

Grapevine

December 2024
January/February 2025

CHRIST

the
light
of the
world

Ickenham United
Reformed Church Magazine



Minister
Rev'd Wilbert Sayimani
Tel: 07950 485707



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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



The story is told of a farmer who didn't believe in Jesus. One snowy Christmas Eve, his wife was taking their children to a service at their local church. He refused to go saying: *"Why would God lower Himself to come to Earth as a man? That's ridiculous!"* So, they left him at home.

During the evening the winds grew stronger, and the snow turned to a blizzard. He heard a series of loud thumps on the window. In the field near his house, he saw a flock of wild geese. They had been migrating south when they got caught in the snowstorm. They were lost and stranded on his farm, with no food or shelter.

The man wanted to help the geese and so he opened the doors of the barn, hoping they would go inside for shelter. But the geese didn't do anything, despite the man's efforts to move them. He made a breadcrumb trail leading to the barn and tried to shoo them toward the barn, but they only got more scared and scattered.



Nothing he did could get them to go into the barn: *"Why don't they follow me?!"* Then he realised: *"If only I were a goose and become one of them, then I could save them."* Finally, he understood the

heart of the Christmas message. God has become one of us in Jesus. The eternal creator God has entered time and space as a baby, to show us who God is and how we can know Him. This Christmas let us celebrate again this amazing truth that we have a God who knows and can meet our needs in Jesus.

“The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call Him Immanuel, which means ‘God with us’”. Matthew 1:23.

John Miller

Family News

		December	
	9 th	David Fish	
	27 th	John Miller	
			
January		February	
1 st	Dorothy Vickery	2 nd	Alan Carey
		3 rd	Bryan Webb
5 th	Wendy Williams Rev'd Wilbert	10 th	William Sims
		19 th	Edward Sims
15 th	Julia Fish	22 nd	Crimson Wilson Madadi

Diary Dates

Church Meeting

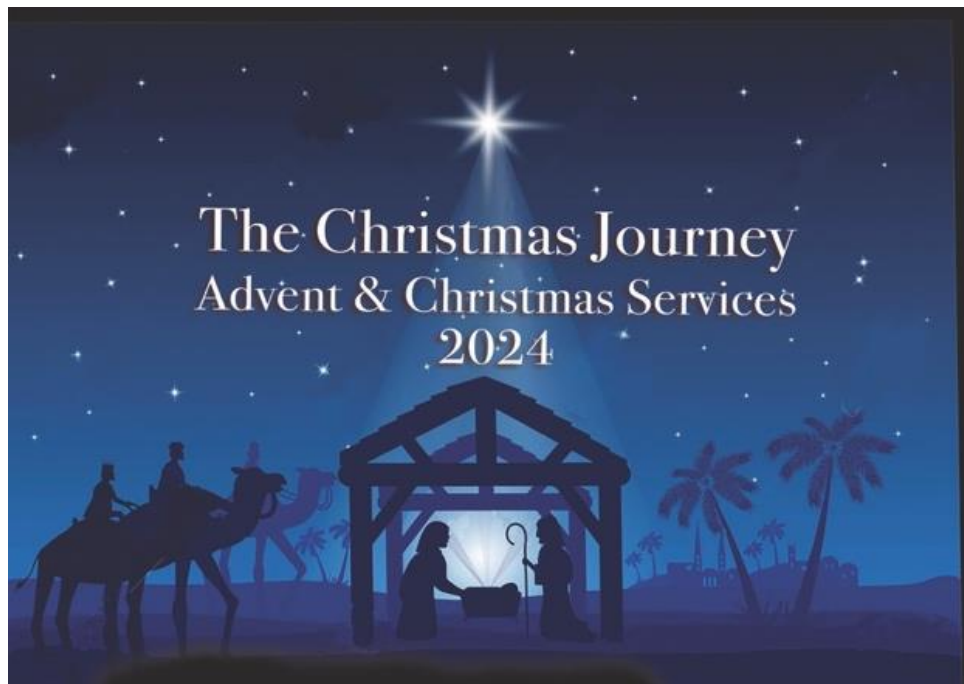
Sunday 26th January 2025 – in The Oasis
in The Oasis

Elders' Meeting

Tuesday 14th January 2025 – in The Oasis

New Year's Lunch

Sunday 2nd February 2025



Sunday December 1st

11.00am URC: Morning Service
Led by Rev'd Wilbert Sayimani

Wednesday December 4th

1.00pm – 2.00pm URC: 'Food for Thought' in The Oasis

Friday December 6th – Festive Community Night

6.00-9.00pm URC: Church open with Festive Display.
Refreshments served in The Oasis with stalls of Christmas goods
and a raffle.

Saturday December 7th

10.00am – 12 noon URC: Festive Coffee Morning in The Oasis
with stalls of Christmas Goods

Sunday December 8th

11.00am URC: Morning Service
Led by Geoff Easton

Sunday December 15th

11.00am URC: Morning Service with Holy Communion

Led by Rev'd Wilbert Sayimani

Sunday December 22nd

11.00am URC: Morning Service

Led by Rev'd Maggie Hindley

6:30pm Carols by Candlelight – carols and readings

Wednesday December 25th – Christmas Day

10.00am Family service led by Jeremy Day & Worship Group

Christmas Day Offertory

This year the Elders have agreed to support Centrepont with the offertory received on Christmas Day.

Below is an excerpt from their website describing their work.

Starting out as a night shelter, Centrepont's work with young people has evolved beyond all recognition over the last 50 years.

In the centre of London's Soho in December 1969, the Rev'd Ken Leech opened a night shelter in the basement of his church to give homeless, young people a safe place to sleep. Towering over Soho was the Centre Point building, left empty to make money for property developers. Incensed by this "affront to the homeless", Ken Leech called his shelter Centrepont.

In the 1970s, we expanded to take on a hostel and bedsits and we had our first housing pathway for young people out of homelessness. Our services are what make Centrepont so special, we focus on giving young people not just a bed for a night but a home where they can reclaim their future with the support of our dedicated frontline workers.

Over the years we have grown, offering services around the country and developing truly innovative approaches to help young people. We work in partnership with other charities all over the UK, we learn from each other and we join forces to call for change. We know we can not end youth homelessness alone – it will take collaboration and systemic change, but we believe we can do it and are committed to ending youth homelessness.

We started with one small shelter, now through our floating support, rough sleeping and resettlement services but with almost 136,000 young people at risk of or experiencing homelessness last year – we're needed more than ever.

Back in 1969 our founders looked at the number of young people sleeping on the streets of London and instead of saying 'something should be done', they thought 'what can I do?' From this attitude Centrepont was born and while the way we deliver our services have changed, we remain true to our roots – supporting young people out of homelessness and on to the future they rightfully deserve.

Sunday December 29th
11.00am URC: Morning Service
Led by Jeremy Day

Meet Elizabeth Chamberlain

For those of you who have not seen me or met me my name is Elizabeth Chamberlain and I formally joined the church in September. I have been worshipping at Ickenham since last year so hopefully I have bumped into most of you.....

I have lived in the area for most of my life apart from going to university and working for a short time in Epsom. I lost my husband last year so have finally given up working and have taken up the opportunity to volunteer in a number of groups and organisations. Some of you may have also met me in Uxbridge public library - where I have worked for the past few years (you never know I may have provided you with recycling bags!).

I love music so have taken up singing with some local and not so local groups again. It was this love of music which bought my husband and I together – he was playing a role in Gilbert and Sullivan's Mikado and I was babysitting someone's son.... My faith journey has been as varied as my life. I was baptised and confirmed in the Church of England at St Mary's in Denham Village. This was my church home from my early years through Sunday School and Girl Guiding. At university in Bristol I joined the Christian group Navigators



and worshipped at Clifton Cathedral. Here I sang in the choir and we made a recording.

When university finished I returned to Uxbridge – all bad pennies return home as they say! During this period, I worked with the British Library in London. At this point I worshipped at Christ Church in Uxbridge. This lasted until I returned to studying at Loughborough where I found the United Reformed Church and its choir. This included performing in a Christmas concert at De Montfort Hall in Leicester. After completion of my studies work brought me to Epsom and the Methodist church. This was big and busy church with lots of catering events, amateur dramatics and Girl Guide units. This was a challenging time, but we had the guidance of many seminal Methodists including Donald English as there was a retirement home for Methodist ministers nearby.

Family and living circumstances brought me back to Uxbridge when I ended up back with mum in Uxbridge. My church journey also brought me back to Christ Church. Then the man of my life appeared!!! We were members at Queensbury Methodist Church – where we were married in 1994. This was an interesting time for the church and we were involved in the stewardship team for a while. All of this was done whilst living in Ruislip.

At the Millenium we rethought our physical journey to church and found the Methodist church in Ickenham Road in Ruislip. This was our church home for many years with involvement in catering, Methodists Behaving Badly, projects including improvement of access and fund-raising concerts. Last year I made the momentous decision to move churches and found Ickenham...

Why Ickenham now? I had been feeling frustrated with the administration of the Ruislip Methodist circuit for some time which coincided with significant change in my life with the death of John. Ickenham URC was familiar to me as we had worshipped a few times at the church and John had performed in a couple of Stainer Crucifixion events. The welcome I have received has supported me through getting used to being single again and guided me to new paths in my faith journey. I look forward to this continuing with you all... I close with a couple of my favourite Bible verses:

Ask and it will be given to you, seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks the door will be opened

Matthew 7: v 7-8

The Induction of Rev'd Wilbert Sayimani

On 21st September over a hundred people gathered to celebrate the induction of Wilbert as the new Minister for Ickenham and Christ Church, Uxbridge, URC's. Ickenham was well represented with 24 members from our congregation.

The Rev'd Christine Britton also attended with several other members from St Giles. The wider community were also represented, including the Deputy Mayor and Mayoress of Hillingdon, our new MP Danny Beale and



representatives from other denominations including the Church of England, Methodists and Salvation Army and a contingent from Wilbert's former Church Richmond Hill, Bournemouth.

The Rev'd James Field, who is well known to both churches, presided over the event, as the Rev'd George Watt, Thames North Synod Moderator was still on sabbatical leave. The sermon was given by Rev'd Dr Kevin Snyman, a URC Minister formally from South Africa, who was unfortunately unable to be present, as he had contracted covid, but had sent an excellent message via video.

He spoke glowingly about Wilbert, who he had met at university and suggested

that under Wilbert's guidance we should be prepared to change and grow, an exciting prospect.

Kevin spoke about his work with Wilbert in supporting the Falcon Junior School, on the outskirts of Harare in Zimbabwe which is a small rural district school, relying on the generosity of churches and individuals in this

country. It was also interesting to meet up with Rob Holderway, who a number of us will know from, many years ago, when he was a resident of Breakspear Road South. He now lives in Thame and is a member of Wheatley URC in Oxford. He had come to the service as he is heavily involved in his church's significant sponsorship of the Falcon Junior School project and it transpired that Wilbert had preached at his church on several occasions.

Then Wilbert gave a personal statement of his commitment to the service of our Lord and to the 2 churches after which we heard the URC's statement concerning the nature faith and order of our denomination. Then it was time for Wilbert to make his affirmation of commitment to the URC and to the two Churches, which was in turn affirmed by the members of Ickenham and Christ Church, Local Area Group and Synod.

After a wonderful service, the Rev'd Field was able to make the formal declaration affirming that the Rev'd Wilbert Sayimani was Inducted as Minister for Ickenham and Christ Church Uxbridge, United Reformed Churches.

Our thanks to Peter for organising an excellent selection of hymns which were all sung with much energy, by the congregation, led by a large choir combining members of Ickenham and Christ Church plus other friends that Peter had "roped in". The choir also sang Rutter's beautiful anthem *The Lord Bless You and Keep You*.

Thanks also to Pat Smith for her bible reading, Leigh Smith for reading "the Call" which outlined the process leading up to the decision to invite Wilbert to become our minister, and particularly the Elders for their work over many months, from the initial search, through the negotiations with Christ Church and onto supporting the culminating event.

The Rev'd Fields concluded the service by appropriately announcing that it was now "Job Done". We then enjoyed a feast of refreshments and it was a delight to see fully integrated and vibrant socialising amongst members of both churches.

It was truly a most joyous occasion as we celebrated the culmination of an 11 year wait for a Minister, but definitely worth it.

I know that some of you who were unable to be present also watched the service on YouTube, but if you missed it there is still time to watch it on youtube.com/@christchurchuxbridge

Keith Holland



*From the
Fundraising and
Social Group*

Our summer programme of forecourt sales finished on another high note, with a good crowd turning out on an overcast morning for the Late Summer Forecourt Sale. This raised £941 including presales of £186 and brought our total to £2863, with £716 going to each of our worthwhile charities, Smile Train and Papyrus prevention of young suicide. A proportion of the presales was to a specialist dealer in cricket books after I had managed not to buy them all myself! As I have said many times before, I think that these events are worthwhile in themselves in keeping us on the Ickenham radar as well as for the money they raise and we now have a good outlet for surplus books in the form of Michael Sobell House. None of this would be possible of course without our wonderful team of helpers, which numbered 32 this year. About two thirds of these attend the church, with some of the others having a connection and the remainder from St Giles' [thank you, Covenant!] or just friends who are nice people. Thank you all anyway and please make sure that you have noted next year's dates: 3 May, 14 June and 6 September. Our main remaining event is the Festive Community Night on 6 December, which will feature stalls of Christmas decorations and gifts, some small quirky surprises and selected quality books [of course!] alongside a raffle, refreshments in the Oasis, a display of entries for the young people's Christmas Card Competition and "Flash-Sing" carols in the church. We will be open again on the Saturday morning for a Coffee Morning with homemade cakes. We will of course be looking for helpers as well as items for the stalls and raffle [and cakes!] so please do what you can. Donations can be given to me or left in the box outside Shellie's office and we now have some additional storage space for anything left over for 2025.

In closing, it would be remiss of me not to thank Jeremy for the enjoyable Harvest Bar-B-Q and on behalf of the team to wish all in the church a Happy Christmas and an exciting New Year under Wilbert's leadership.

Richard Piper



CLICKRukiga –Rukiga Youth in Development update (RYID)

I previously wrote about our fund raising plans for the RYID programme to allow expansion of this vital work supporting young people to develop their life and work skills.

Excellent progress has been and we received this message from Hillary at the end of October: "I am glad to inform you that the first phase of the Youth work building has been

completed today. Many thanks to you and all **CLICKRukiga** team for the support. My self, all the RYID members and well-wishers are very much proud of you. We hope to resume work when we receive the next funds. Now I am going to be planting some fruits and trees in the compound that will make the place look more beautiful. Attached is a photo of the building taken today. God bless you all, Hillary."



Further money will hopefully be sent in January for completion of the internal work so that the new areas

can be used for training purposes. All money from the Apollo concert, Calendar sales and festive evening will go towards this along with next year's planned Dhamaka meal.

More details on all events and projects can be found on our website (clickrukiga.org.uk) or please just ask me! Thanks again for your continued support.

Julie Dungey

Flowers in church

At Ickenham URC, along with most Christian churches in the UK, it has been our tradition to beautify our church with flowers throughout the year, at the special festivals of Christmas and Easter, and also at Harvest Festival and Ickenham Festival Week, as a connection with, and celebration of, the beauty of God's creation. We hope that they bring joy to people.

On many Sundays, donations are made to provide flowers in memory of departed loved ones, or in commemoration of birthdays, anniversaries and other special celebrations. How meaningful it is to remember people and events special to us in this way! During the year, after services, the flowers are often distributed to people who are ill, or going through a difficult time, or just to cheer someone up, or they might be left in The Oasis for our Coffee Morning customers to enjoy during the week.

I personally find that the act of arranging flowers, even a simple arrangement placed in a vase, can be a form of ministry, by which the Holy Spirit is working through one's individual creativity. In addition, I also have many happy memories of arranging flowers in years gone by with church friends now passed on, and what a companionable time together that was - many of you will remember with fondness such people as Joyce Wolff and Eileen Playle and others.

Flower arranging has always been a great joy to me, but time constraints and other commitments mean that it's not always possible for me to do it every week and now and again you might have noticed that imitation flowers have been provided instead of fresh ones. In order to continue having the beauty of colourful flowers in our church during our worship, we need people who are willing to buy and arrange them, but nowadays there seems to be less people to who have the time, inclination, confidence, or mobility to be able to offer to do this.



Having said this, I do sincerely thank the small number of people from our congregation who, during this past year, have already offered help with arranging flowers, those who are willing to buy their own flowers and arrange them, and anyone who has donated money to the flower fund. We cannot continually provide flowers without donations from the congregation. I will always welcome more volunteers – I know that there are very few who will tackle a complex flower arrangement, but if you're willing to buy and arrange flowers in a vase, that would be great! If you feel that you could offer help occasionally in these ways, it would be very much appreciated. Also, if you would like to provide flowers for a special reason, there are often spaces to fill – just look out for appeals on the Sunday notice-sheet. Please speak to me, Celia Miller, about either of the above.



Flower Arrangers Prayer

*May God grant that our hearts
Our eyes and our hands may
Receive His inspiration,
Enabling us to glorify
His house with the beauty
Of the leaves and blossoms
Which He has created*

Tree of Remembrance



The yew tree on the path between St Giles' Church and the church hall will be this year's Tree of Remembrance. If you would like to place a star on the tree in memory of a loved one, there are two ways you can do this, either by

- (i) 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
- (ii) picking up a wooden star from both our churches and at Ickenham Butchers, 3 Swakeleys Road, writing the name on it and placing it on the tree.

From Friday 6th December (Ickenham Festive Community Night) the tree will be decorated with lights.

On Saturday 4th January the stars will be removed from the tree and placed on the altar in St Giles' Church. The following day, Sunday 5th January, the stars will be blessed during the 8am Communion Service in St Giles'.

After placing your star, you might like to use the following prayer:

Loving God, thank you for NAME, for all the joys and sorrows we shared. Be with me, I pray, as I stumble through this Christmas. May your light guide me and your love strengthen me to cope with each new day. Amen.

The Lord is my Shepherd; I have everything I need. He lets me rest in fields of green grass and leads me to quiet pools of fresh water. He gives me new strength. He guides me in the right paths, as he has promised. Even if I go through the deepest darkness, I will not be afraid, Lord, for you are with me.

(Psalm 23, verses 1-4, Good News Bible)

Jenny Reid, Bereavement Support Group



Cook Islands - World Day of Prayer

Our service this year is at **2pm 7th March 2025 at the Roman Catholic Church of Most Sacred Heart, 73 Pembroke Road, Ruislip, HA4 8NN**. All are welcome so please join us there or let me know if you need help with transport.

Kia Orana! Our sisters in The Cook Islands welcome us and lead us for the Day of Prayer 2025. The Cook islands is a group of 15

islands in the South Pacific Ocean. There is a rich and colourful Māori heritage and a deep connection to nature. Join with us as we pray together and reflect on the theme **'I made you wonderful'**. World Day of



Prayer is an international, ecumenical organisation which enables us to hear the thoughts of women from all parts of the world: their hopes, concerns and prayers. The preparation for the day is vast, the service begins with the writing country and theme being chosen a number of years earlier. After translation, the International Committee in New York disseminates it to the National Committee in each participating country. The service is then discussed and edited before being presented nationally, regionally and eventually locally for branches to make their plans. The Day of Prayer is celebrated in over 120 countries. It begins in Samoa and prayer in native languages travels throughout the world — through Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Europe and the Americas before finishing in American Samoa some 38 hours later. A worldwide wave of prayer.

Julie Dungey

'He gave us eyes to see them'

Wall painting of Pompeii

Throughout time we have explored how art celebrates the wonder of our world – the seasons, the elements, animals and fish, flowers and fruit. They manifest the glory of God the creator. Irenaeus, the 2nd century theologian, went further and wrote that 'the glory of God is a living person.' He was echoing Psalm 8: 'What are human beings that you are mindful of them...you have crowned them and put all things under their feet.' Yes, the universe teaches of God the creator, but in becoming one of us, the Son of God has put human beings above all Creation.



The nobility of that vision is captured in this 1st century wall painting from Pompeii showing Neo and his wife. They lived at a time when St Paul was preaching and the gospels were being written. We don't know if those events made an impact on their lives. But we do know that St Paul was executed around AD67, and just twelve years later this couple were victims of the eruption of Mount Vesuvius.

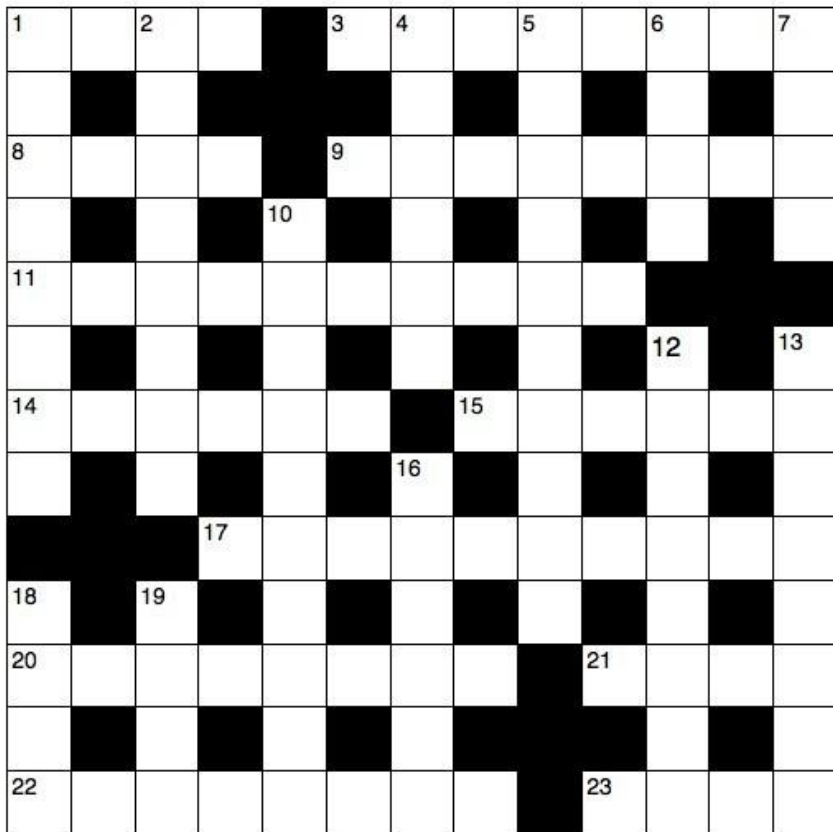
Their almond-shaped eyes are like windows into their souls. We sense the beauty, but also the fragility. They tell us that life is a gift to be cherished precisely because it is so easily taken from us. Neo's intense eyes look at us, while his wife looks beyond into the distance. She has the eyes of hopes and dreams that were cruelly shattered by the volcano.

Living men and women, like this couple, are tokens of the wonder of creation, but they also tell us of the transience of that very gift of life.

'Where can we place our hope?' we ask ourselves. The feasts of All Saints and All Souls tell us that the end of life here is a door opening into a greater glory and a brighter light. There is wonder and beauty in life here, and with the eyes of faith we can look beyond to glimpse the wonder of eternity.



*Mount Vesuvius from
across the Bay of Naples*



Across

- 1 'The blind receive sight, the — walk' (Luke 7:22) (4)
- 3 Got (Philippians 3:12) (8)
- 8 Leave out (Jeremiah 26:2) (4)
- 9 Castigated for using dishonest scales (Hosea 12:7) (8)
- 11 Weighty (1 John 5:3) (10)
- 14 'Now the serpent was more — than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made' (Genesis 3:1) (6)
- 15 'Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot — God' (Romans 8:8) (6)
- 17 Because Israel lacked one of these, tools had to be sharpened by the Philistines (1 Samuel 13:19) (10)
- 20 In his vision of the two eagles and the vine, this is how Ezekiel described the latter (Ezekiel 17:8) (8)

- 21 Rite (anag.) (4)
- 22 Nine gigs (anag.) (8)
- 23 'The eye cannot say to the — , "I don't need you"'
(1 Corinthians 12:21) (4)

Down

- 1 'Flee for your lives! Don't — — , and don't stop anywhere in the plain!' (Genesis 19:17) (4,4)
- 2 Principal thoroughfare (Numbers 20:19) (4,4)
- 4 'The tax collector... beat his — and said, "God have mercy on me, a sinner"' (Luke 18:13) (6)
- 5 'The zeal of the Lord Almighty will — this' (2 Kings 19:31) (10)
- 6 'The day of the Lord is — for all nations' (Obadiah 15) (4)
- 7 Specified day (Acts 21:26) (4)
- 10 Deadly epidemic (Deuteronomy 32:24) (10)
- 12 Roman Catholic church which has special ceremonial rights (8)
- 13 Tied up (2 Kings 7:10) (8)
- 16 In his speech to the Sanhedrin, Stephen described Moses as 'powerful in speech and — ' (Acts 7:22) (6)
- 18 'Although he did not remove the high places, — heart was fully committed to the Lord all his life' (1 Kings 15:14) (4)
- 19 Tribe (Deuteronomy 29:18) (4)

ANSWERS to the Crossword in the Sept/Oct/Nov 2024 issue

ACROSS: 8, Kiriath Jearim. 9, Toe. 10, Ill at ease. 11, Hated. 13, Miletus. 16, Started. 19, Micah. 22, Leviticus. 24, Eli. 25, Mary and Joseph.

DOWN: 1, Sketch. 2, Priest. 3, Samizdat. 4, Shalom. 5, Wept. 6, Breast. 7, Embers. 12, Art. 14, Limassol. 15, UNA. 16, Salome. 17, Adverb. 18, Decade. 20, Clever. 21, Height. 23, Tear.

I'm off and running

By that I mean I've started the Assembly Accredited Lay Preacher's Course (AALP). I completed module 1 whilst away at Northern College (Manchester) in September and I'm well underway with Module 2 - Introduction to Christian Worship. The purpose of this module is to get me to reflect on the meaning and purpose of worship whilst exploring its history (and future!) and identify the elements that make up worship. More about that in a second.

But as well as the progress made as identified above, I have completed initial safeguarding training (*and got my certificate*), with more to do / follow and I have completed the module concerned with my first 'specialism' (Presiding at Communion) and passed. The second being leading funerals which will probably take place in 2025. I was able to join a training session at Trinity High Wycombe held for the Chiltern LAG. The irony of it being in High Wycombe was that had I have moved at the time of the training the church would be a 10-minute walk away from home!

The start of the Introduction to Christian Worship module got us thinking about what worship is and posed the question 'why I think we may engage in worship'. We were required to answer it first ahead of the 23rd October Zoom meeting. On reflection, I felt my initial ideas were quite 'practical', or even functional (e.g. To worship God together to follow the structure of a service led time of worship, To be part of the church family, To seek the support of others – perhaps when going through a hard time, To seek 'formal' prayer, To sing Hymns / Worship songs - *Just a few examples*), but in group discussion, and being led by our Tutor for this module, it soon became apparent I'd been too 'practical / functional' in my answers. The correct answers were more along the lines of "To ascribe worth to God, To meet God as a community of God's people, To be re-orientated, To be changed, To tell God's story and our story, To be taught the faith and To be sent out to play our part in God's mission". It's a learning curve.

I've had a Zoom with my Mentor from Thames North Synod and have another planned. My Portfolio, the thing I have to submit with all my work in, is set up on my laptop with the 'structure' required for submission next July for year 1.

The next residential weekend is Saturday 23rd / 24th November but as I moved house on the 21st I was given dispensation to attend only day one - Saturday - and do a catch up Zoom with my tutor to pick up on the Sunday sessions. Does mean over 6 hours in the car on the Saturday but never mind!

The amazing part of being in the 25/26 cohort is the companionship and fellowship with my fellow students. We come from all parts of the country and from very different walks of life and experiences. Reminds me that we are all different, but all made in God's image. It's fascinating to hear different people's approach to worship and also their individual response to God's love. As you can imagine there are lots of prayer opportunities during our time together and a lot of opportunities to be with God either collectively or individually. Equally fascinating is to hear how they felt called by God to this element of ministry. Also, I'm meeting some amazing

tutors and presenters and theologians, often all in the same room. Thanks for your continued support, prayer, good wishes and interest in what I'm up to. It certainly gives me the courage to succeed and the grace of God to serve. I'll update you further next time.

Jeremy Day

Mouse Makes

"The child to be born will be called H _____, the _____ of _____"
Luke 1:35

THE GREATEST GIFT

"She will bear a son, and shall call his name _____"
 for he will save his people from their sins."
Matthew 1:21

"Jesus said, I am the _____ Y _____ and the _____ U _____ and the _____ I _____."
 No one comes to the Father except through me."
John 14:6

"For unto you is born this day a S _____ who is _____ R _____ the _____ R _____"
Luke 2:11

"Jesus said, I am the _____ and the life."
John 11:25

JESUS THE GREATEST GIFT OF ALL!

B L I G H T L O O H O L Y O R C R T U
 R A Y W O J J R S O N O F M A N H A R T
 E M M A N U E L N L S H E P H E R D U
 A B Y J E S O O Y A E P E R G I F T G
 D S A V I O U R C H R I S T M A S T H S
 S A V R J S D R E S U R R E C T I O N

P R O P H E T I E V E R L A S T I N G
 R E D E E M E R K I N G O F K I N G S
 I E M I L I G I N K I G W F D O U
 E M E S S I A H S E S O N O F G O D D
 S R M E G F T S E W O C O U W O R D
 T E A C H E R C O U N S E L L O R U

EMMANUEL • MESSIAH REDEEMER • KING OF KINGS • WORD
 SON OF MAN • EVERLASTING • SHEPHERD • PRIEST • PROPHET • TEACHER
 LIGHT • BREAD • VINE • DOOR • LAMB • COUNSELLOR • CHRISTMAS • GIFT

Find the words from the Bible verses too! Dec24 © deborah noble @ parishpump.co.uk

From the Co-ordinator
Christmas Preparations



Christmas is a time for making plans. Presents to buy, cards to send, decorations to put up, food to order, travel arrangements to make... the list goes on and on. But whether our plans are ambitious or simple this Christmas, we still dread anything going wrong. Yet plans seemed to fall apart that first Christmas. Mary and Joseph had planned to marry and set up home together in Galilee. Then Mary had become unexpectedly pregnant, and they were summoned to Bethlehem for the census. So instead of a comfortable Galilean home amongst family, they were suddenly parents, all alone in a place fit for animals!

The shepherds had expected another routine night on the hills of Bethlehem. But the angel's message and a heavenly choir changed everything, and they went to search for the Christ-child instead. Their change of plans brought them great joy!

The Eastern men had expected to find the 'King of the Jews' in a royal palace. But the star by-passed Jerusalem and took them to Bethlehem. Then their plans changed again, when they were warned in a dream to avoid Herod and slip home another way.

The Holy Couple then had another upset of plans: Joseph was warned in a dream NOT to go home to Galilee, but to flee for safety in Egypt instead.

At first sight, all these changes display a chaotic mix of circumstances. But behind it all, God was working out His divine purposes. When Jesus was born, all the Old Testament prophecies of His coming were fulfilled. Nothing happened by chance. Into a messy world God brought to us His Son, to be our Saviour.

We worship a great and loving God who not only planned that first Christmas but is also preparing for our stay in His eternal home.



The plans God makes are wise, and they always succeed!
(Isaiah 28:29)

John

Regular Activities

Sunday	10.00am	Choir Practice
	11.00am	Morning Worship (Children's Space available)

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	Tea/Coffee in The Oasis Café
Wednesday	10.30 - 12.30pm	Tea/Coffee in The Oasis Café
Thursday	10.30 - 12.30pm	Tea/Coffee in The Oasis Café
Friday	10.30 - 12.30pm	Tea/Coffee in The Oasis Café
Saturday	10.00 - 12.00 noon	Coffee Morning (at main fundraising events)

Church Office

Shellie D'Arcy

(Administrator/Lettings Officer) 01895 913262 / 07792 143 888

Children & Families Worker: Position Vacant

Prayer Group Meeting

Everybody are welcome to attend – Led by Esme Young
Third Wednesday in the Month at 2.00pm in The Hardwick Room

Food For Thought:

(Soup & a roll with speaker)

First Wednesday in the Month at 1.00pm in The Oasis Café

House Groups – Contact Church Administrator for details

For Beavers , Cubs and Scouts-

Chris Potter (Group Scout Leader) chrispotter_@hotmail.com

For Guides - Hilary Parker – 4th.ickenhamguides@gmail.com

For Brownies - Susannah Edwards – susannah.may@ledvance.com

Happy Days Pre-School – happydayspreschoolickenham@gmail.com
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