

NEWSLETTER

April 2024 | No. 810



Christ Church
United
Reformed
Church

Zoom Bible Study Group

Join us online on **Saturdays 6 and 27 April** (9:30am start) as we continue our series on **'Ruth: Drawing on a Deeper Love'**.

For more details and joining instructions please contact Rosemary Milns on secretary@ccurc.org.uk



458
PSALM 20
A PLEA FOR GOD'S HELP
To the Chief Musician, A Psalm of David.
1 THE LORD hear thee in the day of trouble;
2 the name of the God of Jacob defend thee;
3 Send thee help from the sanctuary, and strengthen thee out of Zion;
4 Remember all thy offerings, and accept thy burnt sacrifice;
5 Grant thee according to thine own heart, and fulfil all thy counsel.
6 We will rejoice in thy salvation, and in the name of our God we will set up our banners; the LORD fulfil all thy petitions.
7 Now know I that the LORD saveth his anointed; he will hear him from his right hand.
8 Some trust in chariots, and some in horses; but we will remember the name of the LORD our God.
9 They are brought down and fallen; but we are risen, and stand upright.
10 Save, LORD: let the king see us when we call.

459
PSALM 21
REJOICING IN GOD'S STRENGTH
To the Chief Musician, A Psalm of David.
1 THE king shall joy in thy strength, O LORD; and in thy salvation how greatly shall he rejoice!
2 Thou hast given him his heart's desire, and hast not withholden the request of his lips.
3 For thou preventest him with the steps of goodness: thou settest a path of his feet, and he shall not slip.
4 Thou hast said, My heart is fixed, O LORD: I will not move, because thou art merciful.
5 Thou hast said, My heart is fixed, O LORD: I will not move, because thou art merciful.
6 Thou hast said, My heart is fixed, O LORD: I will not move, because thou art merciful.
7 Thou hast said, My heart is fixed, O LORD: I will not move, because thou art merciful.
8 Thou hast said, My heart is fixed, O LORD: I will not move, because thou art merciful.
9 Thou hast said, My heart is fixed, O LORD: I will not move, because thou art merciful.
10 Thou hast said, My heart is fixed, O LORD: I will not move, because thou art merciful.

Pastoral Letter April 2024

Hello!

I hope this letter finds you keeping well and that the cold viruses of the winter months are behind everyone now. This month means I have now been in Enfield for six months. The time has flown and so much has happened.

The Manse garden has finally started to look like a garden. Sometimes it crops into my head that Adam and Eve really didn't do us any favours, did they, because gardening is often a thankless task and requires hard toil. I cannot take any credit for the garden 'makeover' because it has been Stuart's hard labour that is finally paying off. I have been reminded though that good can so often come out of the rough. Stuart has made rockeries (yes, there was enough rubble for more than one). With careful placing and filling with soil we can now enjoy the newly formed rock gardens (as we have affectionately named them). With a bit of vision, it's amazing what can be achieved.

It's like that in church. When we have a vision, we have something to work towards but we need to listen to God for that vision. A church without vision just drifts. New shoots are beginning to show in the garden, however other plants are growing but we do not have a clue what they are. There's an anticipation about what will bloom (or not). It is a time to see how patient we can be - we cannot rush nature and so we just have to wait and see what happens. Rather like waiting on God, his plans happen in his timing.

"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens." (Ecclesiastes 3:1)

April starts with April Fool's Day, the day when everyone tries to play tricks on one another before midday, after this time you become the fool yourself. I really was an easy target for my family and without fail they got me within minutes of me waking up. Eventually it was agreed that making Mum mad because she had been tricked again before breakfast wasn't worth the sulk she went into (confession time!).

Paul in his first letter to the Corinthians (4:10) deals with the fact that the Corinthians thought so highly of themselves spiritually, they thought themselves wise because they thought they were in a better position than Paul. The Corinthians thought they had attained more but this was not so. On the contrary, Paul and those with him may have been made "fools for Christ's sake", in how lowly they were made to look, but they were spiritually much richer than the misguided Corinthians.

Sadly, the Church has often been seen as being full of people who think of themselves 'high and mighty' and better than those who do not go to church. In all fairness this may have been true in some instances. How tragic that the Church has been the cause of this feeling. It only takes an insensitive word or an indifference to a new visitor and that's the impression someone may walk away with. I saw a fantastic quote on Facebook from a David Huskins who said, "If God didn't send Jesus into the world to condemn it, I doubt God sent you."

This made me smile but also made me very aware that at times I can be far too judgemental and there is then a risk that I too could be guilty of pride just like the Corinthians. Our humanness can let us down so badly and that is why I am so thankful that I have Jesus to look to as my guide and safe place to go to when I have done something that does not glorify God. I will end now but would like to leave you with a prayer that you may like to say yourself.

Loving God, please forgive me for all the times when pride has crept into my thoughts and when I have thought myself better than others. Forgive me for the times I have passed judgement on others, forgetting that Jesus did not come to condemn the world but to save it. Make me a lowly fool for you Lord, prepared to follow you in ways that seem foolish to the world. May everything I do and say, from this day forward, glorify your holy name. In Jesus' name. Amen.

God bless you all,

Ruth

Zoom Bible Study Group

The next meetings of the Zoom Bible Study Group will take place on Saturdays 6 and 27 April from 9:30am. The group will be continuing a series of LICC studies based on the book of Ruth, entitled 'Ruth: Drawing on a Deeper Love'. If you are interested in taking part please contact Rosemary Milns for joining instructions - everyone is very welcome.

Safeguarding Training

All leaders of church organisations should complete Thames North Synod's Foundation and Intermediate Safeguarding Training. However, the training is open to anyone in the church fellowship. Some local training opportunities have been organised to make it easier for people to attend.

- Friday 5 April, 10:30am-12:30pm: Foundation Level E-Learning Training at Christ Church. Please contact Pamela Fisher or Rosemary Milns to book your place.
- Saturday 3 August, 10:00am-12:00pm: Foundation Level Training at Lancaster Road URC.
- Saturday 3 August, 1:00pm-3:30pm: Intermediate Level Training at Lancaster Road URC.

To book on to the training at Lancaster Road please email your name, church role, church and preferred date to **safeguarding@urcthamesnorth.org.uk** or if you do not have email access, please give your name to Pamela Fisher or Rosemary Milns to register on your behalf.

Thames North Synod Eco Day

An advance notice that a Thames North Synod Eco Day will be taking place on Saturday 8 June from 10:00am-4:00pm at Vine Church Ilford. Further details will follow in due course.

Thames North Synod Conference

Thames North Synod will be holding their 'Everyday Faith - Everyday Fruitfulness' Conference on Saturday 13 April from 10:00am-1:00pm at Lumen URC, 88 Tavistock Place, London, WC1H 9RS. Arrivals are from 9:30am and there will be a free buffet lunch at the end.

Steve Rouse from LICC will be leading the morning and it promises to be a really good time of encouragement as they explore what it means to discover God's purpose in every season of life (especially in the senior years). You can watch a short 90-second introduction with Steve at vimeo.com/922117229

The event is free to attend and you can find out more and book tickets at ticketsource.co.uk/urc-thames-north-synod

If you have any questions please contact the Revd Eddie Boon, Thames North Synod's Discipleship Enabler, on disc.enab@urcthamesnorth.org.uk

Discipleship Matters

'Discipleship Matters' is an informal online conversation to encourage our Whole-Life Discipleship. The next session will take place on Wednesday 17 April at 3:00pm or 7:00pm. It will take place on Zoom, lasting a maximum of one hour and including a Q&A. For more information, including joining details, please email Eddie on disc.enab@urcthamesnorth.org.uk

Friendship Club update

On 18 March about 30 people who gathered in the hall for Friendship Club watched fascinated while Linda Clarke from Enfield Baptist Church painted a wonderful picture of a glorious sunny day at the seaside, the kind of day when we really felt like going to the beach. While she was actually painting we enjoyed a variety of lovely modern Christian background music so had something to listen to and think about as well as to watch. It was a beautiful combination which one of our members described as “very relaxing” but, at the same time, everyone watched with full attention to see what was going to appear in the picture next. In between the actual painting Linda shared with us some amazing facts and figures about God’s creation.

Did you know that the ancient Egyptians were the first people to create the colour blue pigment around 2,200 years ago and that later ultramarine blue pigment was made with lapis lazuli, a luminous blue mineral mined in Afghanistan? Linda painted the sea with ultramarine blue paint which she needed because blue is a primary colour which you cannot get by mixing other colours together. She reminded us that the sea is amazing and so is God’s love and we sang together the Sunday School song ‘Wide, wide, as the ocean, high as the heaven above, deep, deep as the deepest sea is my Saviour’s love’.

When she painted the sand she asked us a question; “Do you think there are more grains of sand on the sea shore in the whole world than stars in the sky?” Quite a number of us got the answer wrong by choosing the grains of sand. In fact, we learnt that our universe contains at least 70 septillion stars, that is 7 followed by 23 zeroes.

And Linda even painted the number for us – 700,000,000,000,000,000,000. Astronomers estimate that there exist roughly 10,000 stars for each grain of sand on earth! She also read Psalm 139 which says a lot about God and his amazing universe and has a reference to “grains of sand” when describing how many thoughts God has (have a look at verses 17-18).

The picture continued to feature some rocks and sand dunes with warning flags for swimmers and people body boarding in the sea and afterwards lying on the sand dunes to dry. Finally, Linda told us that preparing this painting had reminded her not only of the wonder of creation but also of the wonder that God could come to this earth to die on a cross to save us, and so led us on to think about celebrating Easter again this year very soon. The final piece of music was the hymn ‘I cannot tell why he, whom angels worship, should set his love upon the sons of men’ (205 in Songs of Fellowship) which was played while we simply sat and admired the finished picture. A lovely summing up of all that had been said, listened to and seen on a special afternoon.



The next Friendship Club meeting is on 15 April at 2:15pm when we are going to hear from Alison Gibbs about her life in Zambia. All are welcome.

Sylvia

Boys' Brigade update

From Friday 23 to Sunday 25 February members of our Company & Seniors age groups took part in a Weekend Away at Felden Lodge (BB Headquarters) with others from across Enfield and Barnet.

We kicked off on Friday evening with some games on site, while Saturday's activities included a trip to Coral Reef Waterworld in Bracknell, Phasels Wood Activity Centre for high ropes, climbing and rifle shooting, before closing out the day with a quiz, devotions, a campfire, marshmallow toasting and more games on site. On Sunday we travelled to Topgolf in Watford to try out our skills on the driving range, before heading back to Felden Lodge for a nice Sunday lunch to finish the weekend.

The following Saturday, 2 March, we took part in the Company age group of the Enfield Battalion Badminton Competition, joining with 11th Enfield to come sixth overall.



On Saturday 16 March members of our Company & Seniors age groups joined with 60+ others from across London District for a Paintball Event at Delta Force Paintball in Surrey.

The lads took part in six games across three arenas, with the overall group split into Green and Orange teams. We were a part of the Green team, which won overall!



The following day we joined with 150+ other BB members at Totteridge Road Baptist Church (home of 11th Enfield) for the Enfield Battalion Church Parade.



Although poor weather meant that we couldn't parade in the local area as planned, the band from 1st Barnet performed in the church before the service began. The service itself was



led by members of 11th Enfield along with representatives from the Pathway charity, and was themed around Hebrews 12:1-3 and running the race of life whilst fixing our eyes on Jesus. Following the service a racing car-themed Explore Activity Afternoon took place which included lunch, crafts, Scalextric, remote control cars, a pit stop challenge, video games and more!

During March our Company & Seniors lads took part in our 2024 MasterChef Challenge, where they had plan and prepare a dish of

their choice (main course or dessert) to be judged by Ruth and Tina. They were scored in five areas - skill, presentation, taste, completing in the set time and clearing up



after themselves. There was an impressively high standard of dishes which gave the judges a hard time choosing a winner! Well done to everyone who took part and congratulations our winners (pictured above) - Tyla, whose chicken burger was chosen as Best Main Course, and Sunny, whose cookies took the prize for Best Dessert!

Over the last couple of weeks we've also taken the opportunity to reflect on Easter, thinking about how Jesus' death and resurrection was for us all and allows us to have a closer relationship with God.

Tom

Christ With Mary Magdalene

John 21:11-18

Tiziano Vecelli, known as Titian (c. 1487/1490-1576) was the greatest Venetian painter of the Italian High Renaissance. He was a pupil of the Bellini brothers and was influenced by Giorgione and later by Michelangelo. In 1516 Titian became Painter to the Republic of Venice where he painted altarpieces for several churches. In 1532 he met the

Holy Roman Emperor Charles V and became his Court Painter in 1533. He painted portraits of the Emperor and Pope Paul III and his grandsons.

Titian painted the Latin titled 'Noli me Tangere' ('Do Not Touch Me') in oil on canvas in about 1515, probably for a private patron, who would have enjoyed its aesthetic merits as well as its religious sentiments. Mary Magdalene was the first to see Christ after his resurrection. She had come to Jesus' tomb but found it empty and wept thinking that his body had been taken away. When a man appeared she thought that he was the gardener and asked him where Jesus' body was. When he spoke her name, she recognised that it was Jesus and tried to touch him (John 21:16-17).

The moment that Titian captured in his painting is when Jesus told Mary not to try to touch him. He is shown holding a rake in his hand, as Mary had mistaken him for a gardener. Mary had brought a jar of ointment to anoint his body. This can be seen under her left hand as she kneels at Jesus' feet and attempts to touch his shroud. Other versions have translated Jesus' words as "Do not desire to touch me" and "Do not cling to me". These suggest that the love that Mary had for Jesus as a man should be changed to a spiritual love.

This painting may be seen in the National Gallery in London.

Stephen

You can see a full colour version of 'Noli me Tangere' ('Do Not Touch Me') by Titian on page 39.

Let Us Rejoice in Christ Our King

A hymn for Easter - Luke 24

1. Let us rejoice in Christ our King
who lives with us for evermore,
may we proclaim our living Lord
so everyone may bless his name.
2. His friends were sad and
thought him dead,
they all had hoped that he
would be
the Saviour who, the prophets
said,
would set them free from
foreign rule.
3. But when they met the risen Christ,
at first they did not all believe,
until they recognised their friend,
and then rejoiced and worshipped him.
4. Just as the first disciples found,
he is alive for evermore,
so let us now rejoice and sing
in praise to Jesus Christ our Lord.

Stephen Gilbert

Long metre 8888 iambic tetrameter

Tunes 'Duke Street' (RS 94 'Give to Our God Immortal Praise')

'Church Triumphant' or 'Niagara' (RS 76 'The Lord is King! Lift
UpYour Voice')

The True Meaning of Easter

This hymn and poem was written to help us to remember why Easter is so important to Christians.

1. For many people Easter is
a time for giving chocolate eggs
and resting from their daily work
or going on a holiday.
2. However we should always think
of Jesus and his sacrifice,
of all he did throughout his life
and how he died to save us all.
3. As we believe God is with us,
to help and guide us every day,
so we should listen and respond
and carry out God's will for us.

Stephen Gilburt

Long metre 8888 iambic tetrameter

Tunes 'Melcombe' (RS 536 'New Every Morning is the Love')

'Winchester New' (RS 209 'Ride On! Ride On in Majesty!')

WATCH AND PRAY



Taizé worship

a service of song, silence
and contemplation

Thursday 11th April
7:30pm
Trinity Church Enfield

Pratt Green Hymn Competition



2024 Hymn Competition

To celebrate the *40th Anniversary of the Pratt Green Trust*, new hymns are invited on the theme of

'Celebrating Creation in All its Diversity'.

We have three categories designed to cater for the variety of skills and talents involved in hymnwriting; whether writing words, composing music - or both.

We are pleased to offer a £500 prize for the winning entry in each category.

NOW OPEN FOR ENTRIES

Entries for this competition can fall into three categories: Original text to a well-known melody; Original text to an original melody; Original melody to a Fred Pratt Green text. Entries are open now, the closing date is 10 May 2024 and winners will be announced on 4 July 2024. For more details please visit hymncomp.prattgreentrust.org.uk

Annual General Meeting

Our Annual General Meeting will take place on Sunday 14 April at 12:45pm (following the morning service). All members are encouraged to attend where possible.

As part of this meeting the annual accounts and reports for 2023 will be presented. Over the next few pages you can read these reports.

Minister's report

Since my Ordination and Induction at the end of September as you can imagine I have been finding my feet in Enfield.

My first meeting was with the Pulpit Secretaries and so my church life is planned out for 2024 - I don't think I have ever been so organised in my life. Before the end of the month I attended a session on 'Whole-Life Discipleship' organised by the Revd Eddie Boon and run by LICC which was at St John's URC, New Barnet.

As I am newly ordained, I have entered what is known as my EM2 training which is being overseen by the Revd Julian Templeton. This will mean I have to attend further sessions in various places through the coming three years. Julian visited me early on to explain what is required of me. My first full EM2 event was at Church House on 8 November 2023.

I have been joining the 'Discipleship Matters' Zoom meetings set up

by Eddie Boon and asked him to visit Bush Hill Park, Christ Church and Lancaster Road on 16 January 2024 to discuss further the plans for applying for a grant in connection with Discipleship Spaces within churches.

Over the first eight weeks after arriving I made sure that I visited at least once all the different groups associated with the three churches. I felt this was the best way to introduce myself and to meet as many people as I could in the most time-efficient way. As you can imagine that was a lot of people and after a good start (even though I say it myself) I became brain saturated with new names and started to get a bit muddled with who was who. So please bear with me and forgive me if I get a name or two wrong still.

Also, as part of this calling to Enfield I have responsibilities towards the Local Area Group. As part of LAG, I joined with some Elders from the LAG churches and attended an Elders' study day at Westminster College, Cambridge which was organised by the Revd Martin Legg. We had study sessions given to us by the College staff. As Ministers we are also called to extend support out to the other churches as required.

In October I attended online the URC's Safeguarding Symposium which was very interesting and inspired the thought that we need to ensure, as churches, we are compliant in all areas when it comes to our policy documents. A workshop to focus on this was organised and held at Bush Hill Park in February 2024. I also attended the 'Elders as Trustees' course run by the URC. Although I am not an Elder, I thought this a good way to refresh myself on the responsibilities of Elders as

trustees. Towards the end of October, I attended my first Thames North Synod at Lumen URC.

In November there was a Memorial and Thanksgiving Service which allowed people to come and reflect on the memories of their loved ones who had died. There has been good feedback but it may be worth making the times earlier so that people who do not like going out in the dark can attend. It was dark at 4:00pm in November and this put some people off attending.

As part of my own continual self-learning, I attended online The Festival of Preaching which is run by the Anglican church. This was a day of hearing and picking up advice from more experienced preachers - the ones that write books about it.

I have focused a lot of time on the youth work since my arrival and have been DBS checked and registered as the BB Chaplain for the three churches in the Pastorate. I also registered to attend a BB Chaplain's Forum online in January 2024 and also registered to attend one of the taster days for a new course being launched by the BB which is focusing on smaller group work around discipleship. It's been good to have discussions with Tom about what happens with The Boys' Brigade and I have been able to visit and meet the boys who attend here at Christ Church. It was good to see we have a new young leader attached to the group now too.

I have been able to visit the Girlguiding groups and plan to visit them once each month so that we can ensure regular contact with the groups and group leaders. I have had productive discussions with

Vicki and Tom about the best way to work together moving forward. This resulted in the monthly parade services being put aside for a trial period. We planned that there will be five special services throughout the year (see page 7 of the February 2024 newsletter for details).

Also, we made a couple of changes for the young people who attend Christ Church URC weekly.

- First Sunday of the month: The young people will go out but will come back in for Communion.
- Second Sunday of the month: The young people will have their session at the back of the church for quieter session work.
- Third Sunday of the month: This will be an all age service so the young people will stay in throughout the whole service.
- Fourth Sunday of the month: The young people will go out so they can do drama, singing, etc but only when there is another adult to go out with Rosemary, in line with safeguarding policy.

I believe the new plans will work but it will need commitment from all parties and some compromise and patience with each other. I am very hopeful though that the trial will be a positive experience for all and look forward to working altogether with the uniformed organisations.

I was pleased to be able to stand in for Rosemary to lead the online Bible study twice. At the time they were working through a study guide on Exodus written by Antony Billington (produced by LICC).

I have also been delighted to get to know the people who attend the Friendship Group and helped in November and December when

Sylvia was poorly. People obviously had been good throughout the year as Santa made an appearance and gave out presents at the December meeting. It is a place of great warmth and friendship - the group definitely does what it says on the tin.

Chase Side Primary School visited with 39 of their Year 1 classes for Christingle. Thankfully there were no incidents when we lit the candles and the children behaved so nicely. Following this, the Year 5 and 6 classes came to rehearse and then perform their Christmas Carol service. It was a wonderful time and felt like it was a Christian service rather than a school performance. One poem in particular had the adults crying - it was about missing loved ones at Christmas. We were able to help the school by putting their material on a PowerPoint which made it easier for the parents and responsible adults to join in. I was very honoured to be invited to the Year 1 and 2's Christmas Play.

I have been forging friendships with the staff at Bay Tree House and we are looking at working on a Christmas Service next December as a possibility because so many of their clients are absent from school and therefore miss the Christmas events. We are thinking this is something nice that the staff and clients could attend together. I will keep the Elders informed of how this idea develops.

Obviously there have been the meetings with the Elders which have always been productive, and I have really appreciated their support and encouragement. I also really appreciate the time they give to God's work in the church. Ministers cannot be effective without a group of dedicated Elders.

Looking into 2024, I have (having had the permission from the Elders at the last Joint Elders Meeting) visited each church group once a month where possible up until April when it will be a time when we should reassess what I do within the pastorate.

My time at Christ Church URC has been a really happy time and I have enjoyed the fellowship with you all so much, as I have with all the churches. Can I take this opportunity to thank everyone for making me, Stuart and the girls (when they visit) very welcome.

The Revd Ruth Dewis
Minister, Christ Church URC

Secretary's report

We were very pleased to welcome Sarah Harry as an Elder at the beginning of 2023 and are grateful for the fresh input she has brought.

Services are accessible on YouTube and the Local Area Group continue to produce a weekly hard copy of a service for anyone who is unable to attend in person, or online.

In March it was good to be able to hold a Service of Thanksgiving, led by the Revd Martin Legg, for the lives of Ron and Lily Smith, two former members, who had contributed much to Christ Church, but had moved away to live near their daughter in Towcester. Lily died in January 2023 at the amazing age of 102. Ron had passed away in April

2020. The church was full and it was an indication of in what high regard they had been held, that people came from near and far to remember them and to give thanks for their lives.

Following on from the visits which the Revd Eddie Boon, the Synod's Discipleship Enabler, made to the Pastorate in 2022, representatives from Christ Church attended a series of Learning Hubs run by Eddie and the Revd Steve Rouse from the London Institute for Contemporary Christianity (LICC). These were on the themes of 'Whole-Life Discipleship Vision', 'Whole-Life Worship' and 'Small Group and Intentional Relationships'. The sessions were about changing the culture of a church so that the importance of what people do in their lives outside church is emphasised (their 'frontlines'), and the need to equip people so that they are able to live as disciples of Christ on those frontlines. These sessions have been very interesting and helpful and we are gradually incorporating some of the suggestions made into the services run by Christ Church's Worship Group.

The Bible Study and Prayer Group has continued on Zoom and now has 12 members. It has been great to be joined by people from other churches in the Local Area Group. In 2023 we have used a number of the studies published by LICC, including those on 1 Peter - 'Confidence in a Complex World'; Exodus - 'Freedom to Serve God'; and Ruth - 'Drawing on a Deeper Love'. There have been many thought provoking and interesting discussions!

Some of the children from the church attended Lancaster Road's children's Holiday Club in August and Tom Boorman, Pamela Fisher

and myself were pleased to be able to assist as part of the adult helpers' team.

After a break because of Covid, we were glad to run again our annual Holiday at Home. This took place on two consecutive days at the beginning of September and offered a variety of activities that people might enjoy on holiday, but without having to leave Enfield! A total of 21 people attended over the two days and took part in a varied programme which included Zumba, craft activities and talks from the Revd Paul Weary and Barrie Thompson.

In December, we were pleased to welcome, again, children from Year 1 at Chase Side Primary School to learn about and make Christingles and to host the school's Christmas Carol Concert.

Social events have included a Good Friday fellowship lunch and a picnic, followed by games, quizzes and craft activities to celebrate King Charles III's Coronation. For Christmas, a very successful fellowship lunch was after the Service of Lessons and Carols.

Christ Church continues to support the Enfield Debt Centre (part of Christians Against Poverty, or CAP). We were pleased to welcome Olugbenga Akindele, from the national CAP organisation at the beginning of 2023. He reminded us of God's heart for those in poverty and explained in what ways we could support the work of CAP.

Other charities that we have supported include Shanthigramam Leprosy Mission in India, Lancaster Road URC's Special Supper Ministry, Khristiya Seva Niketan (KSN) Hospital in West Bengal,

Christian Aid (we raised £420 for Christian Aid Week and £110 for their Harvest Appeal in September), North London Hospice, Goldie College in the Solomon Islands (where Sylvia Coombs taught for many years), Mission Aviation Fellowship and the Bible Society. Our Harvest and Nativity Service food donations were given to Lancaster Road URC's Food Hub. Many thanks to everyone who has so generously supported these causes.

The best news of the year was, of course, that we interviewed and then agreed to call the Revd Ruth Dewis to be our new minister! Ruth was ordained and inducted to the Pastorate of Bush Hill Park, Christ Church and Lancaster Road on 23 September. Welcome Ruth and thank you for your infectious enthusiasm and boundless energy!

The Elders ask for your continued prayers and support for us, Ruth and the church fellowship.

Rosemary Milns
Elder and Church Secretary

Worship Group report

The Worship Group (Sylvia Coombs, Pamela Fisher and Rosemary Milns) has planned and taken 11 services in 2023.

We started the year with a Breakfast Service for the Pastorate on the theme of 'Looking forward - time for a fresh start', which contained some practical suggestions of how people might share the Gospel.

One of our aims in 2023 was to try to achieve a more integrated teaching by incorporating into Worship Group services the themes which were being followed in the Zoom Bible Study. Accordingly, at the beginning of the year we considered passages from the letters of Peter and in particular, who we are as Christians and being 'living stones'. Later on in the year we looked at themes from Exodus based on Moses' call, experiencing God's deliverance, trusting and obeying and becoming God's people.

We have also included some of the ideas which we have gained from taking part in the 'Whole-Life Discipleship' sessions, run by the Revd Steve Rouse from LICC in conjunction with the Revd Eddie Boon, the Synod's Discipleship Enabler. One of these involves interviewing members of the congregation to find out what they do during the rest of the week, what are their challenges and joys there, and most importantly how we can pray for them.

We have also planned and led the services for Mothering Sunday, Easter, the Christmas Nativity and Service of Lessons and Carols.

We have tried to include a variety of different approaches to worship within the services, some informal, some formal. We hope people find the services relevant and thought provoking! Thank you to everyone who has taken part and for being willing to do so.

Also, a big thank you to Sylvia and Pamela for all that they have done and contributed during the year.

Rosemary Milns

Adventurers (Junior Church) report

Adventurers continues to meet for part of the Sunday morning service each week, apart from Family Services, when we stay in for the whole of the service. The group is for children aged 3 years and upwards and we have had a wide range of ages over the year, which at times can be quite challenging, generally in a good sort of way!

We usually follow the themes from the lectionary, unless the person taking the service particularly requests a different topic. Whatever the theme though, we enjoy exploring the amazing stories of the Bible, using a mixture of drama, games and craft activities. We try to imagine what it would have been like to live in Bible times, but also think about how the teachings of the Bible relate to us today and provide guidance for how we should live our lives and treat other people.

We are continuing to sponsor Erena through the charity World Vision. Erena lives in Shkodra in Albania and is now 9 years old. We send her a birthday and Christmas card each year with a short message. Erena lives with her parents and has a brother and two sisters. Her mother is unemployed and my father is an agricultural labourer. When she has free time she loves playing ball games. Her favourite subject at school is colouring. World Vision says that the sponsorship they have received has enabled them to run IMPACT clubs for teenagers in Albania. Here they learn to become active citizens, leaders, and entrepreneurs. The clubs help the young people to develop and lead projects in their communities, and improve the lives of children growing up beside them.

Many thanks to Gracie George for her help with running Adventurers.

Rosemary Milns

Friendship Club report

During this last year we have enjoyed another varied programme once a month on a Monday afternoon at Friendship Club. Our thanks go to Barbara and Margaret for all their help with running our programme and to Olive for looking after our accounts. In addition, we are grateful to all the members who help with the many smaller tasks that enable our meetings to run smoothly - everything from providing transport and stacking chairs to making tea and washing up - and to Tom and the BB for help with setting up, putting away tables, and other heavy jobs.

In 2023 we have again been taken around the world by speakers who have introduced us to far flung places. We had an illustrated tour around the mountains of Bulgaria, and heard and saw more about the work of Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF) worldwide. We have continued to support MAF and received a letter of thanks from them for donations two years running.

Nearer home, Joan Soulsby from Trinity Church told us all about her working life at Chase Farm Hospital in the laboratory with Ron Smith. We also shared memories of our primary school days, particularly at Chase Side Primary School, led by Stephen Gilbert, and of life on the home front during the Second World War and growing up in the

aftermath led by Brenda Brown. Pamela Fisher gave us some practical advice on 'staying safe' in our fast moving modern world including keeping healthy and dealing with scams. Then Anne Luciani led us in an afternoon of music and fun songs, to which I contributed short stories, all based around the theme of travel. In these ways people have been able to enjoy a variety of very participatory sessions which have proved popular.

In August we once again celebrated with a wonderful summer tea. Our tea was organised, prepared and served by Pamela Fisher and we would like to say a very big thank you to her and her helpers for all the planning and hard work that she put into this event.

We are also very grateful for the help which the Revd Mandy James and Linda Clarke, both from Enfield Baptist Church, have provided. Linda painted another of her wonderful pictures accompanied by her choice of music, and Mandy led two sessions for us - a fun quiz afternoon and a beautifully illustrated talk which included questions and answers and singing.

It has been great to be able to welcome Ruth and Stuart to our recent sessions after their arrival and wonderful to have their help, especially for our Christmas session when Ruth spoke about the real meaning of Christmas, and they blew up lots of balloons for a game, provided lots of food for our bring and share tea, and even helped with all the practical things up to and including clearing up tables and chairs and sweeping the floor. We also welcomed Jim back as Father Christmas to distribute presents. Our thanks to him too.

It has been another exciting and interesting year for the Friendship Club during which we have seen a significant increase in numbers. As one of this year's new members said recently when inviting others to join, "We do a lot of laughing at Friendship Club!"

Sylvia Coombs

Girlguiding report

The Rainbows have enjoyed two sleepovers, one Disney themed and one carnival themed, both were well attended and the girls loved them!

On Friday evenings we have enjoyed craft, cooking, badge work, games and having visitors in. We especially enjoyed meeting a guide dog and the Easter egg hunt. In the winter term we did some Christmas craft and enjoyed an end of term games evening where we got to win lots of prizes!

The Brownies have enjoyed two camps in 2023. One was the carnival camp that the Rainbows also attended, and an indoor sleepover with the theme of Harry Potter where we made lots of cool crafts and even made our own spells.

On Friday evenings we have enjoyed craft, games, cooking, trips out, learning new campfire songs and badge work. We really enjoyed making slime and loved eating the pizzas we made.

The Guides and Rangers enjoyed our first week-long Summer Camp since Covid. It was great to be camping outside again and was very well attended. We also had our annual Christmas camp as well as Christmas shopping.

We enjoyed having a football coach in to teach us some new skills. We also enjoyed lots of crafts, games, cooking and generally being with our friends.

Looking ahead to 2024, the groups have started planning for their next international trip to Disneyland Paris in 2025. We have also welcomed back a former Ranger to our leadership team. All of our groups are continuing to grow in numbers and we look forward to more camps and trips!

Vicki Stratton-Stubbs

Boys' Brigade report

At Boys' Brigade we enjoyed a packed programme of activities in 2023, and we are pleased to report a growth in numbers in all of our age groups during the year.

In our team of leaders, we said goodbye to Josef McDonald as he headed off to university. It was fantastic to welcome Stephen Bowden onto the team, as well as the Revd Ruth Dewis as our new Chaplain. Thank you to Rosemary Milns for her support in this role whilst Christ Church was seeking to call a new minister.

In January 2023 we held a fundraising Quiz Night, which was attended by around 90 people and raised over £1,060 for Company funds.

All of our age groups continued to meet weekly in the hall on Monday evenings during school term times, enjoying a series of activities based around the BB's six Activity Areas: Get Active, Get Adventurous, Get Creative, Get into the Bible, Get Involved and Get Learning. Our Company & Seniors continue to be joined by members of 1st Enfield.

Special events for Anchors & Juniors included an Activity Afternoon, trips to Chessington and Whipsnade Zoo as well as, for Juniors, taking part in the Juniors International Team Games, Swimming Gala, a Football Academy, Weekend Camp and a Bowling competition.

The Company & Seniors age groups took part in a Laser Quest competition (which we won), Badminton competition, a Weekend Away, the national Top Team Challenge, Football Academy, national Unite camp, a trip to Thorpe Park, Quiz & Pizza Evening, Bowling competition (which the Company age group won) and an I'm a Celebrity Live Event. Additionally, it was great to be able to join with our friends from 10th Enfield and 4th Barnet for our Summer Camp, which took place in Beeston Regis on the North Norfolk coast.

All age groups had the opportunity to come together to take part in an Enfield Battalion Church Parade & Explore Activity Afternoon which we hosted at Christ Church, celebrations for King Charles III's Coronation, a Hare & Hounds Fun Race, an Athletics & Sports event, Life 2 the Max fun day, celebrations for the BB's 140th anniversary, the Enfield Remembrance Sunday Parade and the Enfield Parade of Light.

In May we held our Awards Evening, where the boys were presented with awards, certificates and trophies including Queen's Badges (the BB's highest award) to Josef McDonald and Stephen Bowden - our first such awards for 17 years. We are immensely proud of both of them! In October we held our Enrolment Service, where the boys were enrolled or re-enrolled as members of the Company.

Summer activities included games on the Green and in the hall, trips to Jungle Falls Adventure Golf and Laser Quest, a ropes course over water for our older lads, and an end of term BBQ.

Towards the end of the year we launched our Supporters Network, which you can find out more about at 3rdenfieldbb.co.uk/support

It was great to be able to get involved in so much during 2023, and 2024 is already more of the same!

Tom Boorman

Prayer diary April 2024

- 1 Easter Monday: Take some time to reflect on the events we remembered over the past weekend.
- 2 Pray for the improvement works taking place in the hall over the Easter holidays.
- 3 Pray for Ruth and Stuart.
- 4 Pray for HM The King and HRH The Princess of Wales as they undergo respective medical treatments at this time.

- 5 Pray for those who are suffering from sickness or ill health.
- 6 Pray for the Zoom Bible Study Group as they meet today.
- 7 Pray for Anna Erikson as she leads our service this morning.
- 8 Pray for the group from the Pastorate who are heading to Spring Harvest in Minehead today.
- 9 Pray for our Elders.
- 10 Pray for those who are new to the Christian faith.
- 11 Give thanks to God for his word to us through the Bible.
- 12 Pray for the residents of Chase Side Place.
- 13 Pray for all of the children and young people in our church family.
- 14 Pray for our Church AGM, taking place following today's service.
- 15 Pray for the Friendship Club as they meet this afternoon.
- 16 Pray for the leaders of our church organisations.
- 17 Pray for the work of the Enfield & East Hertfordshire Local Area Group.
- 18 Give thanks to God for our friends and families.
- 19 Pray for the Rainbows and Brownies as they meet this evening.
- 20 Pray for peace in areas of the world where there is conflict.
- 21 Pray for The Worship Group as they lead our service today.
- 22 Pray for the Anchors and Juniors as they meet this evening.
- 23 St George's Day: Pray for England.
- 24 Pray for friends from Bush Hill Park and Lancaster Road URCS.
- 25 Pray for the staff and pupils at Chace Community School.
- 26 Pray for the Guides and Rangers as they meet this evening.
- 27 Pray for the Zoom Bible Study Group as they meet today.
- 28 Pray for the Adventurers as they meet during our service today.
- 29 Pray for the Company and Seniors as they meet this evening.
- 30 Pray for the local community around Christ Church.

Church diary April 2024

Saturday 6 April 9:30am-10:30am
Zoom Bible Study Group
Please contact Rosemary for joining instructions

Sunday 7 April 11:15am
Anna Erikson
Holy Communion (offering for the Communion Fund)
Duty Elder - Pamela Fisher

Sunday 14 April 11:15am
The Revd Ruth Dewis
Duty Elder - Sarah Harry

Sunday 14 April 12:45pm
Church AGM

Monday 15 April 2:15pm
Friendship Club
Life in Zambia - Alison Gibbs (including short AGM)

Sunday 21 April 11:15am
The Worship Group
All Age Service
Duty Elder - Philip Taylor

Saturday 27 April

9:30am-10:30am

Zoom Bible Study Group

Please contact Rosemary for joining instructions

Sunday 28 April

11:15am

Michaela Lawrence

Duty Elder - Rosemary Milns

Church diary May 2024

Sunday 5 May

11:15am

The Revd Ruth Dewis

Holy Communion (offering for the Lancaster Road URC Special Supper Ministry)

Duty Elder - Philip Taylor

May 2024 Newsletter

The **May 2024** edition of the Christ Church Newsletter will be published on **Sunday 28 April**. Items intended for inclusion in this issue should be with the Editor by Sunday 21 April. Any late submissions may be held over to the following issue.

Key information

Minister The Revd Ruth Dewis 07592 125 027 / minister@ccurc.org.uk

Secretary Rosemary Milns secretary@ccurc.org.uk

Serving Elders

Pamela Fisher, Sarah Harry, Rosemary Milns & Philip Taylor elders@ccurc.org.uk

Safeguarding Pamela Fisher safeguarding@ccurc.org.uk

Treasurer & Property David Fisher treasurer@ccurc.org.uk

Bookings Pamela Mansley 07936 798 722 / bookings@ccurc.org.uk

Newsletter & Website Tom Boorman newsletter@ccurc.org.uk

Activities for adults

Bible Study Group Rosemary Milns secretary@ccurc.org.uk

Friendship Club Sylvia Coombs 020 8363 3543 / mail@ccurc.org.uk

Activities for children and young people

Adventurers Rosemary Milns secretary@ccurc.org.uk

Boys' Brigade Tom Boorman info@3rdenfieldbb.co.uk

Girlguiding Vicki Stratton-Stubbs 9thenfield@gmail.com

If you are not able to email, please phone Ruth and your details will be passed on.

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Christ Church URC is a part of the **North Enfield Group of URCs** and the **Enfield & East Hertfordshire Local Area Group**.

Our motto: "Enter to worship, depart to serve."

Our mission statement: Christ Church URC aims to provide through its worship, work, witness and mission an effective contribution to the spiritual and social welfare of the Church family and the wider community.

Please note that views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily the views of the whole fellowship, nor are they representative of church policy.



'Noli me Tangere' ('Do Not Touch Me'), Titian c. 1515, National Gallery, London. Public domain image via Wikimedia Commons. An article on Christ with Mary Magdalene by Stephen Gilbert can be found on pages 12-13.

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Christ Church
United
Reformed
Church

Email mail@ccurc.org.uk
for more details of regular
activities taking place at
Christ Church



You are invited...

Join us for worship on **Sundays** at **11:15am**
See diary for details of upcoming services

Adventurers (Junior Church)

During our Sunday morning service - for children aged 3+

Games, drama, craft and lots more fun activities based around a Bible theme

Friendship Club

Once monthly on a Monday (usually third Monday) at 2:15pm

Social meetings for adults for all ages - see diary for upcoming dates



Monday evenings
For boys aged 5-18
info@3rdenfieldbb.co.uk



Friday evenings
For girls aged 4-18
9thenfield@gmail.com



Zoom Bible Study Group

Saturdays (twice monthly) at 9:30am
See diary for upcoming dates

