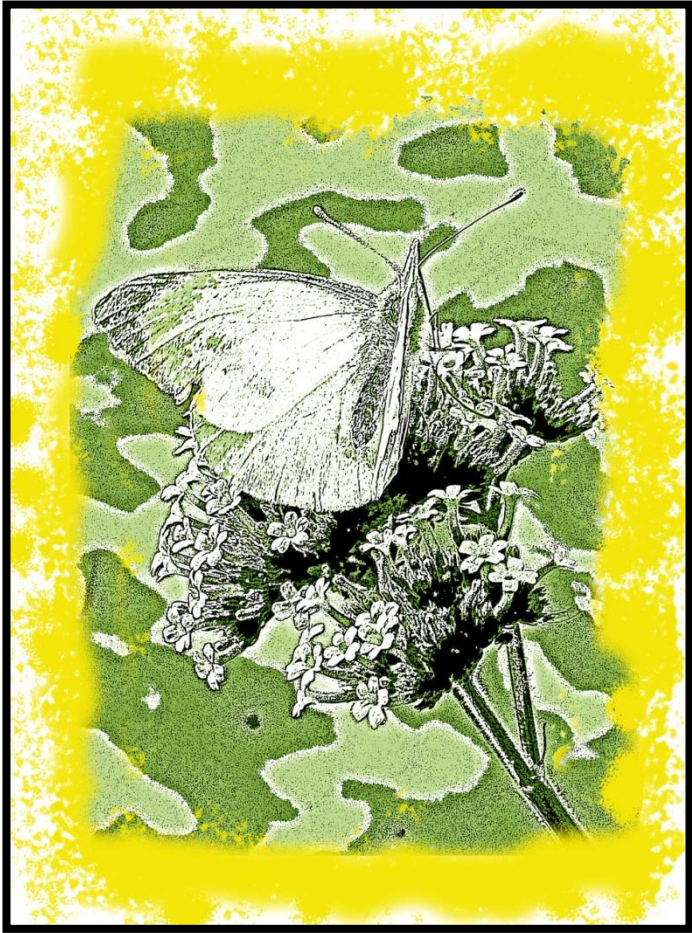


Grapevine

June / July / August 2021

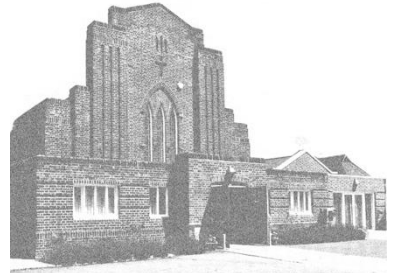


Ickenham United Reformed
Church Magazine



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

At the time of Prince Philip's funeral I was thinking about the theme for my first attempt at the elder's piece for Grapevine. In a very moving service the reading from Ecclesiasticus ch 43 v 11-26 NEB resonated with me. It describes the glory of the stars and rainbow and the marvels of nature so beautifully. We so rarely hear the words from books of the Apocrypha but there is much that is worth reading. In the verses which followed we are told "*We have seen but a small part of his works, and there remain many mysteries greater still. The Lord has made everything and has given wisdom to the godly*". v31-32



As I write the trees are bursting into leaf – the Ash and Oak seem to be neck and neck this spring - I wonder if the summer will be a splash or a soak? Time will tell! The seasons come around each year but less predictably than in years gone by. This spring is a good example - very dry April, snow in parts in May. Each year we all look forward to the blossoming of the

Ickenham cherry trees which this year lasted longer than usual without the wind and rain.

We are all aware that climate change is now a very severe threat to all parts of the world. Some regions have suffered from very such extreme weather conditions which have seriously affected existence and livelihoods.

In the past 15 months whilst the world has been confronted the pandemic of Covid-19 we have become much more aware of our environment and the need to protect it by changing the way we do things. The challenge of climate change is so huge that it seems too big for us to tackle.

In the April/May issue of ICN Glebe Primary School invited us to help them recycle “hard-to-recycle” items. The money raised is being used towards their gardening projects, thereby improving their natural environment whilst avoiding landfill. Please check the list and support one of our local schools in their endeavour. Small steps but we can all help in caring for God’s world.

As we gradually come out of lockdown and face an uncertain future we move forward in faith with Jesus beside us. We face many challenges and there are so many areas of concern throughout the world and we are but small cogs in the wheel but “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.” Hebrews ch 13 v.8 He will be with us as our Guide. The words of Ecclesiasticus remain true today.

Here at Ickenham URC we are eagerly awaiting, in hope and faith, the induction of our new Thames North Synod Moderator, the Revd George Watt, who we look forward to working with in our ‘Way Forward’ in calling a prospective Minister to work amongst us.

We have so much to be thankful for and to pray about.

With blessings from your elders.

Patricía

Family News

Alison and Jeff have now moved to Honiton in Devon. If you would love to keep in touch with them their address and telephone number and email address are as follows.....

42 Church Hill, Honiton, Devon, EX14 2DB

Telephone: 01404 47498. Email: alisontucker@btinternet.com

Peter and Wendy Williams popped in to see them whilst on holiday in Devon and delivered a Pussy Willow tree for their garden and a card from our church.

Diary Dates

Sunday July 4th

If the planned full relaxing of COVID restrictions goes ahead on June 21st, we plan to hold our Church Meeting and AGM in the church after the Sunday service.

Birthdays



| June | |
|------|----------------------|
| 3rd | Nathalie M |
| 4th | Pat V |
| 10th | Julie D |
| 21st | Isobel D |
| 22nd | Bethan H Sophie M |
| 28th | Louise Mc |

| July | |
|------|--------------------------|
| 3rd | Sheila D |
| 11th | Dennis O |
| 15th | Peter W |
| 25th | Margaret S Sylviane C |



| August | |
|--------|---------|
| 4th | Keith H |
| 13th | Liz T n |



Message Given at the Joint Covenant Service Sunday 25th April 2021

My late husband's family weren't great church goers. Actually, that is quite an understatement. Living in the Anglican parish of Herne Hill in South London, the rites of passage, the hatches, matches and dispatches were their main observances.

But no matter which of these, The Lord's My Shepherd was always chosen, always sung. As for me, I grew up in the Presbyterian Church of Scotland, with weekly attendance at

Sunday School as a child then church as an adult, so I often sang this psalm. When I hear it now, I am reminded of various family occasions, both happy and sad, and for those involved, their mustard seed of faith, that no matter what, God would protect.

When we were first married, my husband's job took us to Zurich for a year. We were warmly welcomed and were really grateful to those who helped us and shepherded us through the minefield that is Swiss bureaucracy. It didn't take long for us to realise that cleanliness and health are dear to Swiss hearts and we had a private, though not unkind, running joke. How soon into a conversation would the words *putz* and *gesund*, clean and healthy, occur?

This year the question I've seen written down is, how soon into a sermon will the words Covid or pandemic appear? That's certainly not a joke. Something that has affected the lives of so many people so badly cannot be treated lightly.

We all know that there have been ceremonies and anniversaries during the past year which have had to be cancelled or held differently, and certainly for many, the past year will be a year with sad memories, but the Lord is with us. Our Good Shepherd knows us and will be with us in everything that we face.

Today is a day of celebration. We meet to celebrate and give thanks for the Covenant relationship between Ickenham URC and St Giles. I haven't been to this service in the past but obviously it too is different.

Some friends may be absent. I'm sorry if you were expecting Bernie and Gwen. Chairs may be set apart, we are wearing masks, there's no singing, but still we meet in the presence of God and give thanks for the Covenant which has been, and still

is, so important in the lives of both churches, and to the people of Ickenham.



I have heard about some of the activities which took place over the years but I have to say I was totally blown away when the Reverend Liz Davies brought me to see the annual holiday club. It was like a military

operation with what seemed like year-round planning. And such fun.....

Today we give thanks for the enduring relationship and the continuing commitment to the Covenant and for possibilities of sharing which may yet happen through the guidance of the Holy Spirit...

Thank you to Celia for explaining how the Covenant came about, and for reading it. We know that copies hang on the walls of both churches.

A covenant, drawn up in law, is a contract, an agreement, a treaty, or pact where each signatory promises or makes pledges which are usually beneficial to each other. The word covenant seems so much grander, so much more important than its similes.

I always think of the Covenants in the Bible, the agreements of commitment between God and his people showing that God cares for all of creation. Although the covenants with Adam, Noah, Abraham and David are unconditional, with the Mosaic Covenant came the expectation that the people must behave in a certain way, their behaviour fitting to being God's holy nation.

Keeping the commandments and the Law would show their special relationship with God to their neighbours and would bring blessings. Failure would bring curses and loss of land.

With the Davidic covenant came the promise of a future descendant whose kingdom would last forever. Through this promise arose the hopes of a future Messiah who was more and more desperately wanted by the people when later disasters brought an end to the monarchy and the temple at the time of the exile.

Then came the announcement of a new covenant in Jeremiah 31 promising consolation and a fresh start.

“I will put my law in their mind and write it on their hearts.
I will be their God and they will be my people.”

This was preparing the way for the new covenant through Jesus’ death on the cross, and the tearing of the temple curtain. A time when no intercessors would be needed, a time when no more rituals would be needed, when there would be no more separation from God. Jesus’ sacrifice made a new way for us to reach God.

As our readings today tell us, for John it was all down to, all about love. The love of God for us as individuals, the love of Jesus, the Good Shepherd, willing to lay down his life for us, and love for each other. Love, shown in our actions, by which others will recognise that we are followers of Christ. Christians sometimes have a miserable reputation. It doesn’t mean that we should be seen as people who can’t enjoy life. Jesus was obviously good company. People wanted to be with him and to hear him. We should try to be good company too.

It is said that John’s letters were written to churches which were struggling to keep themselves together because heretical ideas were drawing some of their members away. Charismatic

individuals and exciting new ideas do have a certain pull and it's not always easy to spot what is false. John was urging them to stick to Jesus' teaching, confident in their identity as Children of God.

There is much today which challenges the church. Individual churches and church leaders might also need extra care and support, and our prayers. Being a shepherd to a local community is a huge responsibility, and often a lonely one.

Jesus died out of love. His dying became life for others. His life and teachings inspired and provoked followers to try to live like him.

We need to copy, not just with words, but, as John writes, with actions and in truth. Some of us claim to be more Martha than Mary, or vice versa, but no, we need to be all-round followers, doing, as well as praying and reading the word. Recognising too, that, whatever we have, we have through the grace of God, and being willing to share with those in need.

Christian Aid Week is two weeks away. The appeal letters have been cascading through my letter box along with those from the Salvation Army, Shelter, the British Legion and various other charities. My local food bank always needs donations, my television shows me pictures of distraught people around the world who need help. It can become a bit overwhelming, and guilt-inducing.

In Acts we read of the early church having all things in common. We also read about Paul raising money for the impoverished Christians of Jerusalem, and receiving some questioning and criticism for his actions. When John was encouraging his readers to share, he was probably thinking of charity on a relatively small scale within the local church or community

Two thousand years on, the scale of things is different. We have to make choices about how we use or share our

possessions, as well as our talents and our time. Where we can help, we should. Kindness needn't exact much money from us but will might cost in other ways.

Sadly, we are now all too aware of climate concerns, inequality and issues of exploitation.

How we shop, our use of non-renewable resources, recycling, and ensuring that our choices do not hurt others are matters that we now have to examine and address. Our individual choices and responses probably don't seem very much in the global scale of things, but together they will make an impact.

When questioned by a lawyer, Jesus said that the greatest commandment was to love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your mind and with all your strength and your neighbour as yourself. On the night before his death, Jesus gave his disciples a new commandment.

"Love one another. As I have loved you, you also should love one another." Adding, "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

Set to music it's a lovely anthem that I'm sure you have sung.

By your actions, others will know that you are my followers. It's not always easy to love each other especially as churches are made up of people who are all too human... We certainly won't agree on everything. We might be from different social, political and cultural backgrounds and share little in common except our faith. We will make mistakes and when we get things wrong others are often quick to point out," And they say they are Christian".

None of this should excuse our behaviour, but make us try harder to show what Christian love and fellowship are.

In considering the care of the shepherd or the sharing community of the early church we see love in action. Those

who saw or heard of needs, didn't ignore them, but did something about them.

Our world today is facing many new challenges in an unfamiliar landscape. Isolation, fear, stress, health problems and economic concerns have all left their mark in this last year and we need to think about love in these circumstances.

We have all felt vulnerable and maybe needy in this past year. We have been grateful to those who have supported us, but we too might well have learned to look out for and listen to those who live around us to see how we can help them. Like the covenant it's been a partnership, a relationship for which to give thanks.

*And now a prayer from the URC Prayer
Handbook by Iain McDonald called
"Sharing the Gifts".*

Holy Spirit
Bridging heaven and earth with divine breath
Plant a corner of heaven within each of us
Drive us on to share that gift in ways that reflect justice
So that the wealth of this beautiful planet
Enables all to live fully
And no one lives at the expense of others

Holy Spirit
Binding together divinity and humanity
Plant a seed of divinity within each of us
Draw us on to share that gift in ways that enhance life
So that no one has more than they need
And no one goes without

Holy Spirit
Soothing the wounds of humanity
Pour healing balm into the soul of each one of us
Drive us on to share that gift
In ways that bring peace and wholeness
So that all creation is united in unending love
And no one feels beyond its reach
Amen

Anne



From the Fundraising and Social Group

Spring into Summer at the URC!

Why not celebrate the end of lockdown at our Coffee Morning and Sale of Plants and Quality Books on Saturday 10 July, 10am to 12 Noon, admission free? As well as coffee, tea and homemade cakes there will be the return of our famous plant stall and an exciting range of quality books, mostly priced between £1 and £5 and including a good selection relating to Middlesex and London, as well as oodles of maps at only £1 each and plenty of stamps.

We will, of course, be respecting any Covid restrictions still in existence but hopefully we'll all be able to relax, enjoy ourselves and breathe the sweet air of freedom!

Proceeds will be shared between the church and our external charities for the year.

If you have items to donate please bring them to the church between 3pm and 7pm on Friday 9 July or ring Richard Piper on 01895 634348 for collection. Plants should be clearly labelled, please!

We also hope to hold a full forecourt sale on Saturday 4 September so please note the date and contact me on the above number if you feel that you may be able to help with it. It's good to be back!

Richard



*Sermon – Pentecost
Service Sunday
23rd May Given by
Peter Williams*

A question to start with – when you pray to which member of the Trinity (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) do you pray to? I read of someone who was in a group when that question was asked and the result – numbers for the Father and

the Son were close, though Jesus may have pipped the Father to the post. The Holy Spirit was a distant third, with only a hand or two raised.

So I want you to reflect on how you pray – what is your starting point – who do we each acknowledge – the Lord's Prayer starts 'Our Father'; you hear some people say 'Our loving heavenly Father....'; 'Father hear the prayer we offer' or 'O Lord we come to you this morning..... 'O God (our help in ages past)'; 'Jesus Christ...'; 'Lord, as we come to you we open our hearts...';

It is not difficult to see why: we imagine the Father and the Son as people, so praying to them is conversation; it's comfortable. But how do you pray to the breath of God, intangible, amorphous? It's hard unsettling even. What about the hymn we have heard this morning 'Spirit of the living God fall afresh on me';

It becomes easier to limit the Holy Spirit to the breath which sustains creation – remember the words from Genesis 1 – 'And the earth was without form and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters'.

Staying with the Old Testament I wonder how many of you have read the passage in Numbers before. A group of men were chosen in Moses' day to act with Moses as God's shepherds or elders. These elders were given to ensure that Moses did not carry the burden single handedly. This seems to be the pattern followed by later generations – even now when we think of churches led by a body of elders. The Lord placed his Spirit upon the elders who would assist Moses. The sign of the Spirit's coming was prophesied. Throughout the Bible we find the leaders of God's people were enabled to function only by the Holy Spirit. Moses wanted and longed for the Spirit of God to be poured out on every single person. This was not possible – we need to wait for God's Son – for victory won over sin and death and for Resurrection.

Ten days ago was Ascension Day. This date can be overlooked particularly by non-conformist churches. Yet unless we celebrate the one we cannot really celebrate the other: because Jesus first had to return to the Father (did you see on social media someone wrote that Ascension was when Jesus started to work from home - before the gift of the Holy Spirit could be poured out upon the Church. Ascension Day marked the completion of Jesus' work on earth – 'All His work is ended' as the old hymn points out 'Jesus has ascended: Glory to the King!' – that means that the baton has been passed on to us – and our work is far from complete!

Pentecost was, and still is, a Jewish festival, celebrating the giving of the law to Moses on Mount Sinai. It is therefore no coincidence that God should choose this day to give the Holy Spirit to His Son's followers. The Holy Spirit represents a new kind of law, however, no longer written on tablets of stone, but on the human heart; no longer a series of commandments, but the law of the Spirit – primarily the law of love. The law of love challenges us to reflect on our attitudes and behaviour and urges us to endeavour to live in obedience to God and bear much fruit, the fruit of the spirit as Paul reminds us.

So Pentecost was only the beginning. It was not only to those first disciples that God came intimately and completely in the Holy Spirit. There is plenty left for us! Let's not get too worked up about the 'how', that is God's agenda, and we can trust that it will always be in the time and way which is best for each asking person.

Reference to the Holy Spirit in Denis Golden's challenging sermon last week – and we need to remember that next Sunday is Trinity Sunday -

So the main the point is – it is Pentecost and what happened at the first Pentecost was that ordinary people like Andrew,

Simon, Philip, James, or like you and me, were enabled to become like Jesus – the Holy Spirit descends on the apostles.

Trying to describe what happened, Luke, in Acts chapter 2, used many symbols: noise, wind, fire and dove - they all represent the presence of God. (Today's flower display in Church, represents the white for the Holy Spirit, red for the tongues of fire) The tongues of fire are given to us so that we can deliver the message – that happens at confirmation, baptism or on whatever occasion when the Holy Spirit rests on you.

Some recognise today as the birthday of the Church, others are somewhat shy of Pentecost or Whitsun for those who prefer it perhaps because we do not understand it.

The disciples seemed to have lost control of all inhibitions. We English tend to be a bit wary of that; and most of all, having new powers, is a new thing and we don't normally like change. The Pentecost experience should be so hot and strong but we tend to prefer it soft and gentle: but that's on offer too.

**Have you ever visited Rome?
Have you been in the Sistine Chapel? Well**



If you prefer a pictorial approach to help you to develop your understanding of this power then the most famous of Michelangelo's painting on the ceiling of the Sistine chapel

shows us the spark of life between the finger of God and the finger of man. That is what happened at Pentecost. If we dare to trust him enough, are not afraid of what he might do to us, and dare to reach out towards him as he reaches towards us, the sparks can fly.

You may well know the Hymn 'O thou who camest from above' do you remember the words? (O thou who camest from above, the pure celestial fire to impart, kindle a flame of sacred love on the mean altar of my heart) – the middle line 'Kindle a flame' looks back to the description of the Holy Spirit and forward to the mean altar of the human heart. For the singer it links heaven and earth, past and present; it is poised between the recollection of the miracle of Pentecost and the sense of the here and now.

**We are here in the here and now – what about us?
How do we know we have the spirit in us?**

It is possible to test the validity of his power in us, not by feelings but by how loving we are and by how much we are like Jesus. Jesus was the one really Spirit-filled man, and those who are born of the Spirit grow to be like him.

Perhaps we have no idea how loving and patient and kind we could be, how really good and generous, reliable and reconciling, how gentle and gracious we can become, when the Spirit is fully working in our lives.

When, like Simon, we know we are accepted, and we really believe we are forgiven, we are then free to let our responding love reach out to meet his incoming love; they will fuse together, and we will be transformed by his Love.

What we do need to do is to return ourselves to that deep, passionate longing for God, more than anything or anyone else.

And God will come and breathe his life into us all, and the effects will show.

Where do we go from here?

What is our response to the world we live in?
How can we make a difference?

Professor Tina Beattie – Radio Times last week:

An interesting article about Finding faith by remote control – and the programmes on a Sunday evening – Call the Midwife and Line of Duty. Hastings famous line – ‘Jesus, Mary and Joseph and the wee donkey’ went viral on social media.

Hasting’s faith was more than just an entertaining vocabulary of mild expletives.

He acknowledged his remorse and regret for what he regarded as a terrible betrayal – he said ‘Who’s going to judge what I did’ Her, the law, my colleagues or God? Hasting’s sense of justice is central to his character. It’s mere sentimentality to believe that religion is all about being nice without justice or judgement.

We must not forget that we have been commissioned to share the Good News of the Risen Lord. We may not have a party political agenda, but Christ’s manifesto is clear in setting the priorities of whom we should be working with.

So what of our enthusiasm? The word comes from the Greek word which means ‘possessed by or inspired by God’. How do you stay inspired? – You need a daily infusion of God’s Word and God’s Spirit. Paul challenged the Christians in Rome ‘Serve the Lord enthusiastically.’ He also said in Galatians – ‘If someone is eager to do good things that’s all right’. So instead of complaining about all the things you don’t like, realise that the presence and power of God lives within you and put a

smile on your face and a spring in your step. Remember who's kingdom you're a citizen of. God's.

What do we need to do about our spiritual life? David said, 'I keep my eyes always on the Lord. With him at my right hand, I will not be shaken.' Those words are perhaps the simplest and best definition of spiritual life. The Bible also says, 'We have the mind of Christ' – You say what does that mean? It means that the in-dwelling Christ can think His thoughts through you and me. Isn't that wonderful? When you and I have a feeling of reassurance, or a sense of guidance, it means God is present with you. So we must pay attention and honour his presence by responding to him. Perhaps you've always wondered what it means to 'walk with God'. Now you know.

A quote from Donald Coggan: 'The purpose of the Church in the world is to be the worshipping and witnessing spearhead of all that is in accordance with the will of God as it has been revealed in Jesus

Is it a ministry - or is it a job

If you are doing it because no one else will...it's a job!

If you are doing it to serve the Lord...it's a ministry!

If you are doing it just well enough to get by,...it's a job!

If you are doing it to the best of your ability,...it's a ministry!

If you'll do it only so long as it doesn't interfere with other activities...it's a job!

If you're committed to staying with it, even when it means letting other things go...it's a ministry!

If you quit because no one ever praised or thanked you...it's a job!

If you stay with it even when no one seems to notice your efforts...it's a ministry!

If you do it because someone else said it needs to be done...it's a job!

If you do it because God has convinced you it needs to be done...it's a ministry!

It's hard to get excited about a job.

It's almost impossible not to get excited about a ministry!

People may say 'well done', when you do your job.

The Lord will say, 'well done', when you complete your ministry.

An average church is filled with people doing jobs! A great church is filled with people involved in ministry!

That's our challenge on this day of Pentecost.

Amen

Síngíng for Joy!

I wonder how many of you have watched the programme "The Repair Shop" on BBC1?

It is based in a barn at the Weald & Downland Living Museum in Sussex. People bring their treasured family possessions there to be restored by expert and dedicated craftsmen and women who have truly amazing skills. The stories attached to the keepsakes are often very interesting and moving. On one programme recently, a man brought along a silver crown from the Welsh National Eisteddfod of 1937, which had been awarded to his grandmother, then the age of 15 years old, as a prize for reciting poetry. The team restored the crown to its former glory to be returned to the family.

In case you are not familiar with the meaning of the Welsh word "eisteddfod", it describes an annual assembly and competition between Welsh poets and musicians, and the National Eisteddfod is held at a different place in Wales each year. Watching the BBC programme brought back memories of when, in August 1963, I was fortunate to take part in the opening ceremony of the National Eisteddfod, when it was held in my home town of Llandudno, North Wales. I was singing

songs in Welsh as a member of the school choir at John Bright Grammar School. It was probably the first time I had sung with others in front of such a large audience and it was quite an experience that I can clearly recall after almost 60 years!



My life since those early days has continued to be blessed by the thrill of choral singing with others. After leaving school I joined my college choir and afterwards, as my working life as a teacher progressed and over the years since, I have been a member of several choirs, singing groups and church choirs. Throughout my life, the joy of singing with others has always lifted my spirit and I have been very privileged to sing wonderful pieces of music, both religious and

secular, in some amazing places – concert halls, churches and cathedrals – and alongside some very talented musicians, both in this country and in Europe.

I thank God for the gift of music in my life and the joy of singing with others, which is probably one of the things that I have missed most during the pandemic.

Celia

*O for a thousand tongues to sing
my great Redeemer's praise,
the glories of my God and King,
the triumphs of his grace.
(Charles Wesley 1707-88)*

Following is a poem, written by a pen friend Suzanne has made on Instagram, through discovering each other's poetry sites..... She lives in India.

This poem was posted at the end of April, and was penned out of fear and horror, at what unfolds around them at present. There was another poem two days later.. Her poetry is keeping her sane. As the UK comes out of its second lockdown, may we remember her, and her country. Reading this really makes it so personal.... these poems are a witness to their life at the moment. I wanted to share these.....

The Trolley Problem

The ice cream man's bell
pierces the gloom
of survival fatigue
in the neighbourhood.
He pedals mournfully
in the unforgiving April heat
which belies the coldness
of apathy in our averting eyes
from growing tallies—
Another phone call.
A relative gasps for breath;
A colleague dies in her wait;
A friend rummages for beds.
What can be done?
There's nothing to say.
Along the many stages
of over-encompassing grief,
We have reached
freezing silence.
Living in the wilds
Running for our lives
Surviving.
As predatory laws

Strike.
One after another.
We look at each other
We do not speak.
We hear them chant
The *Atmanirbhar* psalms
Taking precautions is your responsibility.
He's losing consciousness.
Social distancing saves lives.
His words are slurring.
Isolate yourself to stop the spread.
My father's life or yours?
The newspaper advert
slowly start to distort,
Every man for himself.
Even the dead are left
To dig their own hole
In parking lots, in roads,
in corridors, in corners,
in overflowing mortuaries
in this unforgiving heat
when sweet-tongued
ice-cream sticks
advanced in big rallies
lipsmacking in all flavours
orange, green and red
and swallowed us whole.

Note: 'Atmanirbhar' is a slogan used by the PM as his vision for the country. The word means self-reliant.

Paperbirdme April 2021

Suzanne

When can we sing in the pews again?



During lockdown the loss of singing in our churches has been such a deprivation, hardly mentioned compared to other restrictions, some of which have been lifted, others to follow.

It all started with Moses, the day that the Lord saved Israel, when they saw the Egyptians lying dead on the shore. Moses and the Israelites sang a song of victory to the Lord, the Song of Moses and Miriam.

Music plays such an important part in worship and celebration, singing an expression of love and thanks to God. The Song of Moses is thought to be the oldest recorded song in the world, lifting the hearts and voices of the people outwards and upwards. After being delivered from great danger they sang with great joy, hymns and psalms, a great way to express their relief, praise and joy, when they had been in such danger.

We can compare their experience to that which we will have when this Covid Pandemic is over, that is as far as it can be over, we have so much to be give thanks for now, the vaccine, NHS, volunteers, and many more.

When can we sing again?

We can sing now, not in church but at home, joining in with Songs of Praise, on video links, on Zoom and singing in our hearts. We will sing together again, open our hymn books and sing with joy and praise. We don't know when but sooner or later our time will come. We can then sing to the Lord with hearts, souls and voices.

We say Amen to that.

Jean

The Peace of Wild Things

When despair for the world grows in me
And I wake in the night at the least sound
In fear of what my life and children's lives may be,
I go and lie down where the wood drake rests
in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds.

I come into the peace of wild things
Who do not tax their lives with forethought of grief.
I come into the presence of still water.
And I feel above me the day-blind stars waiting with their light.
For a time I rest in the grace of the world, and am free
Wendell Berry

Wendell Erdman Berry (born August 5, 1934) is an American novelist, poet, essayist, environmental activist, cultural critic, and farmer. He is an elected member of the Fellowship of Southern Writers, a recipient of The National Humanities Medal, and the Jefferson Lecturer for 2012. He is also a 2013 Fellow of The American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Berry was named the recipient of the 2013 Richard C. Holbrooke Distinguished Achievement Award. On January 28, 2015, he became the first living writer to be inducted into the Kentucky Writers Hall of Fame.

From the Co-ordinator

I think we have been very fortunate to have been able to hold our Sunday services in church during lockdown when restrictions allowed us to do so. It was only possible through a lot of hard work by our Elders and some members of our congregation and membership. I think it does show however that the Holy Spirit is strong in our Fellowship. Where this a will, there is a way!!!

As some of you have been unable to attend our services through isolation and covid restrictions I thought it only appropriate that two of the sermons / messages of important services be posted in our Grapevine magazine and bring their message to you.

If you have read them by the time you get to this point you know which services they were from and I very grateful to Anne Byfield and Peter Williams for letting me share them with you all.

Well done to Patricia Potter on her first Elders article for Grapevine. As she said it came from inspiration around her and prompted her to put pen to paper (or fingers to keyboard). I am always looking for new talent and articles so if you feel moved by inspiration and the urge of writing hits you I look forward to receiving your article for future publishing in Grapevine.

One of the pleasures Patricia mentioned in her feature was the cherry blossom trees in Ickenham. The flowers come in splendour every spring and disappear into a carpet of pink on our road, drives and



pathways when the first strong winds, which seem to appear we great regularity nowadays, blow it all off like a snowstorm. To help you remember herewith is a picture for you to remember it by.

John

The next issue will be for September, October, November 2021.
The deadline for copy is 13th August 2021.

Regular Activities

| | | | |
|---------------|----------|---|--|
| Sunday | 9.45am | Choir Practice | |
| | 11.00am | 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 – 12.30pm | Tea/Coffee in The Oasis Café |
| Tuesday | 10.30 – 12.30pm 1.30 – 3.30pm | Tea/Coffee in The Oasis Café Women's Group Badminton |
| Wednesday | 10.30 – 12.30pm 6.00pm - 7.00pm | Tea/Coffee in The Oasis Café Shine Club |
| Thursday | 10.30 – 12.30pm 1.45pm- 3.00pm | Tea/Coffee in The Oasis Café Meditation Group (3 rd Thursday of the Month) in The Chapel, St Giles' followed by tea in the Thompson Room |
| Friday | 10.30 – 12.30pm | Tea/Coffee in The Oasis Café |
| 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) c.potter@hotmail.com

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)