



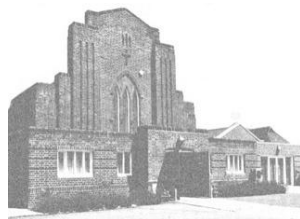
Grapevine

March/April/May 2025

Ickenham United
Reformed Church Magazine



Minister
Rev'd Wilbert Sayimani
Tel: 07950 485707



Contact Secretary and Grapevine Co-Ordinator

John Miller
1 Pynchester Close
Ickenham
Middlesex UB10 8JY
Tel: 01895 904556
E-mail : onepynclose@blueyonder.co.uk

Church Administrator and Lettings Officer

Shellie D'Arcy
c/o Ickenham United Reformed Church
Swakeleys Road, Ickenham
Middlesex UB10 8BE
Tel: 01895 913262 / 07792 143888
E-mail: ickurc@aol.com
Web: www.ickenhamurc.org.uk
Office open Monday, Tuesday Thursday, Friday
9.30 – 2.30pm

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 Minister

A Year of Spiritual Renewal:

Embracing the Lord's Presence



Greetings in the name of Christ.

As we begin this new year, I am sure many of us, just like myself, started it with a deep desire to see the Lord in all we do. It's a desire that I have carried for a long time, but often hindered by distractions and unnecessary obstructions. Perhaps many of us have faced similar challenges in the past year, where our focus has been diverted onto the wrong things.

Isaiah experienced something similar in his life. He witnessed both highs and lows, but for a long time, he lacked a personal

encounter with the Lord. It took the death of King Uzziah for Isaiah to truly see God. In Isaiah 6:1, we see that only after the king's passing did he have a transformative vision of God's holiness and majesty. I find myself wondering: What is it going to take for us to experience or see the Lord in our lives this year?

It's fascinating to reflect on the fact that Uzziah was a man of great virtue and deep reverence for God. He adhered closely to the teachings of the prophets and was instrumental in Judah's prosperity and influence. Under his leadership, the kingdom experienced stability, power, and wealth. In fact, Judah stood out among all the surrounding nations. However, even Isaiah, with all his faithfulness, ended up focusing more on the earthly king than on God Himself. This is a tendency that we all share at times — becoming too fixated on things around us, forgetting to keep our focus on the Lord.

It's true that many of us struggle to see the Lord because our attention is divided by other attractions. But remember, King Uzziah was just a man. When he passed away, a cloud of uncertainty fell over Judah, and the nation found itself facing a period of instability and fear. Isaiah, deeply affected by this loss, was not alone in his sorrow. The

death of the king marked the end of an era, symbolizing both personal and national uncertainty. I can't help but wonder: What has 2025 taken away from you so far? Perhaps your covering, the things you relied on last year, are no longer there, and now you're filled with anxiety and fear about the future.

But here's the encouragement, in this very time of panic, fear, and uncertainty, an opportunity for spiritual discovery emerged for Isaiah. He looked up, and in that moment of despair, he saw the Lord high and exalted, seated on the throne, His presence filling the temple. Even in the midst of turmoil and confusion, God's presence was unmistakable. I believe this truth applies to us today. In our moments of fear, anxiety, and doubt, God is present, ready to guide us forward. The things we trusted in during the past year may be gone, but unless we turn to God, we have no one else to turn to.

When King Uzziah was no longer in place, Isaiah was finally able to see what he had never seen before. The seraphim, angels flying above him, were part of a majestic vision he had not experienced until that moment. It was only when his eyes were turned away from the earthly kingdom and focused fully on God that he had this life-changing encounter. What seemed like a crisis, the loss of a good man, became a moment of spiritual renewal.

This is what we need today: a fresh encounter with God. In the midst of our losses, uncertainties, and confusion, we have a unique opportunity for spiritual renewal. When we turn our eyes back to God, setting aside everything we've relied on before, that is when we will experience God in ways we have never known. Only then will God transform our despair into times of growth and spiritual renewal.

When Isaiah encountered the Lord, he was overwhelmed with awe and humility. His sins were forgiven, and he found himself in the presence of divine glory. And in that moment, he heard the Lord's voice: "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Because of his new experience, Isaiah's response was immediate and unwavering: "Here am I, Lord, send me." His willingness to embark on God's mission was a direct result of his renewed vision.

I pray that we all leave our past behind and look ahead with fresh hope and trust in God's renewal. As we do, I am confident that this year will be blessed with divine purpose, growth, and direction. May the good Lord bless and keep you well.

Rev'd Wilbert Sayimani

Birthdays



March	
2 nd	Keeley Wilson
19 th	Celia Miller Richard Boyes Kathryn Dungey
22 nd	Sue Hughes
23 rd	Ruth Piper
26 th	Hannah Hughes
27 th	Heather Piper

April	
6 th	Daniel Madadi
9 th	Pauline Woodham
26 th	Leigh Smith



Family News & Dates –

Food For Thought

Wednesday 5th March 1.00pm

Elders Meeting

Tuesday 11th March 2.00pm

Prayer Group Meeting

Wednesday 19th March 2.00pm in Hardwick Room

Liaison Meeting

Thursday 3rd April 7.00pm in Oasis

Church Services

Sunday, 2nd March at 11.00am

led by Rev'd Wilbert Sayimani

Sunday, 9th March at 11.00am

led by the Jeremy Day, our Student Lay Preacher

Sunday, 16th March at 11.00am

led by Rev'd Wilbert Sayimani - Includes Holy Communion

Sunday, 23rd March at 11.00am - led by Rev'd Lesley Goldsmith

Sunday, 30th March at 11.00am - Mothering Sunday

led by Rev'd Wilbert Sayimani

Sunday 6th April at 11.00am - led by Rev'd Wilbert Sayimani

Sunday 13th April at 11.00am – Palm Sunday

led by Sue Clifford

Thursday 17th April at 6.30pm – Maundy Thursday Service

led by Rev'd Wilbert Sayimani with Holy Communion

Friday 18th April Good Friday - 10.30am Walk of Witness starting at the St Giles's Church followed by service and frugal lunch at the URC.

Meditation at the Cross follows at 3.30 pm at St Giles' Church

Sunday, 20th April at 11.00am - Easter Sunday

led by Rev'd Wilbert Sayimani - includes Holy Communion

Sunday 27th April at 11.00am - led by Frank Murphy

Sunday, 4th May at 10.30am

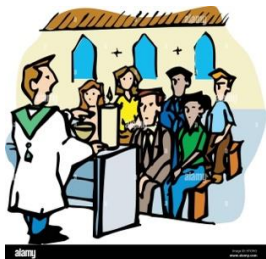
Covenant Service at URC – led by Rev'd Wilbert Sayimani

Sunday 11th May at 11.00am - led by Rev'd Lesley Goldsmith

Sunday 18th May at 11.00am

led by Rev'd Wilbert Sayimani – includes Holy Communion

Sunday 25th May at 11.00am - led by Jeremy Day

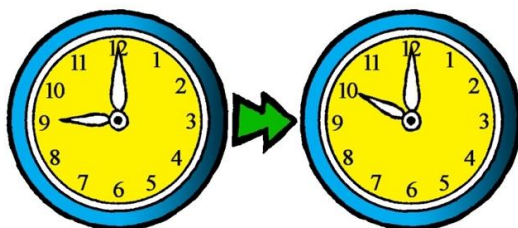


Memorial Service Remembering Loved Ones



On Sunday 18th May there will be a Memorial Service at 3.00 p.m. at St. Giles' Church for those who are bereaved. During the service the names of those who have died, whose funerals were conducted at Ickenham URC or by St. Giles' Church staff between the beginning of March 2024 and the end of February 2025, will be read out. Members of the Bereavement Support Group will be present. After the service, the congregation will be invited for refreshments in the St. Giles' Church Hall.

Anyone who would find this service helpful is welcome to attend.



Do Not Forget - the Clocks go Forward.....

.....by 1 hour at **2.00am Sunday 30th March**

So remember to put them one hour forward when before going to bed on Saturday evening.



World Day of Prayer Service 2025

The focus for the World Day of Prayer for 2025 will be ***"I Made You Wonderful"***, from Psalm 139:14, where we are reminded that God created each one of us with great attention and loving care.

The service has been prepared by the Christian women of the Cook Islands in the Pacific Ocean.

This year, the service will be at 2pm Friday 7th March at the Roman Catholic Church of The Most Sacred Heart, 73 Pembroke Road, Ruislip HA4 8NN.

There are many parking places right by the church and it is also near Ruislip Manor tube station.



There will be tea and cakes afterwards and all are welcome. **Please let Julie Dungey or Pat Veale know if you are interested but will need a lift to get there.**

From the Fundraising and Social Group

2024 ended with another successful Festive Community Night, despite the lousy weather exacerbating our geographical isolation problem, with nobody else offering anything much west of the Village Hall. We had a good crowd in and took £96 in the Oasis [many thanks again to Margot for the mince pies!], £48 on the raffle and £276 on the stalls, making £520 in all. As previously we left the stalls up until Christmas and by the end they had taken £545, which wasn't bad at all for what we had and owed a lot to the merchandising skills of Esme and Sally. We didn't do as well as previously in terms of donations for the stalls or the raffle and this provides food for thought, but thanks go to all of you who did give

things and particularly to Wendy and Pat S for their creative input, as well as the team who decorated the church. The coffee morning after the night before set a new record low for attendance, but adding in £100 that Elaine G raised online we banked £789 in all as well as making another contribution to village life, with the carols from Hillingdon Choral a highlight.

Since the start of 2025 we have had a very enjoyable New Year Lunch, with a top quality meal produced by Jem supported by Elizabeth, and the Coffee Morning and Coin Mountain, which made £67 on coffee and cakes [thanks as usual to the bakers] and £47 in coins. Looking ahead I am pleased to be able to tell you that Jem will again be preparing the Harvest Lunch in barbecue form, on the earlier date of 7 September in hope of being able to make more use of the patio area. It will be a busy weekend with the Late Summer Forecourt Sale on the 6th, following the Spring one on 3 May and the Summer one on 14 June, so please make sure that you have all the dates and help where you can. Always bear in mind that whilst we could do with some more youth and muscle [I mean that sincerely, folks] there are jobs for all in this team!

Richard Piper

From Our 'Student' Lay Preacher

I thought I'd continue my 'series' of updates on my progress on the Lay Preacher's Course at Northern College. I can report it's all still going very well. All 12 of us on this year's course are in the regular routine of our monthly Zoom sessions and busy-ing ourselves with developing the content for our Year 1 portfolio's as well as leading worship. We also have the final residential weekend of year 1 coming up in the middle of March. I have just completed a review of progress with my Synod mentor who is a very experienced lay preacher in Thames North and very soon he will be attending Church to carry out / complete my year 1 assessed service! It is invaluable to have this support and I very much enjoy our discussions and sharing of experiences. Watch out for a visitor soon! My portfolio is building very nicely with evidence of leading and preparing worship, reflecting (journalling) Christian activities

and experiences and a book review. I submit my portfolio at the end of July for year 1. The 12 of us have a WhatsApp group where we share experiences, concerns, joys, successes and ask each other for help and guidance. I may have said before we come from all over the country (and different Synods) and with differing levels of worship leading experience and life experiences. From our Synod, Thames North, there are two students although we do come from differing parts of the Synod both in terms of Church locations and residential location. I've been doing some of my training within the Chilterns Local Area Group (LAG) and have made links with Burnham URC and will be leading a couple of services for them later in the year - Pentecost in May and their Toy Service in December. Trinity in High Wycombe (Where our former Minister Bernie Collins' wife Gwen was Minister in the 2000's / 2010's) have also asked me to lead worship for them - just a short walk for me into town. Ironically, whilst studying our tutors encouraged us to keep the number of services we lead under 'control' and not to let Pulpit Supply Co-ordinators 'overuse' us! One of the aspects of the course I am enjoying the most, and linked to service preparation, is reading other peoples commentaries and reflections on the set lectionary readings. We are encouraged to do this so that we can explore others' thoughts and experiences linked to the bible. It really is fascinating to do this. In doing so we can make use of views and quotes as long as we reference them in our own material. By the time you read this the third residential weekend will be fast approaching as will the end of Year 1 and portfolio submission! Thanks for your continued support and the interest shown in my studies!

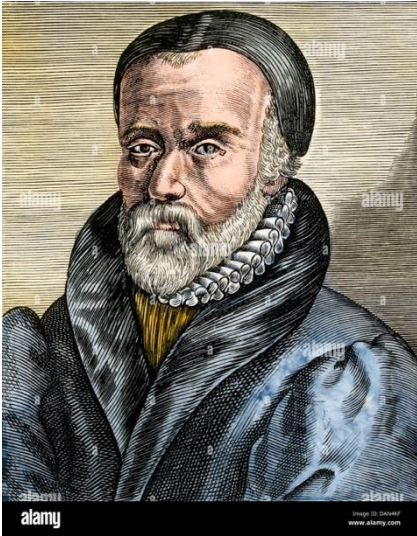
Jeremy Day



Noah had problems, too

When Noah sailed the waters blue,
he had his troubles same as you.
For 40 days he drove the Ark
before he found a place to park.

Bible a Month Club



William Tyndale (c.1490-1536) was an English biblical translator, humanist and Protestant martyr. He was burnt at the stake in Antwerp in 1536. He left England in 1524 to produce an English translation of the Latin Bible (known as the Vulgate). The Latin word “vulgar” meant “of the common people.” New advances in the art of printing enabled Tyndale translation to be mass produced. The translation enlarged the English language by adapting many Latin words into it,

including the words treasure, mystery, glory and horror. The Catholic authorities in England condemned and banned these translation as “flawed and heretical”. They stated that it was impossible to translate the Bible into a modern language without making mistakes that would plunge unskilled and especially new converts into doubts about faith.

There have clearly been many translations and versions of biblical text since then which have increased access for “ordinary people”. The rates of literacy across society grew enormously alongside Bible translation as people were able to read the Bible individually and in groups. Access to the Bible is said to give value to communities, helping poor and marginalised people to become more developed as they come to understand spiritual truths about God and his will for them.

In this quarter’s Bible Society leaflet for Bible a month, the value of sharing God’s word in Togo, west Africa is highlighted. They state that local people could listen to the Bible in French but felt “he is a foreigner and not my God”. When it was translated into their mother tongue of Kabiye, the stories became



real and made a difference in their lives. The local Church grew and less people turned to alcohol and witch doctors at times of trouble but instead gathered in supportive prayer.

We have 21 local people contributing just £10 a year through our link with The Bible Society. The prayer letters are distributed quarterly so please let me know if you wish to join and learn more about the outreach of “Bible a Month” and the worldwide benefits.

Julie Dungey

Foodbank for Lent



During the period of Lent as we reflect on Christ's fasting in the wilderness and the events leading up to His Crucifixion we remember all those less fortunate than ourselves as we 'Give up' something. Hillingdon Foodbank relies on donations from the community and supports various collecting centres such as St Gregory's

Church in South Ruislip. Alan Carey is one of many volunteers who help out on a Saturday morning and he takes our donations on a regular basis. These are always very gratefully received.



We have a box in the vestibule for regular or one-off contributions. During Lent we provide Shopping lists of suggestions of items which they are most in need of at this time in the form of an AdLent Calendar for a period of 4 weeks from Monday March 10th.

Please bring your donations by Friday 11th April, when they will be taken to St Gregory's by Alan in time for distribution before Easter.

(Please note that currently they have **plenty** of Pasta, Cereal and Baked beans. **Urgently** required items are starred*.)

Please ensure that there is 3 months shelf life on all items.

Thank you and God Bless you and your family as you make your contributions to help people in our local community.

Patricia Potter

Patricia Potter

Charitable donations 2024



As Christians we turn our thoughts to those for whom life can present huge challenges at home and abroad.

As I write this review we are preparing to choose two charities as the recipients of the planned fundraising events on the Forecourt (weather permitting!) and inside the church building in the coming months.

**In the last twelve months
we have made donations totalling £4412**

Chosen charities – *Papyrus* (U.K.) and *Smile Train* (International) each received £716;

The Arts & Crafts exhibition in the church during Ickenham Festival week raised £400 from donations in support of the *2nd Ickenham Scout Group* attached to the church as they equip their new scout hut in Community Close.

The Christian Aid Week appeal retiring collection and the Food for Thought lunches donations enabled a total of £725 to be sent to *Christian Aid*.

The Elders agreed that the 2024 annual Gift Day at our anniversary service should be for the *Falcon Junior school* in Zimbabwe. The school is on the outskirts of Harare providing elementary education to impoverished children. Their urgent needs include a borehole for clean and reliable water. Something which we all take for granted. This is a school with which Wilbert, our Minister, has strong ties. We were very pleased to be able to give £1735 to Wilbert to pass on.

Our Christmas Day Offertory was shared between *Centrepont* and the *URC Retired Minister's Housing Society* – each receiving £120.

These gifts are always gratefully received.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed in so many ways to help to make these donations possible. Gifts of time, talents and money serving in some small way as witness to our faith and love for the Lord Jesus Christ.

Patricia Potter

From Penny Party to Coin Mountain Coffee Morning in four decades

Once upon a time, in the mid-eighties, there was the Annual Penny Party in the Church Hall. The whole church family would join in games and quizzes after arriving and depositing all their pennies in a bed sheet ready for a mass 'counting' after the break for a bring and share meal. I used to dress up in hired costumes and host the party introducing the games and Dorothy amongst others helped provide the food. During that time the event morphed into a Coin Mountain Party where the sheet was discarded (literally) and replaced with the paper mountains that got filled / covered. My memory is not too good but Roddy Munro certainly drew and



coloured the second version, but I would put a bet on the fact he drew the originals.

The appeal of the evening event started to wane as members got older and didn't want to come out at night and the Coin Mountain moved to be a feature of the once a month Coffee Mornings with Ann Day (*left*) 'running' the coin mountain side of things receiving jars of coins, placing them on the mountain and children present

would help her count and bag up the coins. As time went by and with her ill health and passing the Coin Mountain 'mark three' was developed into the current Coin Mountain Coffee Morning.

Whatever it was called, whatever the format, the event shared Christian fellowship and good food and raised funds for the furtherance of God's work in this place. We should rejoice in that and praise God's name for the opportunity to meet together in that,

and other social settings. These events don't just happen as they rely on folk to run and organise them. I can't start to imagine the total amount those copper (and silver) coins plus the odd paper note or two has raised over the 40 years! Long may it continue to raise funds for our church.

Jeremy Day

Christian Aid Week 2025

will take place from May 11th-17th.

The week will focus on poverty in the world with a focus on the story of a lady in Guatemala.

Christian Aid was founded in 1945 as the relief and development agency of 41 Christian (Protestant, Catholic and Orthodox) churches in the UK and Ireland, working to support sustainable development, eradicate poverty, support civil society and provide disaster relief in South America, the Caribbean, Africa and Asia. This charity works with hundreds of local partner organisations in some of the world's most vulnerable communities. It is a founder member of the Disasters Emergency Committee.



The work includes helping people to:

- claim their rights and access services such as healthcare and education
- ensure they are not discriminated against for any reason
- become more resilient to shocks and disasters such as drought, climate change and hurricanes
- make the most of opportunities, such as being able to sell their produce for a fair price.

We no longer have a coordinated collection in Ickenham but that does not mean that you cannot support this charity and all the good work they do. Please donate if you are able as every little counts. You can do so via their website www.christianaid.org.uk or if you prefer to avoid online donations speak to Julie Dungey who can help with alternatives.

Christian Aid Week Quiz – a little brain stretch for you (adapted from their online resource)

1. This year's Christian Aid Week story features Guatemala. In Tikal National Park, what ancient ruins will you find?
2. The collective noun of which group of animals is called an embarrassment?
3. Who wrote the book Chitty-Chitty-Bang-Bang: The Magical Car?
4. Which spirit is used in making a 'Tom Collins' cocktail?
a) Gin b) Vodka c) Rum d) Whisky
5. Which radio show celebrated it's 100th anniversary last year?
6. Christian Aid has been working in Bangladesh since 1972. What is the capital city of Bangladesh?
7. Merengue, the fast rhythmic dance, originates from which Caribbean country? Christian Aid has supported here as part of an EU bi-national project funded.
8. Our long-term partner Mouvement Social (MS), helps children and young people in Lebanon. The primary language is Arabic, but which second language are you likely to find on road signs and bank notes?
9. Which two colours will you find on the Guatemalan flag?
a) Blue and Green b) Green and White c) Red and White d) Blue and White
10. Humanitarian work has been at the centre of our work in Syria since conflict began in 2011. Pope John Paul II became the first pope to do what during a 2001 visit to Syria?

Without cheating.....the answers can be found at the end of the Co-ordinator's Ramblings.



Those typos in the church newssheet...(not ours)

The church's AGM will be hell on 22nd April.
While the pastor is on holiday, massages can be given to the church secretary.
More sinners wanted for the choir.

Ten things God won't ask you when you die



God won't ask what kind of car you drove;

He'll ask how many people you drove who didn't have transportation.

God won't ask the size of your house;

He'll ask how many people you welcomed into your home.

God won't ask about the clothes you had in your closet;

He'll ask how many people you helped to clothe.

God won't ask which diet you were on;

He'll ask how many hungry people you helped to feed.

God won't ask what your highest salary was;

He'll ask if you compromised your character to obtain it.

God won't ask what your job title was;

He'll ask if you performed your job to the best of your ability.

God won't ask how many friends you had;

He'll ask how many people to whom you were a friend.

God won't ask in what neighbourhood you lived;

He'll ask how you treated your neighbours.

God won't ask about the colour of your skin;

He'll ask about the content of your character.

God won't ask why it took you so long to seek Him;

He'll lovingly take you into His Kingdom, not leave you at the gates of Hell.

Pray with your shoes



With the rush of Christmas over, taken down the decorations, we've tumbled into the New Year and plodded back to work, school or our normal routines. There's a pleasure about getting back to normality, but there's also the challenge of looking forward to what the year will bring.

Not all of us welcome this new year. For some of us, we know it will bring separations and loss: children growing up and growing away, moving away, family and friends moving on.

For some of us, it will bring extra work, new responsibilities, study for exams, looking after others. For others of us, we will have to start again; to learn to be on our own, perhaps through moving away or the loss of those we have lived with for many years and decades.

Why not when you put on your shoes each morning, ask God to be with you in the day ahead. Ask Him to walk ahead of you, to be by your side and close behind you, to surround you with His presence. For it is *His* day that we are walking into and not ours. Let His will be done, and not ours.

And then, as you take your shoes off, see what you can thank God for from that day together. To help to remind you, why not leave a single shoe by the main door – that might get visitors asking too!

A Happy Wanderer

Hillingdon's Hidden Asset?



Many years ago I upset an elderly neighbour by putting our dustbins back in the wrong place after the weekly refuse collection.

She lived alone, with limited outside interests and for her the exact position of the dustbins was important! After 5 years of retirement, I

began to worry about our dustbins, realised that I needed to get out more and so volunteered at the Battle of Britain Bunker in Hillingdon, where I now work on the front desk one morning a week.

Located 18M underground and accessed by 76 steps, “The Bunker” was completed in 1939 and acted as a communications centre, playing a vital role in controlling fighter aircraft during the Battle of Britain, D Day and beyond. Historically, access to the Bunker was gained via RAF Uxbridge but, when the RAF moved away, a £6M visitor centre was built (in 2018) and Hillingdon Council took over the running of the site.

“The Bunker” now attracts thousands of visitors each year, with a significant number from overseas. There is a learning centre on site, with specialist staff available to provide tours and educational activities for year 5 and 6 pupils as part of their history curriculum.

Large crocodiles of children in high vis jackets are a common sight.....the sight of them queuing at the front desk to pay for pencils, fridge magnets, ducks in RAF colours and other assorted



memorabilia from the gift shop can instill panic in even the most seasoned front desk volunteer! There are extra activities for children during school holidays and from time to time “The Bunker” has even offered a “sleepover in the museum” for organised groups such as scouts and guides.

Whilst access to the Visitor Centre – with its café and interactive museum – is available between 10.00 and 16.30 seven days a week, access to the underground bunker is by way of guided tours at set times of the day. Those going on these tours will usually be treated to an explanation of “The Dowding System” (the way in which early warning systems developed between the 1st and 2nd World Wars were integrated with communications to enable incoming enemy aircraft to be identified and intercepted). For those unable to deal with the 76 steps, the Visitor Centre can usually offer a “virtual tour” of the underground bunker by showing a film in the large auditorium / lecture theatre.

“The Bunker” is well worth a visit and a great place to take family and friends who may be visiting and don’t live locally. It is a good idea to go on-line and check the website for any latest news before you visit and tours of the underground bunker (which include access to the Visitor Centre) are best booked online in advance.

Tickets for the bunker tour and visitor centre combined currently cost £12 (adults), £9.50 (65 and over) and under 16s are free. Tickets for the Visitor Centre only are cheaper. There is a 50% discount for those with a Hillingdon First card and the website has details of other concessions.



Perhaps I will see you there one morning ??

Mike Young

The Battle of Britain Bunker, Wren Avenue,
Uxbridge, UB10 0GG

Tel: 01895 238154

Website: battleofbritainbunker.co.uk

Email: bunker@hillingdon.gov.uk

Mid-Winter Harvest

When the world drifts in frozen iciness:

Mid-Winter harvest.

She sleeps through drifting worlds of white;

Of frozen mists and flakes of flight

Where each day is but a fleeting prelude to a night

Of frozen solitude.



Rude winter winds;

Song of frozen stars;

When the linnet is silenced and the
robin sings

And white wings fold o'er the earth

A lullaby, until spring's re-birth:

Eerie beauty: when all the world

Has turned to glass, and every tree

Is iced with frozen frost, to white –

Frozen wilderness of silence deep

When the world sleeps.

It is then that she wakes and peeps

From the hardened earth;

Hardly a harbinger of spring,

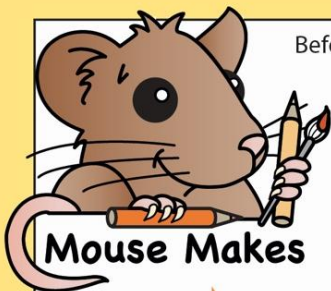
But a snowdrop's ring lights the

year's newborn days the first.

When the world is lost to a frozen

wilderness

Suzanne Munro



Before Jesus ascended to heaven he told his disciples
*"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit
 has come upon you, and you will be my
 witness in Jerusalem and in all Judea
 and Samaria, and to the end of the earth"...*
 ...When the day of Pentecost arrived,
 they were all together in one place,
 and they were all filled
 with the Holy Spirit."



READ the story
 of Pentecost
 in Acts 1-2
 Look up the Bible
 verses to find
 the answers to the
 crossword clues.

How many
 words can you
 make from
 the letters of:
 DAY OF
 PENTECOST



- 1 After Jesus ascended into heaven, which city did the Apostles return to? Acts 1:12
- 5a What did the Apostles devote themselves to? Acts 1:14
- 6 Who was chosen to replace Judas? Acts 1:26
- 5d Which special day was it? Acts 2:1

- 8 What rushing sound came from heaven? Acts 2:2
- 2 What appeared? Tongues of ...? Acts 2:3
- 4 What were the disciples filled with? Acts 2:4
- 9 What did they start speaking in? Acts 2:4
- 3 Who spoke to the crowd? Acts 2:14
- 7 Who had prophesied this? Acts 2:16

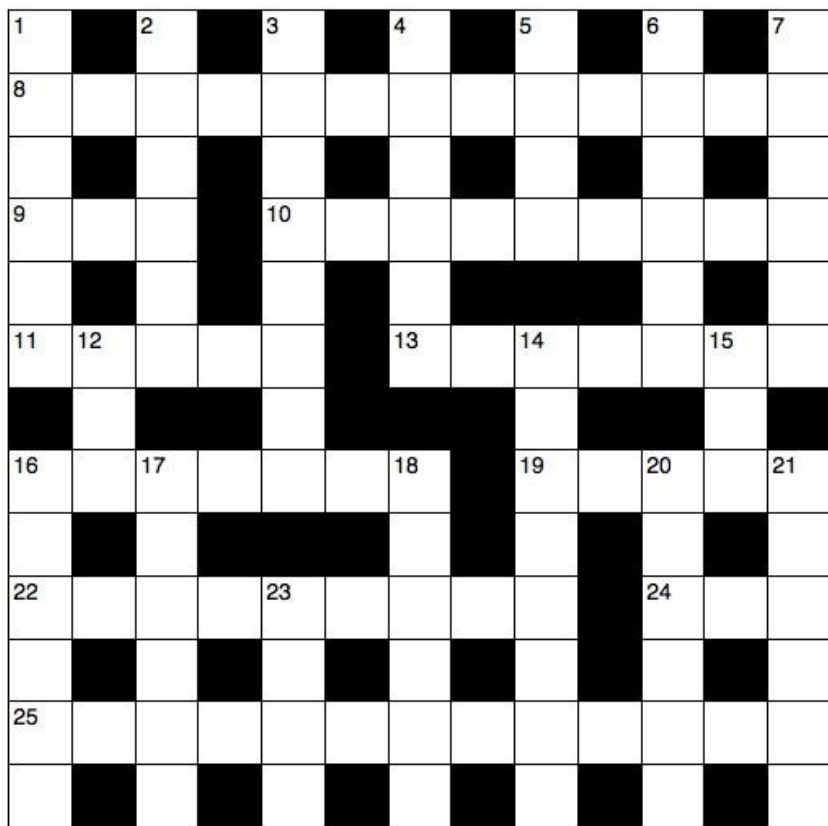
May24 © deborah noble • parishpump.co.uk



Bees....Did you know that.....

- a spoonful of honey is enough to keep a person alive for 24 hours.
- one of the world's first coins featured the symbol of a bee.
- honey contains living enzymes.
- when it comes into contact with a metal spoon, these enzymes die
- *the best way to eat honey is with a wooden spoon, if you cannot find one, us a plastic spoon.*
- honey contains a substance that helps the brain function better.
- honey is one of the few foods on Earth that can sustain a human on its own.
- bees saved people from starvation in Africa.
- propolis, produced by bees, is one of the most powerful natural antibiotics.
- honey has no expiration date.
- the bodies of the world's greatest emperors were buried in golden coffins and then covered with honey to prevent decomposition.
- the term "honeymoon" comes from the tradition of newlyweds consuming honey to boost fertility after marriage?
- a bee lives less than 40 days, visits at least 1000 flowers, and produces, less than a teaspoon of honey, but for the bee, it is the work of an entire lifetime.

Thank you, precious bees.



Across

- 8 Interrogated (Acts 12:19) (5-8)
 9 'Burn it in a wood fire on the — heap' (Leviticus 4:12) (3)
 10 Tobit, Judith, Baruch and the books of Esdras and the Maccabees are part of it (9)
 11 Science fiction (abbrev.) (3-2)
 13 Clay pit (anag.) (7)
 16 Went to (John 4:46) (7)
 19 'Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to — your bodies as living sacrifices' (Romans 12:1) (5)
 22 David's plea to God concerning those referred to in 14 Down: 'On — — let them escape' (Psalm 56:7) (2,7)
 24 Royal Automobile Club (1,1,1) 25 How the book of Ezekiel refers to God more than 200 times (Ezekiel 2:4) (9,4)

Down

- 1 Seas (Proverbs 8:24) (6)
- 2 One of the sons of Eli the priest, killed in battle by the Philistines (1 Samuel 4:11) (6)
- 3 Specialist in the study of the Muslim religion (8)
- 4 'Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but — him as if he were your father' (1 Timothy 5:1) (6)
- 5 One of Esau's grandsons (Genesis 36:11) (4)
- 6 Taking a chance (colloq.) (2,4)
- 7 God's instructions to the Israelites concerning grain offerings: ' — salt to — your offerings' (Leviticus 2:13) (3,3)
- 12 Confederation of British Industry (1,1,1)
- 14 'All day long they twist my words; they are always — to harm me' (Psalm 56:5) (8)
- 15 The crowd's reaction to Jesus bringing back to life a widow's son in Nain (Luke 7:16) (3)
- 16 Disappear (Psalm 104:35) (6)
- 17 How Jeremiah was likely to die if he wasn't rescued from the cistern where he was imprisoned (Jeremiah 38:9) (6)
- 18 What the prophets do to a wall, with whitewash (Ezekiel 13:10, RSV) (4,2)
- 20 Made by a plough (Job 39:10) (6)
- 21 Noah was relieved when the flood waters continued to — (Genesis 8:5) (6)
- 23 Jesus gave the Twelve the power and authority to do this to diseases (Luke 9:1) (4)

ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD IN DEC 24/JAN, FEB 25

ACROSS: 1, Lame. 3, Obtained. 8, Omit. 9, Merchant. 11, Burdensome. 14, Crafty. 15, Please. 17, Blacksmith. 20, Splendid. 21, Tier. 22, Singeing. 23, Hand.

DOWN: 1, Look back. 2, Main road. 4, Breast. 5, Accomplish. 6, Near. 7, Date. 10, Pestilence. 12, Basilica. 13, Tethered. 16, Action. 18, Asa's. 19, Clan

Home Schooling

Back in the 'good old days', we didn't appreciate how much education was given at home...

Our mothers taught us **TO APPRECIATE A JOB WELL DONE:**

"If you're going to kill each other, do it outside. I just finished cleaning."

Our fathers taught us **RELIGION:**

"You better pray that that will come out of the carpet."

Our mothers taught us **LOGIC:** *"If you fall out of that swing and break your neck, you're not going to the shops with me."*

Our fathers taught us **MORE LOGIC:**

"Because I said so, that's why."

Our mothers taught us about **CONTORTIONISM:**

"Just you look at that dirt on the back of your neck!"

Our fathers taught us about the science of **OSMOSIS:**

"Shut your mouth and eat your supper."

Our mothers taught us about **BEHAVIOR MODIFICATION:**

"Stop acting like your father!"



"That's two t's in Matthew", said Osric

Our mothers taught us about

ESP:

"Put your sweater on; don't you think I know when you are cold?"

And finally....

Our fathers taught us about

JUSTICE:

"One day you'll have kids, and I hope they turn out just like you!"

From My Bookshelves

As most of you know, I am big on books and have recently been going through my “library” to see which ones I can bear to part with, to clear some space and hopefully help our summer takings on the forecourt. Whilst doing this it occurred to me that amongst the books there might be the basis for some short but possibly interesting pieces, so here goes.

I am starting with *The Spirit of the Downs* by Arthur Beckett, first published in 1909 though mine is the 1930 edition. Many years ago I spoke about this volume at church on Bible Sunday, saying that while I could recommend it to anyone who, like me, loves the South Downs I acknowledged that it wasn't a Bible! Its relevance to Bible Sunday was the inscription in the front from G H Vinall [my maternal grandfather George Vinall], Bible House, Kobe. After returning from the Western Front in WW1 George worked for the Bible Society in Egypt then Japan, and finally in Canada when WW2 started. In use as a bookmark is a short leaflet mostly in Japanese but saying in English “Informal Bible Study and Worship in Japanese, St Martin's West Acton, Rev. Nick Henderson”. St Martin's was next to where we lived before coming to Ickenham and a nearby school building became the Japanese School of London, leading to an influx of Japanese people. I don't know how many attended the services or whether they are still going [I assume that Nick the Vic has retired], but I like to think that Grandpa's labours in the 1930s were not entirely in vain!

Richard Piper



HOLIDAY CLUB 2025

We would like as many children as possible to experience our joint churches holiday club and the love of God.

This year's dates are **28th July to 1st August** and we are hoping to run it all day. Look out for the registration sheets to join the happy throng which will be on both St. Giles' Church and URC's website soon.

If you feel you could help the team in any way, please contact via ichckids@gmail.com for more details.



Co-ordinator's Ramblings!!

A member of a certain church, who previously had been attending services each week, stopped going.

After a few weeks, the minister decided to visit him. It was a chilly evening. The minister found the man at home alone, sitting before a blazing fire. Guessing the reason for his minister's visit, the

man welcomed him, led him to a big chair near the fireplace and waited. The minister made himself comfortable but said nothing. In the grave silence, he contemplated the play of the flames around the burning logs.

After some minutes, the minister took the fire tongs, carefully picked up a brightly burning ember and placed it to one side of the hearth all alone. Then he sat back in his chair, still silent. The host watched all this in quiet fascination.

As the one lone ember's flame diminished, there was a momentary glow and then its fire was no more. Soon it was cold and dead and dark.

Not a word had been spoken since the initial greeting. The two men sat on in reflective silence.

A little while later, just before the minister was ready to leave, he picked up the cold, dead ember and placed it back in the middle of the fire. Immediately it began to glow once more with the light and warmth of the burning coals around it.

As the minister reached the door to leave, his host said, "Thank you so much for your visit and especially for the fiery sermon. I shall be back in church next Sunday."

Answers to Christian Aid Quiz

1 Mayan; 2 Pandas; 3 Ian Fleming; 4 a.Gin; 5 The Shipping Forecast; 6 Dhaka; 7 Dominican Republic; 8 French; 9 d. Blue and White; 10 Enter a mosque.

John

The next issue will be for June/July/August 2025.

The deadline for copy is 16th May 2025.

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. 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 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