

Grapevine

Dec 2023, Jan/Feb 2024

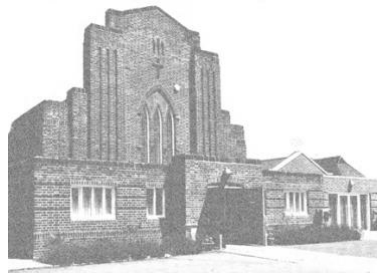


Ickenham United
Reformed Church Magazine



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



Preparing for Christmas is a time for us to make 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, round the back of the inn, fit only for the animals!

Even the shepherds, who had expected to have another quiet, routine night on the hills of Bethlehem got a surprise when the angel's turned up with their message, along with the heavenly choir, and changed everything. So off they went to search for the Christ-child instead. Their change of plans brought them great joy and happiness!

The Magi had expected to find the 'King of the Jews' in a royal palace. But the star by-passed Jerusalem and took them to Bethlehem. Surprise, surprise, 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 Miller

Family News



	December
9 th	David Fish
27 th	John Miller



January		February	
1st	Dorothy Vickery	3rd	Bryan Webb
5th	Wendy Williams	10th	William Sims
15th	Julia Fish	19th	Edward Tipton



Sunday November 26th

11.00am URC: Advent Morning Service

Sunday December 3rd

11.00am URC: Morning Service

Wednesday December 6th

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

Friday December 8th – Festive Community Night

6.00-9.00pm URC: Church open with Festive Display on the theme of 'Peace.'

Refreshments served in The Oasis with stalls of Christmas Goods, a raffle, and an update on CLICKRukiga along with Townswomen's Guild.

Saturday December 9th

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

Sunday December 10th

11.00am URC: Morning Service

Sunday December 17th

11.00am URC: Morning Service with Holy Communion

6:30pm URC: Carols by Candlelight on the theme of 'Peace' – carols, readings and choral items

There is no service on Sunday 24th December

Monday December 25th – Christmas Day

10.00am Family service led by Jeremy Day

Christmas Day Offertory

This year the Elders have agreed to support St Mungo's with the offertory received on Christmas Day.

Below is an excerpt from their website describing their work.

St Mungo's is one of the leading homelessness charities in the UK. We help people at every stage of recovery from homelessness.

Outreach

St Mungo's outreach teams go out each night to help people who are experiencing homelessness off the streets and access help and support. With 17 outreach teams we are one of the largest providers of outreach services in the country.

Your gift will help to transform the lives of people experiencing homelessness. People with mental and physical health needs. People on the road to recovery. You can help give them a gift of hope for the future.

Advent Reflection



As December groans on with dark nights and colder, squallier weather, we'll all be getting busier day by day to get ready for Christmas. Preparing – deciding where the celebration will be this year and who will attend and who will go elsewhere. It can be quite stressful sometimes to make sure the 'plan' is just right! Gift

buying – thinking about the right gift for everyone and perhaps thinking about the amount to spend as everything seems to have gone up this year. Socialising – see people you only seem to be able to see this time of year. Perhaps getting together for a meal treat out, work Christmas 'do's / meals', meals organised by a club or association you belong to.

We all know the true meaning of Christmas but the commercial / retail side can seem all too time consuming. At Christmas, we were given the amazing gift of Jesus Christ, born as our saviour. Given to us freely for us to worship and admire, learn from and be inspired by his generous and unassuming way of life. We didn't have to choose it, buy it, find the money to pay for it, wrap it or deliver it! It was delivered to us, quite literally in that stable and in that manger in the peace and quiet as we are told in the bible.

I've been looking up resources for Christmas Worship and came across a lovely set of words written by Helen Steiner Rice. It's called Where Can We Find Him?

Where can we find the Holy one?
Where can we find His only Son?
The Wise Men asked,
And we're asking still,
'Where can we find this man
of goodwill?'
Is He far away in some distant place,
Ruling unseen
From his throne of grace?
To give him proof of eternity?

It's true we have never looked on His face,
But his likeness shines forth
From every place,
From the hand of God is everywhere
Along life's busy thoroughfare.
And His presence
Can be felt and seen
Right in the midst of our daily routine,
The things we touch and see
and feel
Are what make God so very real.

Helen Steiner Rice (1900-1981)

I'm really looking forward to leading worship on Christmas Day. I'm busy planning this so we have about 45 minutes of celebration before we do the 'normal' celebrating which includes plenty of joy, peace and love – and food and drink possibly! It will be a very upbeat service with the chance for anyone who has received gifts already to share – it's optional of course!

As we rush around doing what we need to do because it's very important to us to get Christmas 'right' I challenge you each day to find time to pray and reflect on the true meaning of Christmas. Why not try and take the number of minutes relative to the date – on the 1st of December find one minute, on the 2nd two minutes etc throughout the month up until Christmas Day.

Another short piece from Helen Steiner Rice:

The blessings of Christmas are many,
More than words can express,
Enough to fill every longing heart
With untold happiness.
And the greatest of all blessings
Is the Christmas revelation
That Jesus Christ was born this day
To bring the world salvation.
And that is why this message
Is written here to say
That you are wished the blessings
Of the Holy Christmas Day.

Let us pray:

'Every good and perfect gift comes from above' (James 1:17)

Lord and Giver of all good things, the Magi travelled for miles to bring the Christ child the first Christmas presents. So may we too remember with thankful hearts the love that comes with all the good things that we receive. We also thank you for the love you have for each one of us, and we thank you for the many gifts that you give us, especially the gift of life itself. – Amen.

Jeremy Day

Diary Dates

Church Meeting

Sunday 26th November 2023

Sunday 28th January 2024

in The Oasis

Elders' Meeting

Tuesday 9th January 2023 – in The Oasis

New Year's Lunch

Sunday 4th February 2023

From the Fundraising and Social Group



The URC will again be playing a full part in the Festive Community Night on Friday 8th December.

From 6pm to 9pm

there will be a display in the church on the theme of "Peace", appropriate for the time of year and the current international situation, stalls of Christmas goods and selected second hand books [possible presents for quirky people like me!] and a raffle. There will be contributions from CLICK Rukiga and Townswomen's Guild and refreshments in the Oasis coffee bar. Admission is free, as it will be for the coffee morning with homemade cakes on Saturday 9th December from 10am to 12 Noon. The stalls will be open again so there will be plenty going on and we would like you to be part of it!

Richard Piper



CLICKRukiga visit to Uganda November 2023

On Thursday 9th November, three of the **CLICKRukiga** committee Julie, Sabera and Isobel, with Steve and Hasanain as support, arrived in Uganda having crossed the border from Kigali, Rwanda. The following morning we had breakfast with the **CLICKRukiga** committee at St James' Buhangizi Church. We were warmly welcomed by the Church leaders and committee members there.

On the way, we had our first introduction to the "African massage" as our van had little suspension and no working seat belts and the road had many pot-holes. Despite this, our first glimpses of the area of the Rukiga district were amazing - beautiful green hills (it is the rainy season), many banana plants, women working in the fields, muddy paths and huts with children and adults walking along the roadside.

That day, we visited the three schools, starting with Kamwezi primary school. In each classroom we were greeted by children who shyly sang a song or two. We saw the refurbished classroom and the girl's latrine that had been funded by **CLICKRukiga** who



also pay school fees and provide lunches for the sponsored children who attend this and the high school. Whilst the children were happy and clearly intent on their studying, the rooms were basic and decorated with flip chart paper with various topic content on the mud walls. These were tatty and there were no reading books, just the exercise books the children were using. The reception class had no toys or books whatsoever - what a contrast to the provision of multi-coloured educational and stimulating

classrooms in British schools. Floors were just bare earth and there were some broken window panes. One of the classes still needs to be fully refurbished.

A short walk down the road was Kamwezi High school where we saw the newly rendered main hall, which had been paid for by **CLICKRukiga**. It was being used for exams the following week plus assemblies and lunches. We were then shown the building site for the new girl's dormitory. Workers were installing roofing timbers but we were told funds were limited and increased material costs meant they were running out. This was disappointing as we had sent a donation towards costs but most was to be financed by family and other donations locally. The boarding girls currently sleep in 2 classrooms and a wooden shack is therefore being used as a temporary classroom until the dormitory is completed.

We met the cooks in the kitchen and saw posho (maize meal), matoke (mashed green banana) and green beans being prepared for lunch. This is the same every day for all the children - can you imagine that being accepted by children here?! We were then treated to a welcome dance and song from the school choir outside. It was very energetic and so lovely to be welcomed in such a joyful way.



Finally we had a very short visit to Kamwezi Braintrust Primary School that none of our sponsored children attend but it has been supported previously by the **CLICKRukiga** link with Breakspear School who helped with building classrooms. We were greeted by walking between two rows of singing children and then led into the school grounds by a dancing group. During the group photos with all the children, they were

really excited to see us and unable to resist touching our bare arms and say hello!

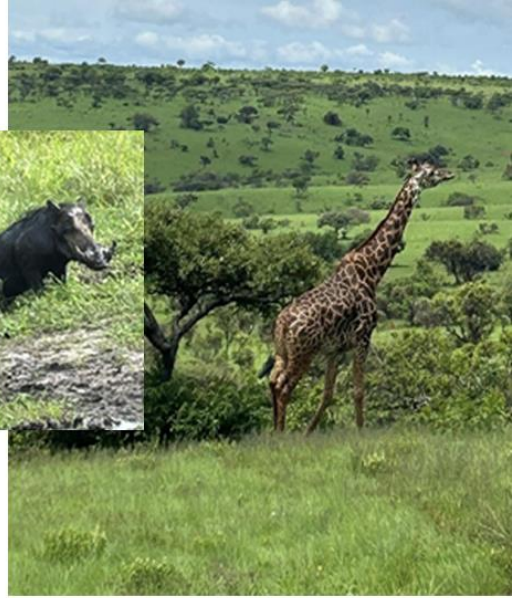
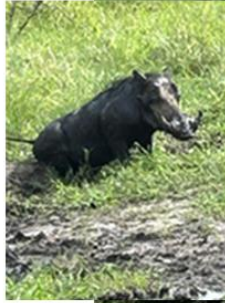
This was a really eye-opening visit for us and we have much more to share with you about the rest of the visit.

Julie Dungey



ICKENHAM VISITS
RUKIGA 2023
Pictures taken
at Kamwezi,
Kabale,
UGANDA





80th Anniversary of D Day

Next year will mark the 80th Anniversary of D-Day and preparations are in full swing to remember and honour those who were involved in the largest invasion in military history.

In a quiet little village in Normandy, called Carentan, an idea has been born in tribute to tell the story of the D-Day operation on 6th June 1944, which brought together, all the land, air, and sea



forces of the allied armies, to liberate Europe and defeat Germany.

The idea – named the *Longest Yarn* – which is based on the film, *The Longest Day*, is to create a handmade three dimensional knitted or crocheted tapestry in wool, which will be measure eighty metres long and will be made of eighty-one individual one metre panels, each representing the eighty days duration that the campaign went on for.

The panels are individual depictions of scenes taken

from real historical photographs and research, for which people from around the world have volunteered to create.

Here in our village of Ickenham, four members from The Ickenham Postbox Toppers have each volunteered to use their skills to create four of the eighty panels, which when completed will be taken over to Normandy to be joined together with the other panels to create this beautiful tribute and will be available for all to see for many years to come.

Here, some of us would like to share our journey-

"I am a member of the Ickenham Postbox Toppers and back in June this year was very honoured to be asked to volunteer to take part in such an amazing project. My scene was based on a photograph called 'The sniper in the Tower', and it is of a



German sniper in a church tower, with an American soldier retaliating, together with his reinforcements and a tank. The base took quite some time to put together as I doubled up my wool strands to create a firmer surface and entwined different colours to give the realistic impression of grass, mud, and rubble. The soldiers were quite challenging as the original pattern was for a soldier thirty centimetres high, so I had to scale them down to twelve centimetres high, (I even made the German sniper which was five centimetres high to put in the tower). I then had to research the uniform and helmet and apply various details to portray the overall event.

Tanya Roper

"As a member of the Ickenham Postbox Toppers, I belong to 'Topper' groups on Facebook, and in June this year I saw a post about knitting the Longest Day for the eightieth Anniversary of the

D Day landings. Intrigued I joined the group and volunteered to make a panel. There are eighty panels, each taken from the scenes of the film 'the Longest Day'. Each panel is a metre long and fifty centimetres deep. They will be joined together to make an



eighty-metre topper, which will be displayed on an eighty-metre trestle table, especially built for this project. The panel I am making is 'Rupert and the Clicker', Rupert being the dummy paratrooper to fool and mislead the enemy, and the clicker was used to tell if nearby personnel were

friend or foe. If one click was answered with two clicks it was a friend and if it wasn't answered it was a foe.

Sue Knight

"Mine is panel number 1, and I chose it as it is knitted 'things and not people, as I don't usually like knitting people as others are better at them, plus I joined at the start of the project and at that point there weren't many panels in the project (less than 10) so I thought I would get in there quickly! At that point it was a radio, tipped over glass of wine and an abandoned cigarette. So, I started on that and have added a pack of cigarettes, a box of matches, napkin, bowl of stew and a spoon, plus I might add a lampshade. I researched the brand of the cigarettes and matches and found out about rationing in France. What would happen is that 'Ici



Londres' would come 'out' of the radio, which was the start of the coded signal for the person to leave the table and do their part. My twin sister is also making a panel, but this is in progress at the moment. We are both pleased to be part of such a historical project as both our parents were children during WW2- My dad was evacuated to Wales and my Mum was evacuated to Suffolk."

Kim Overy

"I am depicting the storming of Point du Hoc- which is a hundred-foot cliff, it is going to take two pillows to stuff it. An unusual fact is that they borrowed extension ladders from the London Fire Brigade."

Jo Donnelly

Other Postbox Toppers have been involved making the edging, which is called the skirt as well as cornflowers, poppies, and flags, which will eventually be sewn onto the edging and then attached to the sides of the panels, whilst others have been busy making scarves which represent different countries and will be attached to knitted and crocheted dolls holding knitting needles, to give the impression that they have knitted the scarves. This display will be placed in the local shops in Carentan as well as the surrounding area.

Next year a couple of us are visiting Normandy to start the painstaking assembling of the tapestry along with other creators from all over the world so that it will be completed in time to mark this very special occasion.

All in all, this is a busy operation, but we feel honoured to be part of this project and part of history, which will be remembered for years to come.

All Good Fun

On the second Tuesday of every month, a group of ladies gather in the Oasis Café in the United Reform Church, the excitement and chatter can be heard throughout. This is where our social group meets, called The Townswomen's Guild Ickenham which

participate in many crafting activities, from quilting, crocheting, and making wonderful cards using anything from buttons, to beads and glitter.

You don't have to be a crafter, it's all about participating and having a go, as well as meeting up together, to share a cup of tea or coffee in a quiet, clean, and bright welcoming environment speaking about anything that comes to mind.

We have members of all abilities and have produced some wonderful work.



Our main Towns Women's Guild group meet in the church on the



last Monday of the month, and our social group is just one of many activities that we engage in. We arrange interesting speakers, as well as trips out, lunches and coffee mornings, all to encourage and help our members to socialise together. This year our group members have been working hard, knitting, and crocheting squares, which have been joined together to make a wonderful Towns Women's Guild community blanket. This will be displayed in the

URC for everyone to share and enjoy. Our members have also been knitting and crocheting small blankets and baby clothes

which we donate to the Salvation Army in Uxbridge for the homeless charity.

It's great to be part of such a friendly group and we always welcome anyone who wishes to join us.

Tanya Roper

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 Ickenham Butchers (3 Swakeleys Road), writing the name on it and placing it on the tree.

From Friday 8th December (Ickenham Festive Community Night) the tree will be decorated with lights.

During the afternoon of Wednesday 3rd January, the stars will be removed from the tree and placed on the altar in St Giles' Church. The following day, Thursday 4th January, the stars will be blessed during the 10am Communion Service.

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



Palastine World Day of Prayer

Ickenham URC

2.00pm Friday 1st March 2024

"I beg you, bear with one

another in love"

The invitation to write the service for 2024 was given well before the recent outbreak of violence in this area. It was written as an opportunity to reflect on continuing challenging times, encouraging Palestinian Christian women to keep searching for a deeper understanding among all the people who share the land, trusting for and hoping in the humanity of one another.

Please join us if you can on **1st March 2024 at 2pm**. Now more than ever we need to pray for an end to this conflict and peace in Palestine and Israel.

**Help will be needed to serve refreshments after the service.
Please talk to Julie Dungey if you can assist in this.**



On the first day of Christmas my true love said to me
I've bought a big fresh turkey and a proper Christmas tree.

On the second day of Christmas much laughter could be heard
As we tucked into our turkey – a most delicious bird.

On the third day of Christmas people came from just next door,
The turkey tasted just as good as it had done before.

On the fourth day of Christmas came relations young and old
We finished up the Christmas pud and had the turkey cold.

On the fifth day of Christmas, outside the snowflakes scurried,
But we were nice and warm inside, and had the turkey curried.

On the sixth day of Christmas, the Christmas spirit died.
The children fought and bickered – we had the turkey rissoles fried.

On the seventh day of Christmas my true love he did wince
When he sat down at table - and was offered turkey mince.

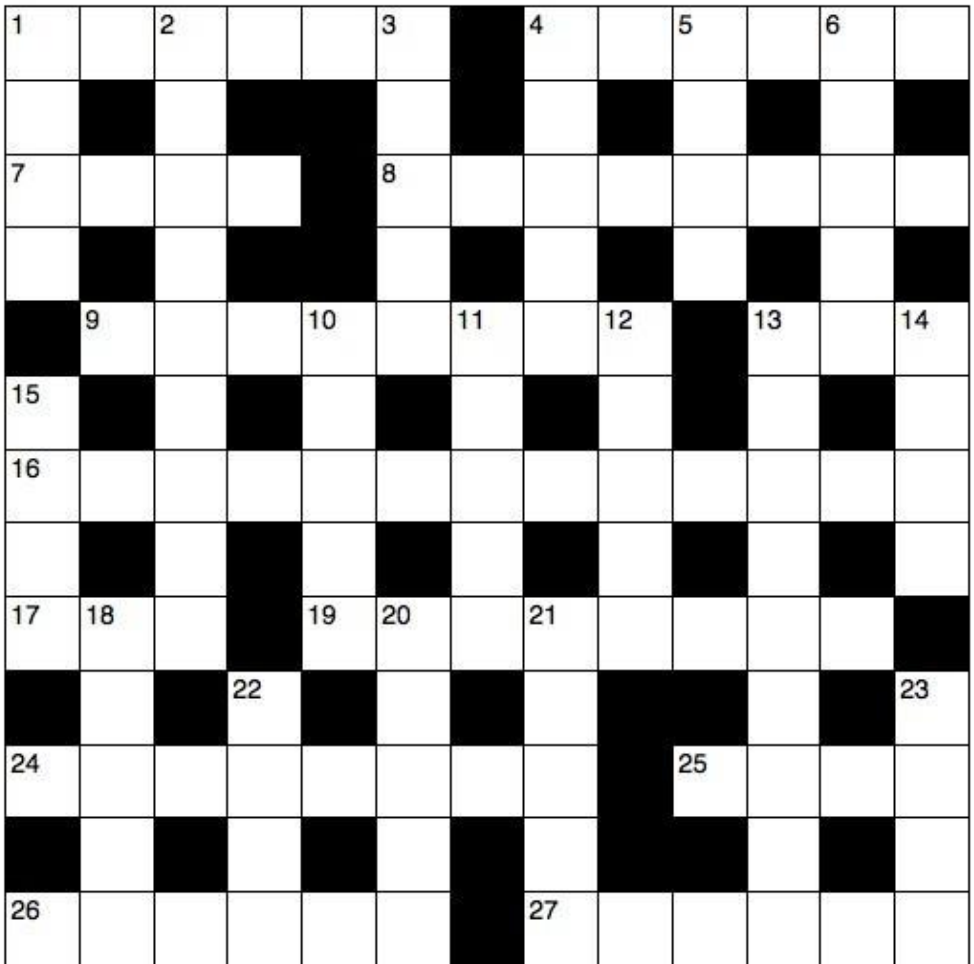
On the eighth day of Christmas, the dog had run for shelter,
For he'd seen our turkey pancakes and the glass of alka-seltzer.

On the ninth day of Christmas, by lunchtime dad was blotto,
He knew that bird was back again, this time as a risotto.

On the tenth day of Christmas we were drinking home-made brew,
 Anything to help us face that steaming turkey stew.

On the eleventh day of Christmas our lovely tree was moulting,
 And with chilli, soy and oyster sauce, the turkey was revolting.

On the twelfth day of Christmas we had smiles back on our lips,
 The guests had gone, the turkey too –
 WE DINED ON FISH AND CHIPS.



Across

- 1 Rely (Psalm 62:7) (6)
- 4 'He stretches out the heavens like a — , and spreads them out like a tent to live in' (Isaiah 40:22) (6)
- 7 What the dove carried the olive leaf in, when it returned to Noah's ark (Genesis 8:11) (4)
- 8 Annoy (1 Samuel 1:6) (8)
- 9 Judah's last king, who ended his days as a blind prisoner in Babylon (Jeremiah 52:11) (8)
- 13 'They all — and were satisfied' (Luke 9:17) (3)
- 16 Eliphaz the Temanite was one; so was Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite (Job 2:11; 16:2) (4,9)
- 17 National Association of Evangelicals (of the USA) (1,1,1)
- 19 Popular song for New Year's Eve, Auld — — (4,4)
- 24 Able dock (anag.) (8)
- 25 The number of stones David chose for his confrontation with Goliath (1 Samuel 17:40) (4)
- 26 Elgar's best-known 'Variations' (6)
- 27 Soak (Isaiah 16:9) (6)

Down

- 1 Money owing (Deuteronomy 15:3) (4)
- 2 Conciliatory (Titus 3:2) (9)
- 3 'Do this, whenever you — it, in remembrance of me' (1 Corinthians 11:25) (5)
- 4 A group assisting in the governance of the Roman Catholic Church (5)
- 5 One of the gifts Joseph's brothers took with them on their second journey to Egypt (Genesis 43:11) (4)
- 6 'Reach out your hand and — — into my side. Stop doubting and believe' (John 20:27) (3,2)
- 10 Be outstandingly good (2 Corinthians 8:7) (5)
- 11 'What — — that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him?' (Psalm 8:4) (2,3)
- 12 Horse's feet (Judges 5:22) (5)
- 13 Notice (Deuteronomy 17:4) (9)
- 14 Comes between 2 Chronicles and Nehemiah (4)
- 15 One of Israel's northern towns conquered by Ben-Hadad (1 Kings 15:20) (4)
- 18 Narnia's Lion (5)
- 20 One of the two rivers in which Naaman would have preferred to wash (2 Kings 5:12) (5)
- 21 Avarice—one of the evils that come from inside people (Mark 7:22) (5)
- 22 Knight Grand Cross of St Michael and St George (1,1,1,1)
- 23 Jacob's first wife (Genesis 29:23) (4)

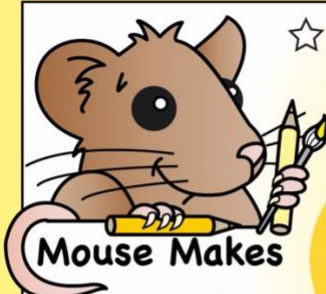
Answers to Crossword in Sept/Oct/Nov 2023 issue

ACROSS: 1, Sabbatical. 7, Opinion. 8, Laing. 10, Olga. 11, Galilean. 13, Sardis. 15, Severe. 17, Adultery. 18, Flea. 21, Swazi. 22, Acetate. 23, Revelation.

DOWN: 1, Sling. 2, Brim. 3, Annual. 4, Ill-timed. 5, Abilene. 6, Colossians. 9, Gennesaret. 12, Diatribe. 14, Roulade. 16, Errata. 19, Learn. 20, Levi.



Sara preferred to let people work out the hymns for themselves



Mouse Makes



GOD'S PROMISE

Isaiah 9:6-7

CHILD • BORN • SON
GIVEN • WONDERFUL
COUNCELLOR
MIGHTY • GOD
EVERLASTING
FATHER • PRINCE
PEACE • LORD



AN ANGEL MESSENGER

Luke 1:26-38

ANGEL • GABRIEL
JOSEPH • MARY
FAVOUR • SON
JESUS • GREAT
THRONE • REIGN
FOREVER • HOLY
SERVANT • WORD

ADVENT
comes from
the Latin
'AD VENTO'
which means
ARRIVAL

In Advent we
celebrate Jesus' birth
and look forward to
the time when Jesus
will come again.

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



A LONG JOURNEY

Luke 2:1-20

BETHLEHEM
REGISTER • BIRTH
MANGER • INN
SHEPHERDS • FLOCK
ANGELS • JOY
GOOD NEWS • PRAISE
SAVIOUR • CHRIST



THE BEST GIFT OF ALL

John 3:16

GOD • SO • LOVED
WORLD • HE • GAVE
ONLY • SON
WHOEVER • BELIEVES
ETERNAL • LIFE

Colour in one star each day until Christmas

Dec23 © deborah noble • parishpump.co.uk

From the Co-ordinator

BIG HUGS (PART 2)

Hopefully you have already read my Elders piece, which appeared in the latest issue of Ickenham Church News. When you throw a pebble in a pond the ripples spread everywhere across the lake or river and who knows where they end up and what results they create. Hopefully, the ripples of Big Hugs spreads across our world and we witness the leaders of countries sit up and take notice that hugs and talking are better than war with its death and destruction. The various organisations in Ickenham seemed to be doing their bit to promote big hugs around the world. Well done to Julie Dungey and her team and companions who travelled to Rukiga, back in November. They took with them the messages and presents of love to all of our friends in Rukiga. From the photographs received, it looks like they saw a lot and fulfilled a lot in their journey of lifetime remembrance.

Also well done to the Townswomen's Guild who have beavered away and done their bit by producing the beautiful community blanket, which has been displayed in our church for a while, and hopefully, will proceed on its journey around our village for all to see. Plus the Ickenham Postbox Toppers group have been very busy producing knitted figures which will go display in France for the 80th Anniversary of the D-Day Landings next year.

We are blessed with people of great talents and long may they continue to amaze us. I am looking forward to seeing more of our local talent in our Arts, Crafts and Hobbies Exhibition in June next year, when our traditional Ickenham Festival Week takes place. If you are a creator of the arts, crafts and hobbies in any form please contact me to book your spot to display those talents.

Obviously, this time of the year becomes very busy for us as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus. The great time of joy and exultation when a little baby was born in Bethlehem and brought enormous change to the world.

Our church is preparing for this Festive Season as we look forward to our church services and events which will be taking place in the

church premises during this important time in our church calendar. We commence proceedings with our Advent Services on Sundays 3rd, 10th and 17th December. In between those dates there is the Community Festive Night on 8th December where our church will be open for a time of reflection and gathering together. Also, there will be stalls of Christmas goods for sale, a raffle and refreshments to enjoy in the Oasis.

All are welcome to our Carols by Candlelight Service, which is taking place on Sunday 17th December at 6.30pm. This a time for us to come together to hear the story of the Nativity, sing carols and spend time reflecting on Peace throughout the world.

Then of course there is the all-important Christmas Day Service on Monday 25th December at 10.00am which will be led by our friend Jeremy Day.

On behalf of the Elders and members of our church we wish you all a Very Happy and Peaceful New Year.

“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace”

(Isaiah 9:6).
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 634 280 / 07792 143 888

Children & Families Worker: Position Vacant

Prayer Group Meeting

Everybody are welcome to attend – Led by Esmé 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
07809 195932