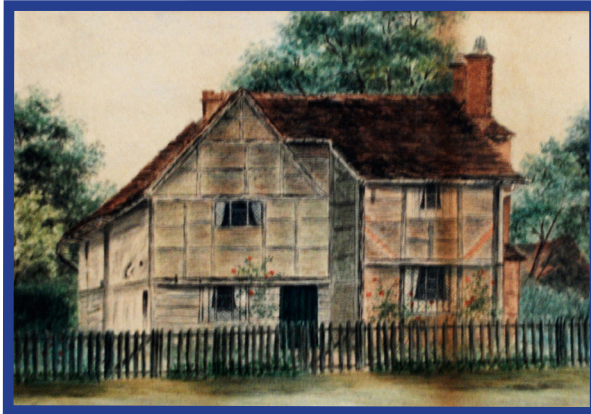
Ickenham URC

People sometimes ask what the United Reformed Church is, so let us start with that. As one of the denominations of Non-Conformist churches, the United Reformed Church has brought together English Presbyterians; English, Welsh & Scottish Congregationalists, and members of the Churches of Christ, through unions in 1972, 1981 and 2000.

In 2022 The United Reformed Church celebrated 50 years since its inception and was commemorated with a special service at Westminster Central Hall.

Ickenham URC started life as a Congregational Church. Just as a point of interest I believe that the United Reformed Church had women ministers from the 1970s, long before many other denominations.

Non-conformist worship in Ickenham dates from 1831, when a person called William Brickett and his wife invited some friends to join them in Sunday evening prayers at their cottage in Glebe Lane, in the area of the present day Glebe Avenue. The Bricketts had

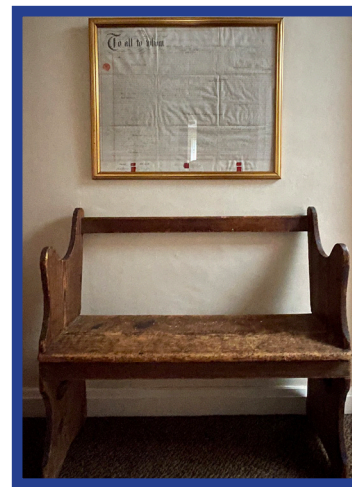
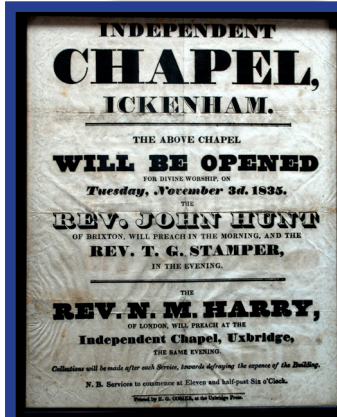


been worshippers at Providence Congregational Church, Uxbridge, and were encouraged by its Deacons to begin services in Ickenham. The Brickett's cottage soon proved too small for the numbers who wished to attend, so clearly a chapel was needed.

Left: Picture of Bricketts' cottage. The cottage was somewhere in the area of Glebe Avenue but does not exist now

With the agreement of the Lord of the Manor, three Providence Deacons were made tenants of a piece of waste ground belonging to Ickenham Manor. The Congregational chapel (not now in existence) was sited on the present day Ickenham High Road near to the old Saich and Edwards premises. The chapel was built at a cost of £160.

It opened on 3rd November 1835, when the Revd John Hunt of Brixton preached the first sermon. Over the years, the increasing congregation, particularly Sunday School pupils, made additions to the building necessary.



Picture to the left is of the warrant of purchase and pew from the old chapel. Bottom of opposite page are a painting of the old chapel and poster advertising the opening service.

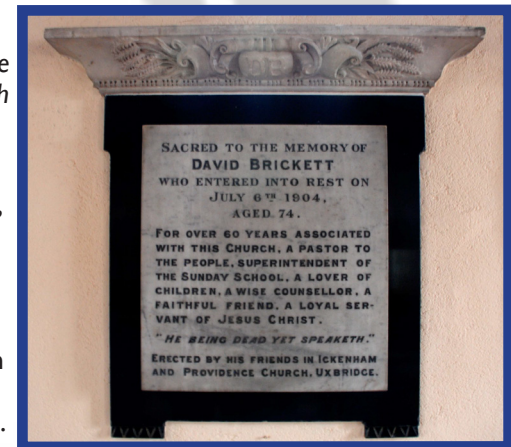
In the early days, ordinary working people used to walk from Ickenham to Uxbridge and back to attend services. William Brickett's son, David, would be sent off on a Sunday morning to Providence Church, Uxbridge, carrying his lunch in a large red handkerchief. After lunch, he would walk back to Ickenham for afternoon Sunday School and evening service. That's dedication for you!

David Brickett subsequently became a pillar of the Congregational Church and was highly respected in the area. He died in 1904, aged 74, and a memorial tablet to him can be seen in the present church. The grave of David and

his wife is in St. Giles' churchyard, just on the left hand side of the path as you approach the church Hall.

Right: Brickett Memorial Plague at the back of the church

In 1919, Ickenham finally became fully independent from Providence Church. With the rapid growth of Ickenham in the late 1920's, the little chapel in the High Road had become overcrowded. Oddly enough, the chapel had never been licensed for marriages. Not until 1930, when it was no longer used for services, was a wedding solemnised there. Anyway, from September 1930, the village hall was hired for services. A new church was now badly needed.



A site was bought in the Rectory Field, Swakeleys Road, for the sum of £500. The new building was opened and dedicated on 7th October 1936 and has been used continuously ever since, except on a few occasions during World War 2, and during the recent lockdown periods of the COVID pandemic.

In 1953 the building was developed further, with the addition of a church hall and some other small rooms. The church hall was later dedicated to Mr S. L. Meggeson, (who had held the office of Church Secretary) and whose untiring enthusiasm was largely responsible for bringing the new hall into being. Then in 1982, using a bequest from Stan Hardwick, a comfortable room for meetings, improvements to the vestry and toilet facilities were completed on the left hand side of the church, the meetings room afterwards known as the Hardwick Room.

Another landmark in our growth was the Covenant of friendship and co-operation between Ickenham United Reformed church and St. Giles' Church, signed at a special service on 28th April 1985. The beautifully handwritten Covenant parchments are on display in both churches – the URC one being on the wall in the vestibule. At that time Revd Alan Cassingham was our Minister and Revd. Paul Kelly was Rector at St. Giles'.