


Grapevine

June, July, August 2023



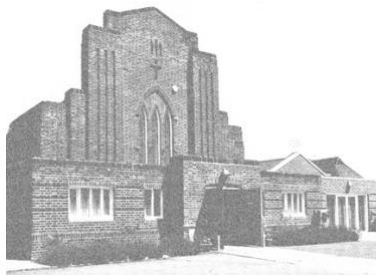
Be Happy

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

Looking Forward?



As we look forward to the summer, I am sure we have lots of plans, some short term like going on holiday, whilst others are a bit more involved such as a major do it yourself project, re-designing the garden, or perhaps even losing weight. Most of these can be achieved in a reasonable time frame, hopefully before we start pulling our hair out. But then there are others, such as moving house, which can sadly drag on, sometimes for years, and where you might almost regret having ever started.

So looking back over the last 10 years you could say our Churches hunt for a new minister is a bit like the latter. So many stages to go past, so many hoops to jump through, and then more than one false start. Disappointment, frustration, uncertainty, we have gone through the gambit of emotions, but all the time trusting that we were acting in accordance with God's will and that ultimately things would come right.

And right they did, when at the Church Meeting, at the beginning of March, there was a unanimous vote in favour of sharing a joint pastorate with Christ Church Uxbridge, which also helped to support our financial position, going forward. Since then, Synod have advertised the position and we must continue to pray that the right candidate will be attracted to our Church.

Whilst joining with Christ Church does not mean that we lose our identity as an individual church it does offer the opportunity to explore how we might work together, sharing knowledge,

resources and perhaps joint projects. Our on-going covenant with St Giles has certainly produced a range of opportunities. How impatient we were, but we should have known that God would answer our prayers in his own time and in his own way. A reminder that we need to listen out more for God, and more importantly to listen to God.

So let us come back refreshed from the long summer days, that offer so much promise, warm weather (hopefully) perhaps a break from routine but always surrounded the abundance of beauty that nature provides for us.

Let us all embark on this exciting stage of Church life, committed to supporting the work of the God who loves us.

Keith Holland

Birthdays



June	
4 th	Pat Veale
10 th	Julie Dungey
21 st	Isobel Dungey

July	
3 rd	Sheila Dell
11 th	Dennis Osborne
15 th	Peter Williams
25 th	Sylvianne Clark



August	
4 th	Keith Holland
13 th	Elizabeth Tipton

Family News & Dates

Food for Thought

Speaker – Richard Piper

Wednesday 7th June 1.00pm
to 2.00pm

Summer Forecourt Sale

Saturday 10th June 10.00am
to 12.00pm

Prayer Group

in Hardwick Room

Weds 21st June 2.00pm

Liaison Committee

Thursday 29th June 7.00pm
at URC

Prayer Group

in Hardwick Room

Weds 19th July at 2.00pm

Holiday Club at URC

Monday 24th July to Friday
28th July

Elders and Finance & Property Meetings

July dates to be arranged

Church Services

Sunday 4th June 11.00am

led by Geoff Easton

Sunday 11th June 11.00am

led by Sue Clifford

Sunday 18th June 11.00am

led by Rev Derek West and
includes Holy Communion

Sunday, 25th June 11.00am

led by Peter Williams

Sunday 2nd July 11.00am

led by Jeremy Day

Sunday 9th July 11.00am

led by Denis Golden

Sunday, 16th July 11.00am

led by Rev Maggie Hindley
includes Holy Communion

Sunday 23rd July 11.00am

led by Rev John Mackerness

Sunday 30th July 11.00am

led by Rev John Mackerness

*August Services yet to be finalised.
See church weekly blog or news
sheet for updates.*

*Below: URC Quiz Team
2nd place at the Hillingdon Choral
Quiz night on 4th March.*



Giving to support the Work and Witness of the Church

The donations for the first four months of this year in comparison with the same period last year are shown here.

	2022	2023
Cash Offerings	£924.34	£1363.69
Freewill offering (standing order/ envelope)	£6330.60	£6035

Whilst it is encouraging that income from offerings is now steady, it is still below the overall level of giving prior to the pandemic (2019) and whilst we have been pleased to see new friends in the congregation, others are no longer with us.

The Elders are aware that the everyone has faced increased costs in recent months, and this also applies to the church. Although we currently remain financially viable, thanks to the major income we receive from lettings plus rental from the manse etc we are facing major increased costs in areas such as gas (up by £3400 just to April), electricity costs as our present fixed price expires, fund raising activities are curtailed due to resources plus increased suppliers and contractor's costs etc.

So as we continue to review all aspects of our finances it is hoped that we might also review our individual offerings, always recognizing that in this current cost of living crisis a change may not be viable.

Contributions may be made by bank transfer or through the offertory collection and envelopes are available to enable you to make a regular commitment. The great news is that if you are a UK taxpayer and are willing for us to claim Gift Aid on your donations, we get a further 25%. Please ask Patricia or one of the Elders for a claim form.

All donations are gratefully received and are dedicated to the work and witness of our Church in Ickenham.

Keith Holland
(Chairman, Finance & Property Committee).

Patricia Potter
(Assistant Treasurer)

An Encouraging Story of Perseverance



After a double kidney and liver transplant, Andy Taylor was selected for the World Transplant Games in Australia, representing Great Britain and Northern Ireland. As the son of athlete Don G Taylor - the former British 10,000m record holder - Andy said sport had been "a narrative" throughout his life. He had grown up in his father's sports centre and regularly played racket sports.

But in 2014, he was gaunt and had little energy. He found just getting up a step into his house was an effort and remembers once bending down to do up a shoelace and not being able to get back up because he had no muscle mass. The 57-year-old from Watford has **Polycystic Kidney Disease (PKD)**, a hereditary condition which causes fluid-filled cysts to grow in the kidneys. It can cause them to get bigger and eventually fail.

He had been warned in 2012 that he would need a kidney transplant in about two years time. "I knew it was coming, but it was still a bit of a shock," he said. "But gradually my kidneys got so big that it looked like I was pregnant."

The plan in 2014 was to have a double nephrectomy - where the kidneys are removed - and then recover for three months on

dialysis before a kidney from his best friend, who had already been found to be a suitable donor, was transplanted.



In 2014 Andy underwent a double nephrectomy, but sadly they found that his liver was also polycystic meaning that he would now need to wait for a liver and a kidney, from the same person, which reduced the chance of him getting a transplant

This was quite a hit mentally, for him and the next two years on the transplant list were "a challenge". His liver grew to fill the gap left by his kidneys and began to encroach on his other organs, affecting his eating and breathing but

as it was still functioning, he knew he would be moved down the list if somebody was in greater need.

On dialysis three times a week for five hours at a time, he limited his fluid intake to just 500ml between dialysis sessions.

"They say dialysis is equivalent to deep sea diving in the amount of energy it takes out of your body, so I would sleep for the five hours and then sleep in the afternoon," he said. "On the way home after my first session I cried at the thought of what was ahead." He said that while "physically you manage" during the wait for a donor, in reality, he was "just ticking over". "You mentally press pause on life - it's hard going, so you are very excited to get the call."



Andy said waiting for a transplant was also a challenge for his wife Kate (left) who "steered the ship during those difficult years" his mother Sylvia (right), and his two children.

Finally, Andy got that call at 04:00 GMT one January morning in 2016 and left straight away for King's College Hospital in London, where, after a 10-hour operation, he remained for 10 weeks. "When I woke I was in excruciating pain and I couldn't move, but I was alive," he said.

Towards the end of his stay, his sporting instinct began to kick in and he started to walk short distances in order to be discharged. "I could walk to the toilet and, ever the sportsman, I set targets for myself - could I walk down the corridor etc?" he said.

But it was the Transplant Games that really gave him a goal. "Initially I just wanted to walk in the countryside and see some colours rather than the bland hospital walls, but "it was always his intention to get back to sport,"

"Sport is a narrative through my life... part of my life I needed to get back to in order to have some sort of normality." In 2017, he entered a Park Run and thought "right I'm ready now".

He had heard of the British Transplant Games and as a transplant his goal had been to play badminton again. So, he went to the event in Newport in 2019 and had an amazing weekend. He played singles in table tennis, where his team won silver, and doubles in badminton where he won gold.

Last year Andy and his partner won the Men's Doubles Badminton at the European Transplant Games. There was more gold at the British Games in 2022 and then gold in the table tennis event at the European Transplant Games in Oxford in August 2022

This year the World Transplant Games were held in Perth Australia with Andy representing the UK in both badminton and Table Tennis. The first games were held in Portsmouth in 1978 and the seven-day event now attracts some 2,500 participants from more than 60 nations and is described as the "world's largest awareness event for the gift of life".

"The games let us do things that represent recovery and to represent my country, I'm over the moon," Andy said.

"I" was just so excited for the opportunity, honoured to be chosen and humbled by my anonymous donor's decision to donate organs." He said the games celebrate the "life-changing, life-saving power of organ donation" and "promote the benefits of post-transplant sport and exercise".

"They are a great recovery goal for someone who has been through the process and if we can persuade more people to sign up we can shorten the wait," he said. Organ Donation UK said currently more than 7,000 people are waiting for a transplant, including about 200 children. The law is that unless a person has opted out, or told their family they do not wish to donate, it is assumed that they would support organ donation.

But families are always meant to be consulted and if they refuse to support the donation, it will not go ahead. The organisation said families are more likely to be supportive if they know it is what their loved one wanted so it encourages everyone to **register their support for donation**.

An NHS blood and transplant spokesman said the Transplant Games "highlight and celebrate what is possible thanks to the amazing gift of organ donation". "Over 50,000 people in the UK are alive today thanks to the generosity of others who have agreed to donate organs either whilst alive or after their death," he said. "It is thanks to those donors, that those people are able to carry on living their lives, spending precious time with their families and making a difference in the world."

Andy said that his donor "transformed my life". "I can't put into words how grateful I am. It all comes back to the NHS and my donor and their family and the decision they made in a traumatic situation," he said. "My best friend once said a transplant is a magical combination of love and science and this is an opportunity for me to say 'have those conversations with your loved ones'. "If relatives can say 'it's what they would have wanted', it gives them some solace that they can make that decision with full knowledge that it was their wish. "They are passing on part of their loved ones' lives to someone else."

Before he left Andy said "I may not win a gold in Perth but I'd like to get a medal for promoting organ donation. Well he actually won a silver medal in the Badminton and reached the quarter finals of the table tennis, quite an amazing achievement.

FOOTNOTE:

It's great to hear Andy's story of determination and how well he has done, but perhaps you are asking what this has to do with our Church. Well, quite a lot. As many of you will know we run a Table Tennis Club, on Tuesday mornings (started by George Goodbody and myself, some 30 years ago) and although it is primarily for our Church fellowship we have, over the years, allowed others needing support, to join us.

Andy's father Don, mentioned earlier, who was Director of the Middlesex Young People's Clubs, was dealing with his own kidney treatment and subsequent transplant and wanting to build up his strength and practice his table tennis so that he might take part in

the British Transplant Games, was invited to join us. Don continued to play with us for many years, including in our League Team, and even when needing a wheelchair he was still able to enjoy playing.



Though this link Andy also joined us and we have journeyed with him through all the stages of his illness and take pleasure it playing a small role in his progress which has led him to the World Transplant Games. Despite his success Andy still plays regularly for the Ickenham URC Table Tennis Team.

Keith Holland

From the Fundraising and Social Group

I am pleased to be able to report that the Spring Forecourt Sale was a great success, despite being a couple of weeks earlier than we would ideally have liked, because the King pinched the preferred date and there was a prior booking of the premises on the previous Saturday. As it turned out the King got it wrong, our weather was better than his and we took £208 on plants despite some of our gardeners feeling that it was a bit early in the year for them. No excuses next time! Bric-a-brac also did well, with some

dealers and other regulars turning up early and sales of £200 just in notes, boosted by some Lalique glass. In light of the uncertain weather forecast we took the decision the day before to keep the main stock of books in the Hall, which makes both set-up and clear-up easier but poses the problem of persuading people to penetrate that far in the premises, causing our newest helper to complain that there weren't enough customers! Enough people got as far as the Oasis to hand over £84 on coffee and cakes, with a good atmosphere again and thanks due as ever to our Mary Berrys. We raised £818 overall [4% up on 2022], and levels of help were good, with an encouraging 26 of us involved overall, albeit with the more or less usual problem when it came to the clear-up. We're back into action on Saturday 10th June so please help if you can on the Friday afternoon and/or Saturday morning and also think again of any items that you might donate. The public seem to like what we're doing so let's keep doing it as well as we can!

Richard Piper

CLICKRukiga Update

Child Sponsorship: Please consider helping! **We are looking for new sponsors** this year to support young people early on in their education whose circumstances would otherwise make it too difficult to attend school on a regular basis. Please do contact me if you would be interested in this. The cost is £228 per year and can be given as an annual payment or monthly. The sponsorship scheme has made an incredible difference to the lives of many young people in the area and we hope that it continues to do so for many years to come.

Since I last updated you, we have had some excellent news about young people who have been supported in their education through sponsorship. We currently have three students who will be undertaking GCSEs in November and four undertaking A-levels in November. Of those who completed A-levels last year two hope to go to University, one for a Diploma in



Library and Record Management and another for a BA Business and Administration. At least one other young person will register with the Rukiga Youth in Development Programme. (RYID). This is fantastic news as some of our fundraising has provided extra money to Hillary who runs this for additional land to be purchased enabling expansion of the opportunities available. I shall keep you updated as we hear more on this.

We had a very enjoyable fundraiser in March at Dhamaka restaurant in Ickenham where we raised over £1100. Thankyou very much to those who supported (and won raffle prizes again!). We hope this will be a regular event and to see more of you joining us for tasty food and good company.

Julie Dungey (Committee chair and URC representative)

www.clickrukiga.org.uk

Julie Dungey



Ickenham Goes to the Coronation!!

The magazine is prepared and ready to go to print...is it? is something missing? suddenly I realised there is no mention of the event of the year..... our King's Coronation. The Coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla. Goodness gracious this cannot pass by without a mention.

The event not only brings our country and community together in joyous celebration but also carries two very important messages. First there is the joining of our Royal Dynasty with God, as head of the Church and also our community's connection, serving King Charles III and Jesus,

Son of God. So much has happened on the weekend of 6/7/8th May and the week leading up to it.

You could not have walked around Ickenham and not fail to see the Post Box Toppers have been at work producing their wonderful scenes and scenarios of royalty, lifelike knitted King and Queen with family, royal crowns, orbs and sceptres. Well done “The Toppers”, you have all done a wonderful job to brighten up our lives and bring it all to bring the Coronation to our eyes.

TWO special highlights concerning Ickenham took place during the Coronation, one was in Windsor and the other in Westminster Abbeythe following accounts bring them to light.....

A Guild Fit For A Coronation

There have been many events around the country preparing for the Kings Coronation, but the Ickenham Afternoon Townswoman’s Guild are unique in the fact that the Chairman, Di Hensley and the Vice Chairman, Tanya Roper are also part of the Ickenham Post-box Toppers who were invited to make their contribution to the Coronation.

This team, work in conjunction with the community giving enormous pleasure to the local residents. Their efforts collectively help brighten up the area by providing a focal point for conversation and admiration to their array of knitted and crocheted themed toppers throughout the year. These toppers are placed on the top of prominent post-boxes and are admired by residents from far and wide who come to see them. It is also a unique means of raising money for charity.

For the Coronation, the team having been invited to make commemorative post-box toppers they needed to first develop a themed approach for their toppers that would be displayed at Windsor, both inside and outside of the Castle. Tanya crocheted and constructed



the King Edward's Crown, painstakingly sewing every jewel into place by hand and even crocheting the fleur-de-lys. The whole crown and its intricate parts had to be scaled down from a full-size pattern, taking several months to complete.

Di chose to knit Prince William, Kate, George, Charlotte and Louis as a family display taking the inspiration from royal photographs available and then painstakingly converting the photographic images into scaled down knitting patterns to enable her to produce the knitted replica models. The insignia on the models proved to be the most challenging, producing them to scale yet retaining the intricacies of the detail required. BBC Channel 1 news on the 4 May, paid tribute to this themed post-box topper where it was included in the main news of the day.



The Coronation toppers were taken to Windsor Castle where they took pride of place inside the castle on top of their post box. William, Kate, George, Charlotte and Louis also took pride of place on the post-box outside the Castle in the High Street close to the Royal Mews.

Tanya and Di were delighted to be able to bring so much joy to so many from around the world as their work has been featured on German and Polish TV Channels with their



creations but mainly proud to both have their work displayed on such a prestigious occasion as the Coronation. A great achievement all round.

*The Other
Coronation
Moment for
Ickenham
to be Proud of!!*

The Stole worn by King Charles III for his Coronation was the work and creation of Tim Noad, our own local 'Herald Painter at the College of Arms'. Herald Painter is an official name for a heraldic artist at the College. He was responsible for the design of the symbols which covered the Stole.



The Coronation Comes to Ickenham



Ickenham Post Box Toppers Team with one of their Windsor Toppers



Coronation Memorabilia in Library



Mayor "gatecrashes" street party



Soldiers on Parade



I-Spy King Charles



More Local Toppers



Church Place Coronation Party



God in the Arts

The Madonna of the Meadow by Giovanni Bellini



The painting is available in the public domain and hangs on the National Gallery

Each year as we look at Creation we see the cycle of the seasons. The earth comes alive in spring, blossoms and bears fruit in summer, gives up its goodness and glory in autumn, and seems to die in the sleep of cold winter. Each of those seasons has its moods and feelings, which we find mirrored in the turn of human life. The joy of spring and summer go hand in hand with the sadness and resignation of autumn and winter in all that life brings us. When we look at our Lady in the Gospels, and this month of May is Mary's month, we see that mixture of joy and sadness.

In the Annunciation and at Christmas we share in the wonder and happiness of motherhood and new birth. A Son is born, but that birth brings anxiety and strain. Those strange words of Simeon in the Temple, losing the child in Jerusalem, watching her son grow, only to be rejected and crucified – these experiences brought Mary heartache and sorrow. But her maternal love sustains her through it all, and Mary is with the disciples at the glorious moment of Pentecost.

This range of moods in creation and in the life of Mary is caught up in the painting, 'The Madonna of the Meadow' by Giovanni Bellini. He came from a family of Renaissance painters, and this work was created around 1500. It now hangs in the National Gallery in London. The background is full of the details of the world of nature and everyday life. We see some cows grazing and others resting. A farmer tends the livestock on one side of the painting, while a herdsman relaxes on the other. Mary in the centre is part of that creation with the blue of her robe like the sky above,

while the russet shades beneath that blue mirror the earth on which she rests.

As we look more closely, we can see some disturbing signs of ‘nature red in tooth and claw.’ There is a bird to our left – perhaps a crane or egret – that is fighting with a snake. Above, on the top of a tall, thin, leafless tree there is another bird as black as death. We look at the babe sleeping in His mother’s arms and sense His vulnerability for all her protective love. Some 30 years later Mary will cradle her Son in that same pose as His body is taken down from the cross: that heart-rending moment we know as the Pietà.

The Venetian landscape is like a peaceful May afternoon where spring is dissolving into high summer amid those contented signs of a clear sky and cows grazing. The serpent and the raven tell us that struggle and death can easily invade that scene. But they somehow pale into insignificance as we ponder that luminous affirmation of new life in the mother and child that dominate the canvas. They proclaim life; they proclaim life after death. The babe sleeping in Mary’s arms will wake and grow through the seasons of life. Too soon we know His body will hang on a barren tree like the one where that bird of death perches. But that cycle of birth and spring leading to death and winter will be transformed as His risen body will walk into another landscape – the garden of Easter where the leaves never wither and the sky never darkens, for in that resurrection joy, all is life and light and life eternal

Michael Burgess

The Moment by
Jaspreet Kaur

“The moment that you realize that true contentment can be found when we serve others, all other desires will seem so small.

And the moment you see joy in another being eyes, because of your own selfless actions, life starts to make a lot more sense.



And the moment you begin to act as the reflection of the visions that you have a of a better world, things will begin to change.

And the moment that you recognize your own responsibility for the betterment of others, you'll see such beauty in life.

And the moment that you recognize that you'll make more of an impact by being righteous than always being right, rewards will come and fall into your lap.

And the moment that you are more concerned about learning to love, then to be loved, positive emotions of oceanic depths will engulf you.

And the moment that you are more concerned about understanding others than to always be understood, that's when your mind will truly begin to learn.

And the moment that we realize that our enemies are not physical flesh and blood, yet they are our own thoughts, peace will begin to conquer.

And the moment that we overcome those inner enemies, rather than deflecting them onto others, merriment will come find you.

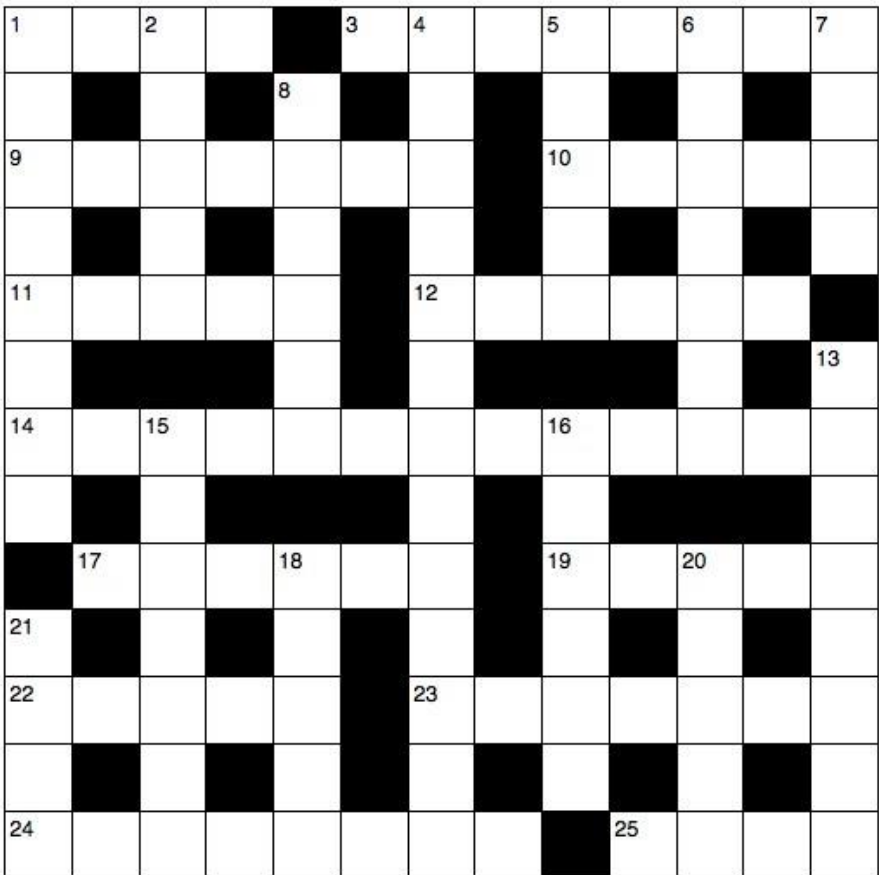
And the moment that you are more concerned about learning to listen, rather than to always be heard, you will hear languages you thought your mind could never fathom.

And the moment that you realize that life will always be about mastering and relearning, hunkering and climbing your journey will begin to feel so smooth.

And the moment that we all believe that we can change this world for the better, we will do it. Where we learn, change, grow and give, so go live your moments."

– Spoken-word artist *Jaspreet Kaur*, at the 2018 Commonwealth Day Celebration





Across

1. Therefore let us — passing judgment on one another’
Romans 14:13) (4)
3. ‘I — — these persons here present’ (Marriage service) (4,4)
9. According to a prearranged timetable (Numbers 28:3) (7)
10. Group of eight (5)
11. The cell into which the Philippian jailer put Paul and Silas
(Acts 16:24) (5)
12. — Taylor, pioneer missionary to China (6)
14. Otherwise known as the Eucharist, Breaking of Bread, the
Lord’s Table (4,9)
17. ‘So that after I have preached to others, I — will not be
disqualified for the prize’ (1 Corinthians 9:27) (6)

19. Attend to (3,2)
22. Approximately (Acts 4:4) (5)
23. Tea rite (anag.) (7)
24. Rule of sovereign (8)
25. Test (anag.) (4)

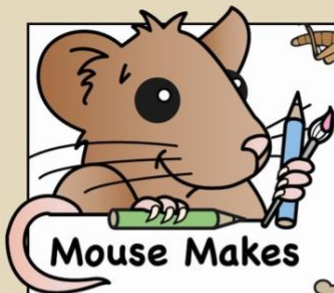
Down

1. The name of the street where Judas lived in Damascus and where Saul of Tarsus stayed (Acts 9:11) (8)
2. 'The playing of the merry — , sweet singing in the choir' (5)
4. 'We have been saying that — — was credited to him as righteous' (Romans 4:9) (8,5)
5. Dr Martyn — Jones, famous for his ministry at Westminster Chapel (5)
6. Port at which Paul landed on his way to Rome (Acts 28:13) (7)
7. Observe (Ruth 3:4) (4)
8. Minister of religion (6)
13. 'I am — of this man's blood. It is your responsibility' (Matthew 27:24) (8)
15. 'Greater love has no one than this, that he — — his life for his friends' (John 15:13) (3,4)
16. Archbishop who calculated that the world began in 4004BC (6)
18. 'No one can — the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit' (John 3:5) (5)
20. Establish by law (5)
21. Product of Gilead noted for its healing properties (Jeremiah 46:11) (4)

Answers to Crossword in Mar, Apl, May issue

ACROSS: 1, Corinthians. 9, Abandon. 10, Eglon. 11, Spa. 13, Deem. 16, Hi-fi. 17, Abijah. 18, Ohad. 20, Myth. 21, Now see. 22, Knit. 23, Tide. 25, Arm. 28, Nahor. 29, All done. 30, Kind-hearted.

DOWN: 2, Of age. 3, ISDN. 4, Tens. 5, Idea. 6, Nullify. 7, Hardworking. 8, Enlightened. 12, Praise. 14, Mad. 15, Vigour. 19, Abishai. 20, Met. 24, Is one. 25, Arid. 26, Male. 27, Slur.



Mouse Makes

The Lord said to Moses,
 "Your brother Aaron shall tell Pharaoh
 to let the people of Israel go out of his land...
 The Egyptians shall know that I AM the Lord
 when I stretch out my hand against Egypt..."

As Pharaoh's heart was hardened against the
 Israelites, God sent ten plagues upon him...

1
Water turns to Blood
 Which water turned
 to blood?
Read - Exodus 7:19

2
A Swarm of Frogs
 In which
 places were the
 frogs found?
Read - Exodus 8:3-4

3
A Plague of Gnats
 When Aaron struck his
 staff on the ground
 what became Gnats?
Read - Exodus 8:16-17

4
Swarms of Flies
 In which land were the
 flies not be found?
Read - Exodus 8:22

5
Death of Animals
 Which animals that belonged
 to the Egyptians died?
Read - Exodus 9:2

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

GOD • PLAGUES • MOSES • AARON
 WATER • BLOOD • STAFF • RIVER • NILE • FISH
 FROGS • SWARM • GNATS • DUST • FLIES
 GROUND • DEATH • ANIMALS • SOOT
 BOILS • PEOPLE • HAIL • THUNDER • FIRE
 MAN • BEAST • LOCUSTS • WIND • LAND
 DARKNESS • FIRSTBORN • MIDNIGHT

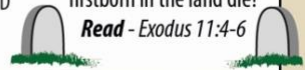
6
A Break out of Boils
 What did Moses throw into
 the air before boils appeared
 on people and animals?
Read - Exodus 9:10

7
A Rain of Hail
 What also rained
 down with the hail?
 Where did it not hail?
Read - Exodus 9:24-26

8
A Swarm of Locusts
 Where did the wind
 come from that brought
 the locusts to the land?
Read - Exodus 10:13

9
Darkness over the Land
 How many days did
 it remain dark?
Read - Exodus 10:21-22

10
Death of the Firstborn
 At what time would the
 firstborn in the land die?
Read - Exodus 11:4-6





Co-ordinator's Ramblings!!

The Coronation has happened and was broadcasted throughout this country and the world. Watched by millions and though the weather was on the rather wet side it was enjoyed by all. Such pomp and circumstance, solemnity and fun, all played out with such great precision, which Great Britain does with style and well-practiced accuracy. It was also a great joy to see people from all walks of life being invited to partake in the ceremony of the Coronation Day and included in the concert held in the grounds of Windsor Castle on Sunday evening.

The greatest message of all which themed throughout the events was the serving of one another in many ways. We lived through the day with all its experiences, be it on television or on-site in the rain of London, then on the Sunday morning at our 11.00am service, led by Jeremy Day, we had another experience.

Jeremy's sermon carried on this theme of service and also the building of strong foundations. I have borrowed his message, with Jeremy's permission, as I felt it reflected on our new King's

foundation, bringing him greater responsibilities for our community, society, country and world. This must also reflect in our own understanding of our new foundations and aims.

Both of our Bible readings, 1 Peter 2:2-10 and John 14: 1-14, read by Heather Piper, talked about houses, and both invite us to consider that our vocations do not happen in isolation, but as part of the ongoing work that God has done and continues to do through us. Lots of things in life build on what has gone before – just like houses our vocation needs strong and solid foundations which are built first. Or put more simply houses need a strong base which is built on to. And so do we.

This is the same for those who are Christians. We have a solid base provided by Jesus, and the church that has gone before us and we build our lives on what we have learnt from his life, death and resurrection. If Jesus is the foundations upon which we build our lives, then we need to know in what ways did Jesus act, so that we can copy Him.

A Question for you – how did Jesus live? What did he do?

[Examples might include healing the sick, sharing with the poor, eating with people, talking to God, sharing stories to help people understand something, loving people].

These all sound like great examples. If you are to build a house, building the solid foundations are important so that the walls can be built straight and so that the house will not topple over. We've discussed Jesus as a strong foundation, but the bricks used to build a house are important too.

Question - think of people who have taught you how to be more like Jesus. Examples in your mind be parents, grandparents, youth workers, ministers, Christians in the media, saints, missionaries, friends. If Jesus is the foundation stone, then we might see every one of these people, who has taught us more about Jesus, as being the bricks of the house of God.

The house of God might be a physical place, like a church, but it is also a community of believers. The good news is that all of us here are also a part of this amazing building being built by God. We aren't Christians in isolation, but we are a community, building on the work of God that has gone before. That is not to say that we have to do the same tasks as those who built before us, we do have to be relevant to the world as it is now in 2023 and beyond, but the purpose is the same – that all may come to know the love of God.

There is a prayer attributed to Sir Francis Drake 'O Lord God, when thou givest to thy servants to endeavour any great matter, grant us also to know that it is not the beginning but the continuing of the same until it be thoroughly finished which yieldeth the true glory'. Drake says in that poem "It is not the beginning but the continuing of the same", which brings about what Drake calls true glory – glory to God. Or as John says in our Bible reading, it is in following Jesus who is The Way, that the Father is revealed.

We might think we are not good enough to continue the work of Jesus, if so, do not worry, remember that in 1 Peter we read that we are a royal priesthood of ordinary people. Ordinary people like you and me are invited to continue on in the ways Jesus taught us. We are not called as individuals in isolation, we are called as individuals to respond to the love of God, and part of that response calls us in to community with other ordinary people and together we are a royal priesthood. The people of the church are called to continue the work started by God that flourished in Christ. "Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father." John 14:12.

We are continuing the work of God that God started in people who have gone before us. Yesterday, Charles III was crowned Monarch of United Kingdom, the Crown Dependencies, and the British Overseas Territories, and is now head of the commonwealth. Whatever anyone's view is on monarchy, this is an interesting example for us as we explore the themes in our

Bible passages this week. As we see this monarch, Charles III building on that which has come before, we ask, what are we called to do which builds on what God has done before in our communities?

What in the life of this community is happening because of the people who still are part of this church or were part of this church in the past? An example might be that a parent and toddler group started because of one young mum from the church wanted to meet other parents so she invited people to meet once a week.

Everyone in this community of Christ is called to his work. Whatever stage of life, there is a part for us to play, and the part we play will change as we change. Jesus, in the passage we read from John's gospel, was comforting his disciples. These were ordinary people who had witnessed extraordinary acts of God.

The book of 1 Peter is a letter, written to a dispersed Christian community in Asia Minor – which we now know as Turkey, Syria, Iran and Iraq, and this letter is reminding them to stand firm on the foundation of Christ in trying times and the face of persecution. The letter was to ordinary people facing unprecedented circumstances in their own time. The letter talks of a royal priesthood, this language had once been exclusively used to describe the people of Israel, people who had been set apart, to show others something of the character of God. But now it is for all people to be able to share and witness in the work of God.

King Charles III has been crowned. He is set aside for a particular role, but the Christian message of a royal priesthood is that all of us, all us ordinary people, are set aside, show the world a little of what God is like. Jesus is the foundation and we are the bricks, we are set aside so that a house of justice and peace can be built.

Today is Vocations Sunday and we are celebrating our various vocations as a church. The word Vocation comes from the Latin word *vocare*, "to name or call", and means the work a person is called to by God. The tricky thing is knowing, or discerning, the

voice of The Caller, the voice of God. It is often said that the kind of work God usually calls us to is the kind of work (a) that we need most to do and (b) that the world most needs to have done. This means that all of us have a vocation. Our vocations do not happen in isolation, but as part of the continuance in the sharing of the work that God is doing.

Together we are the bricks of the house, our vocations are the work of God continuing in ordinary people. For some the continuing of this work might be looking at full time church ministry but for all of us our vocation as the people of God means living out our faith in daily life. We might feel we are in the right place at the right time, or we might not, we might feel called by God to be alongside those in need and that might mean us making some changes to how we use our time or money.

We might feel called by God from what we are doing now to something new. Whether we are in the right place or called to somewhere or something new, that can happen in school, at the factory or office, in charities, football clubs, pubs, cafes, and churches – anywhere. We might have a vocation in wider life and also a vocation in church life. For some continuing the work of God might include volunteering as being part of a worship team, and elder, door steward or sides person, flower arranger, or the maker of great tea and coffee after church and in the week!

We are all being built into the same spiritual house that is based on the solid foundation of Jesus, and our bricks sit alongside the work and witness of those who have come before us and are around us. Let us not forget that we are all ordinary people, and yet we are all a royal priesthood, called to join in with the work of God in building His kingdom, of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, faithfulness, generosity, gentleness and self control.

Jesus was making known God's presence, God's greatness and mercy, God's grace and glory, God's persistent love on this earth. Jesus talks about the Son making known the Father's glory. Jesus was making known that we could be in relationship with the creator

of all earth and heavens and realms - that this is a God who is present in all of creation, including us.

We may find it hard to follow the ways of Jesus, we may have messed up, but we are forgiven, loved and invited by a loving God to join the Holy Spirit to serve the world so that all may know the love of God. In the letter 1 Peter, we read the language was of coming from darkness to light. The light is both a personal relationship with God and also, the light of a just world where the kingdom of God is realised. Many of us know something of this light in our lives and the invitation is to live our lives so that others can be called out of darkness and know the light.

I leave you with this:

We come to you Lord, just as we are.

Consider what you are doing to continue the work of God.

Are you being nudged in a new direction?

“Then the king commanded, and they quarried great stones, costly stones, to lay the foundation of the house with cut stones.

1 Kings 5:17

John



**The next issue will be for
September/October/November 2023.
The deadline for copy is 13th August 2023.**

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 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 Cubs, Scouts and Beavers -

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

For Guides - Hilary Parker - hilaryiparker@hotmail.com

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

For Rainbows – Nicola Joyce - nickyjoyce72@googlemail.com

Happy Days Pre-School – happydayspreschoolickenham@gmail.com

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