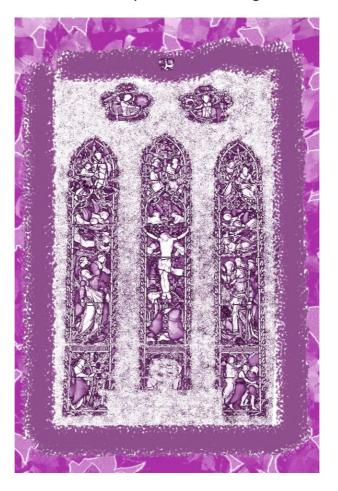
Grapgving

March/April/May 2021



Ickenham United Reformed Church Magazine



MINISTER

In Vacancy



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Please would you inform Shellie if you change address, phone number, or email address, in order to help us keep up to date records

Children & Families Worker: In Vacancy

Opinions expressed in Grapevine do not necessarily reflect the views of Ickenham United Reformed Church

From the Elders

Dear Friends

I have been sitting by our patio doors looking out on a rather gloomy and cold winter's day, with some patches of snow still lying in places, after the recent 'Beast from the East 2', searching for inspiration for this item for our Spring issue of Grapevine magazine. I'm also thinking back to a year ago when we were just starting to hear about the effects of the Covid19 pandemic. Little did we imagine as we began the first lockdown situation in March 2020 that we would still be in a similar situation a year later!

But.....as I look in outside, and as I have wandered round lckenham, I *can* see some signs of spring appearing – the snowdrops and hellebores in flower, daffodils peeping up and buds opening out on our camelias. I think for most of us during the last difficult year a heightened appreciation of nature in our surroundings has been one of the "saving graces" for our mental health.

Now, in the turning of the seasons there is a glimpse of the promise of better times ahead. Added to that, many of us are already being given the opportunity to receive the Covid vaccine. We thank God for the skills of our wonderful scientists and researchers working so hard to develop and adapt vaccines to protect us, and the doctors, nurses and care workers who continue to work under such stressful conditions to treat the patients in their care.

At this present time at the start of Lent, we don't know what the situation is going to be regarding the opening of churches again for worship in the weeks ahead, so it is difficult to plan for events and services which should be taking place at Easter (Easter Sunday – 4th April). We hope and pray that there will be the opportunity to celebrate the wonderful Easter message of rebirth and resurrection in ways that will be meaningful to us all. In the meantime we do thank Peter Williams for the Wednesday morning services he has been organising recently via Zoom and those who have taken part in these services. We have certainly been challenged to find different ways to maintain our worship and social contact in recent times!

The rainbow was a very prominent symbol during last year in our thanks for the NHS workers, so let's keep that in mind as we look to the hope of better times in the future. In the words of Captain Tom, who passed away recently, "Tomorrow will be a good day".

The Prayer of St. Richard (Bishop of Chichester 1245-54)



Thanks be to thee,
O Lord Jesus Christ
for all the benefits which
thou hast given us,
for all the pains and insults
which thou hast borne for us.
O most merciful Redeemer,
Friend and Brother,
may we know thee more clearly,
love thee more dearly,
and follow thee more nearly,
day by day.

Celia

Family News

Hígh Pastures

The following members or friends of our congregation and community have recently Passed into the Light

Jennie Munro • Richard MacLennan • David Crane They will be sadly missed by us all, but their memories will be forever in our hearts. Our thoughts, prayers and love goes out from us to all their families.

Memories of Jennifer Margaret Munro 18th April 1936 – 9th January 2021



Jen did well at school, especially in languages - "Latin and Roman History" to firsts year "A" level. She spoke fluent French - at sixteen, she spent six weeks in Nice when she never heard or spoke a word of English! She also did Spanish and some Italian.

She didn't want to go to university, as she "didn't like the changes it made to some people."

After interview Jennie started training in Cartography at Park Royal in September 1953. This was part of "The War Office."

The training course at meant that each student would also do day release at Ealing Tech. in "A" level Geography and a non-Roman alphabet language. Jennie studied Chinese (with a Russian teacher and Russian text books!) for five years.

Our first meetings were on a two-week surveying course in June 1954 in Chesham Vale.

I had started training in May '54 as an extra "Civil Service" intake - on the course, I helped Jennie though fences and hedges and avoiding cows! We started going out together very soon afterwards.

At the end of her training in September '55 Jennie worked on drawing huge air plotting charts (1 1/4m x 1m) then on various series of land maps. She was then selected to produce the correct positions for all the names on a series of maps of Oman, produced from air photography. This meant about fifty maps in all and she was the known expert in this field - she also learnt a lot of Arabic too!

We knew that I would start National Service in June '56 and were very firmly involved about our future. We got engaged on Valentine's Day 1956 (at nineteen years old!)

When I started service in the RAF in June '56 we each write to each other every day. We've still got all the letters which I've recently been looking at.

We got married on 30th August 1958 at St. Catherine's Church, Neasden. Jennie's mum and dad split their house into a bedroom and sitting room for us with an extra small kitchen too.

In 1962 our office moved from Park Royal to Feltham. The journey by public transport was out of the question - so Jen's dad lent us the money to buy a car; our Austin A30. Jen could

drive, she taught me to drive! Over the years, we toured most of England and Scotland (of course!) We had been saving for a house and n 1963 found 7, Wallasey Crescent, which had a large garden - our FIRST requirement.

We both carried on working at Feltham until November 1967 when Suzanne was born and Jennie had decided that as she had finished the mammoth series of Oman maps, she wouldn't go back!

Roddy

Skilled in languages, highly-skilled, trained cartographic draughtsman, excellent artist, writer of poetry and poetic prose, good amateur pianist, knowledgeable in gardening, skilled in sewing and knitting, huge capacity for empathy, loyal friend, seeker of those who needed support in life, and giver of "self." My Mum.

Her mum and dad were always so important to her, we saw them every week, mostly twice a week through all their lives. I was brought up very, very close to them, something that I treasure and am so grateful for. A very close family.

Dad has written of their meeting, and her many gifts including languages.

She was a fine artist too in both oils and pencil - so fine and delicate, she used to laugh at herself as she used a 00 brush to paint in oils. We used to joke that we needed more walls, to display them all: and she still, right up to the end, recognised her own artwork on the walls and would admire it, and say that she painted it. Other times we would say "you did that" and she would indicate that she knew. How wonderful, to have done something that you can see, and be proud of. Even all my birthday present labels were hand drawn for years, and many

will remember her paintings in the hobbies, Arts and Crafts Exhibitions in the church.

Poetry was written in her teens and twenties. Later in life she took to writing beautiful prose, particularly about nature. Many of the nature poems were in one or two lckenham festival exhibitions also. We made a number of them into book, for her beloved friend Margaret, and latterly, I would read many of these to her when she woke after a nap, and she and I would take great delight in them still. I think that is where I inherited my poetry writing from, and she encouraged it quietly. I remember as a child, calling her from bed, when I was supposed to be asleep because "I had a poem, or rhyme" and she would always go and get paper and write it down for me. We shared all, and in recent months, whenever I finished a new poem, I always read it to her, and she really showed pleasure... and said on occasions "that's lovely." Somehow, she could steel feel poetic language. I will be happy to share any of her poetry with anyone who would like to read it.... and have already, this year, put some of her poems on my Instagram account for my poems. It was so wonderful to let the world see what talent she had.... and I showed her too. Even when language was slipping from her, she found other wonderful alternatives.... description of our dahlias.... "the big, white plates...." I think that charming..... and how do you describe a snail, without the noun? ... "the thing with the house on its back..." Wonderful.

In the latter years, she and I made cards together, selling them locally in various places in aid of charity. So disabled, and with dementia, but she could still give, in this way....and she always had a great eye for when "enough was enough"... and I always took her adviceshe had a wonderful artistic eye that never left her.

Charity work was done too, in the form of helping at Barnardo's for years, as a volunteer, as well as countless church sales:....

.... we started going to Ickenham URC in 1986, and shortly after, Mum (and Dad) had their church membership transferred from St. Catherine's. For the next thirty years, we attended church there each week, as well as many, many church events, and attended most weeks, for the next thirty years.

She made countless sewn and knitted clothes for me as a child too, until I grew too big (!) ...and doll's clothes; she was never "not busy." Later, she did cross stitch, until gout and arthritis prevented it.... but latterly, she and I did it together... I sewed the "up" stitches, and she did the "downs." A wonderful, shared hobby, that we spent hours on over the last 6 years, and loved. We were always so delighted when we finished something and I held it up, saying "we did that!"

....and gardening, she loved her garden, designing the garden at Wallasey as well, and spending hours weeding and dead-heading. She knew a lot about gardening too, and was an expert rose pruner... she was always out there, even in a heat-wave..... which she loved. No staying in doors to keep cool for us. Even in recent years, we had to persuade her to stay in on occasions, as she always indicated she wanted to be outside.... which we were, most of each day, in fine weather.

It was mum who first taught me the piano too, for the first year. No piano teaching experience, but my first piano teacher said, "she's been very thoroughly taught." Mum herself did not have lessons until she was 15. By the age of 17, she was playing Chopin, Liszt and the like. (I now know these were grade 6 pieces.... remarkable.) Her next teacher could not believe her progress. She had a few more lessons at 21, and no more, but she always played throughout my childhood, so I grew up loving all the classics. If I joined in, as a toddler, on the bottom, while she was playing, she never stopped me. Later, I was able to give her the joy, first at school, then music college concerts, and

latterly our choir concerts. She came to every single one, and loved them all. In 2015/16, we were able to take her to some of our choir rehearsals, as she had always wanted to be in the choir at school, so she could sit amongst all the singing.... her face was a picture. All her life, she loved classical music. Over the last 6 years, we have done so much singing in the house. and she could still hold any tune. After she was ill in 2015, it was my turn to help her re-learn. She had only played once in the last 20 years, but within six months (and she had been so ill, she could not even feed herself or sit up) she was playing grade one pieces, and we were playing duets together. It was such a privilege to see it return, from the first stroking of certain fingers to help them move, to being able to play a duet with her..... (and her counting was so good!) it was a joy beyond any experience. In November this year, she could still play "Ode to Joy" with the right hand. What achievement.

I also inherited her dislike of housework.....

....and she had perseverance.... in spite of so many ailments, mental and physical, she found a way. Such a gentle person, yet immensely strong.

.... and she was fun too.... we could laugh, and shared all our little jokes together... even in the last few weeks, she and I were still able to laugh "at nothing," and one thing she always maintained, even with Parkinson's was the ability to smile the most lit-up smile, that nurses, doctors and friends alike, would all remark on.... quite amazing.

She was a wonderful and loyal friend to many too..... her lifelong friend Margaret Drew, whom she met every week, and spoke to many days of the week, and other friends to whom she gave so much, when they had troubles of their own. No one ever forgot her friendship; it would touch them for life.

She gave up work to bring me up.... one reason, apart from deep love, that I wanted to look after her. She was always there for me as a child... physically, and emotionally, and we were best friends as well as mum and daughter.... she was always there to talk when I came home from school, and be my partner in games all through my childhood............. and it was she who taught me to be myself, in the face of all peer and other pressures in life, and gave me a quiet confidence in believing in myself, in spite of all odds... no mother could give better gifts than these......coupled with un-limiting love.....

Suzanne

Notices

Díary

World Day of Prayer service

Friday 5th March 2.00 pm was to be at St. Giles'. The service is now being streamed online and the contact details can be found in the WDP article on page 14.

Elders' Meeting

Thursday 1st April at 2.30pm on Zoom

AGM & Church Meeting

Sunday 11th April after Sunday Church service (If easing COVID restriction allow)

Covenant Anniversary Service

Sunday 25th April 11am Joint Service led by Bernie and Gwen Collins at the URC (If easing of COVID restrictions allow)

Lent, Holy Week & Easter in Ickenham 2021

Other Events the easing of Covid restriction may allow

The Elders are continually monitoring the information and guidance we receive and research from the Government and URC Synod as to when we can re-open our church for services. Please keep an eye on the weekly blog. As restrictions ease and when the situation allows we will organise as many events as possible.

Birthdays



March			
19 th	Celia M		
	Richard B		
	Kathryn D		
22 nd	Sue H		
23 rd	Derek E		
	Ruth P		
26 th	Hannah H		
27 th	Heather P		

April			
9 th	Pauline W		
12 th	David M		
26 th	Leigh S		







World Day of Prayer -Fríday 5th March 2021

The World Day of Prayer is an international ecumenical Christian laywomen's initiative. It is run under the motto 'Informed Prayer and Prayerful Action', it is celebrated annually in over 170 countries on the first Friday in March. The

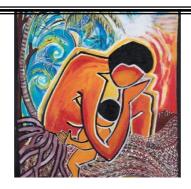
movement aims to bring together people of various races, cultures and traditions in a yearly common Day of Prayer. Each year, one country prepares the order of service, and this year it is Vanuatu in the South Pacific.

The Ruislip Group 30 covers churches of five denominations locally, with two representatives from each church, who take it in turn to organise the service. This year is the turn of St Giles' Church. In view of the pandemic, the decision has been made to use a specially created YouTube session which will be available from the national committee. Thereafter, people attending will be warmly encouraged to donate on-line for the extremely worthwhile causes supported worldwide; remember, many other people are struggling even more in coping with Covid.

Precise details about how to log-in, which will be easily accessible by a single click, and how to subsequently donate, will be circulated through the usual communication channels of St Giles' and the United Reformed Church, and also on the WDP website. For those who are not on-line, a limited number of the service leaflets will be available from the dispenser at the end of the path between the Rectory and the URC church.

If you are unable to get out, I have contacted the World Day Prayer organisers and they tell me that you can apply for the service booklet free of charge at World Day of Prayer, Commercial Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN1 2RR, Tel: 01892 541411 or email office@wwdp.org.uk.

This year the service will be from the women of Vanuatu. Sadly we are not able to re-open local churches for the service, but would still like to worship on the same afternoon from our homes. Try and obtain the booklet earlier, from the churches or the dispenser between the URC and the Rectory. We suggest following the service being streamed from 2.00 from Surrey at www.guildfordbaptist.org (do register in advance); or if you prefer to have South Seas scenery and an international flavour, go to the WDP's main website www.wwdp.org.uk, scroll down to Homepage, and beneath the picture of grasshuts press Play on the blue rectangle (it lasts 33 minutes). Donations can be made via the website or by texting 2021WDP 5 (for £5, or change the last figure accordingly up to £40) to 70085, or by sending a cheque in the brown envelope in the service booklet inside another envelope, to WDP, Commercial Road, Tunbridge wells, Kent TN1 2RR; please do support their very worthwhile projects who need our financial help.





Whilst we have been in lockdown and unable to donate goods for St Gregory's Foodbank it has been encouraging to see the report in ICN of the initiative taken in Ickenham to provide drop off points for donations to Hillingdon Food Bank. Hillingdon Foodbank supports St Gregory's so they will get the benefit. Perhaps you can allocate 40p per day through the 40 days of Lent to make contributions. If you are able to buy donations of food or toiletries perhaps you would like to drop them off at:-

45 Long Lane • 160 Hoylake Crescent • 2 Swakeleys Drive, 40 Swakeleys Road • 5 Warren Road.

Otherwise monetary donations can be made online through the Hillingdon Foodbank bank account :- 23-05-80 10810728 Some suggestions are:-

- Tinned soups Tinned meat Tinned fish
- Tinned potatoes/ smash Noodles Juice cartons SugarJams Sanitary towels •

Thank you.

Patricia

Coming Out of Lockdown???????????

We are hopefully coming near to the end of the latest pandemic lockdown. Mums and Dads are (probably) looking forward to their children going back to school. The children themselves are looking forward to meeting up with all their friends and getting back to playing their favourites games, partaking again in sport, going to the cinema, eating out, etc, etc. The elderly are looking forward to getting out and about...... seeing and hugging families, meeting up socially with friends, taking time off for holidays, visiting National Trust houses and gardens and taking part in their favourite U3A pastimes. We all want to get back to normal!!!!!



What is normal?

A lot of the items above we may have been doing in different forms thanks to technology -

National Trust houses, RHS gardens, Museums and Galleries on-line; the latest films on Netflix, Amazon Prime, Sky, Virgin - catch up television galore!!; the

dining table becoming the shared office whist the children takeover Dad or Mum's office for their online schooling; takeaway food in all the universal cuisines available; shopping online for food and household goods, everyday goods and equipment and luxuries; Zoom meetings with friends, office meetings, church meetings and schooling. The list is endless..... however...... whatever our use of the internet has been and will continue to be, there is still nothing like meeting

up socially at Bridge Club, Yoga or Pilates, Military History, Garden Club, down the pub or restaurant and, most of all, at our churches.

Our communing with God and our beliefs have still been carried out on-line but in person they have a deeper meaning.

Long live the day of the great coming out of lockdown we all proclaim.

John

But I ought to end on a brighter note
So how better than a little quote
"Once more into the breach dear friends.."
Will this virus ever end?
Yes, we must have some hope
This will surely help us cope
As we look out from our little shell
The world outside may cast a spell
Of delight as we watch the trees that sway
The small green shoots that convey
That Springtime now won't be so long
With lovely colours and birdsong.
Until we meet again once more
Let's keep cheerful as before.

(with thanks to Celia's friend Alison Saunders, who wrote this poem)

The Gardeners' Hymn

All things bright and beautiful, All creatures great and small, All things wise and wonderful, The Lord God made them all.

But what they never mention, Though gardeners know it's true.

Is when he made the goodies He made the baddies too.

All things spray and swattable, Disasters great and small, All things paraquatable The Lord God made them all

The greenfly on the roses, The clubroot on the greens, The slugs that eat the lettuce, And chew the aubergines.

All things spray and swattable, Disasters great and small etc, etc The drought that kills your fuschias,

The frost that nips the buds, The rain that drowns the seedlings,

The blight that gets the spuds.

All things spray and swattable, Disasters great and small etc, etc

But still we gardeners labour, Midst vegetables and flowers, And pray what hits our neighbours, May somehow miss out ours!

All things bright and beautiful, All creatures great and small, All things wise and wonderful, The Lord God made them all.





"Hello" said Eli, to the elderly Lady.

"I'm Eli, what's your name?" "I've got a new kitten."

"That's lovely", said the lady, "my cat was old, and I've just buried it with yellow roses in my garden."

What Eli didn't say was that he and his mummy had just done the same to a kitten too.

The elderly lady, with very wet eyes, smiled as he, and his big 'special friend' following, found mummy and told her their story.

The two ladies shared and cheered each other. It was a grey, wet day but they had never met......but here in this moment oh! they 'really' met! Eli by now, was looking lovingly at a small safari jeep, with his big "special friend". He knew not what he had done!

On her way out, the elderly lady found Eli, bent down, and said to Eli "Bless you, I'm going home, so happy!" (He has ears. Let him hear – Bible quote!!)

**Concerns of the concerns of the c



Spring

Jennie



What beautiful words Our Lord.

A man of such stature, striding through the pages of the New Testament.

Our Lord. See His arms outstretched in welcome.

See the loving kindness in His eyes. Our Lord.

A man of great sensitivity and endless compassion.

A life-force which draws everyone to Him.

Our Lord..... A man of God-given love Think of Him and let the warmth flow into your heart.

The forsythia comes first in yellow clouds, putting an end to the dead drear of winter. Golden yellow masses, everywhere you look.

Then the fine, pale pink, delicate, first blossom. Floating, ethereal, seemingly not anchored to the branches and twigs.

Then, suddenly.....sugar-pink blossom. Masses and masses of frothy pinkness.

Eatable, like candy floss. One wants to gather great armfuls and hold it close for ever. Cherry trees and almond trees. Gaze through them at a clear blue sky...... Could anything so beautiful be so fleeting?

Jennie

Giving to support the Worship and Mission of the Church

The end of a very difficult year for all of us shows how we have responded in our donations to the work and worship of our Church. Here I present a comparison of giving to this church for the twelve months to end of December 2020 as compared with the same period in the previous year.

Many people donated online or by cheque during the period of closure of the church and this has helped us considerably.

As we progress through 2021 we have continued to be challenged in various ways by the latest period of lockdown and we look forward with hope that as the vaccines are rolled out through the groups we will be able meet in church and elsewhere again soon. In the meantime your continued support is much appreciated.

Patricia

From the Co-ordinator

Our church activities have not been dormant during the periods of lockdown we have been experiencing since last March. A year ago!! Apart for the periods of time when we were able to open our church for services on Sunday we have been very busy behind the scenes.

With the church being close it has presented to us time for the following to happen.

We have replaced all the emergency lighting in the older parts of the building, bringing them into line with the 'not so new' extension. Also the kitchen shutter has been replaced with a more modern and fire resistant shutter. As I write the fire alarm system, which was installed

when the Oasis area was being built, is being extended to the Small Hall, Hardwick Room, Church Hall, Kitchen, Vestry and Boiler Room.

Ongoing maintenance work is up to date and throughout the year the Property, Finance and Lettings Committees have met on a regular basis on Zoom to discuss and watch over all this ongoing work. We are also looking into, and planning, other improvement projects to enhance the experience and comfort in our church for the community and congregations. *Watch this space for further news*.

Our Elders have also met regularly on Zoom to discuss the continuing work of our church and look forward to the day that normal service is resumed!! Along with online Synod Seminars and Local Area Group Meetings......our church is never asleep!!

As you can see it as also been a very sad time for our church and community with the loss of Jennie Munro, David Crane and Richard MacLennan. Our hearts go out to all their families and friends and we keep them all in our thoughts and prayers at this special time in the church calendar.

I hope you have enjoyed this copy of Grapevine and found something of interest and pleasure within its pages.

John

The next issue will be for June, July, August 2021. The deadline for copy is 13th May 2021. My friend will be round if your are late!!



Regular Activities

Sunday	9.45am 11.00am	Choir Practice Morning Worship & Junior Church		
	6.30pm	1 st , 4, 5 th Sunday	No Evening Service	
	3.00pm -	2 nd Sunday	3.00pm - 4.30pm Children's	
	4.30pm		Sunday Club at URC	
	6.30pm	2 nd Sunday	Choral Evensong at St Giles'	
	6.30pm	3 rd Sunday	'18:30' - Worship + The Word	
			at St. Giles Church	

Holy Communion is normally included in the third Sunday morning service each month.

Monday	10.30 –	Tea/Coffee in The Oasis Café
Tuesday	12.30pm 10.30 –	Tea/Coffee in The Oasis Café
Wednesday	12.30pm 10.30 –	Tea/Coffee in The Oasis Café
	12.30pm 6.00pm	Shine Club
Thursday	7.00pm 10.30 –	Tea/Coffee in The Oasis Café
	12.30pm 1.45pm	Meditation Group (3 rd Thursday of the Month) in The
Friday	3.00pm 10.30 –	Chapel, St Giles' followed by tea in the Thompson Room Tea/Coffee in The Oasis Café
	12.30pm	
Saturday	10.00am	Coffee Morning (at main fundraising events)

Church Office - 01895 634 280

Shellie D'Arcy (Administrator/Lettings Officer) 01895 634 280/07792 143 888

Children & Families Worker:

Position Vacant – however, the usual activities are still being held – see church news sheet for times and dates or contact the Church Office.

For Cubs, Scouts and Beavers -

Chris Potter (Group Scout Leader) <u>c potter @hotmail.com</u> Gary Childs (Chairman) 01895 634487; email gary.childs@Crick.ac.uk

For Guides - Hilary Parker - hilaryjparker@hotmail.com

For Brownies - Susannah Parker susannah.may@ledvance.com

For Rainbows - Nicola Joyce - nickyjoyce72@googlemail.com

Happy Days Pre-School - Sandra 07752 479 750 (9.30am - 3.00pm