

Christ Church United Reformed Church
NEWSLETTER



November 2023



Service of Thanksgiving and Remembrance

for those loved ones we have lost

A time to say prayers, reflect on the memories shared
and to find hope to face the days ahead

Friday 24 November 2023

@ Lancaster Road URC

Saturday 25 November 2023

@ Christ Church URC

Saturday 2 December 2023

@ Bush Hill Park URC

All services start at **4pm**



ALL ARE WELCOME

Pastoral Letter November 2023

Hello to you all,

Firstly, Stuart and I would like to thank you for your warm welcome into the pastorate family.

I was overwhelmed by the love shown to me and the family by so many people who came to my Ordination and Induction Service and watched online on 23 September, and those who have sent messages of congratulations and love to me and the family since. I'd like to thank all those of you here in Enfield who have sent me cards, they are very much appreciated as is your kindness.

There is nothing like belonging somewhere, especially to a family that cares. The truth is family can come in all shapes and sizes. We three churches belong to the wider family of the United Reformed Church which spreads across our nation. However, we have our smaller local church families where we get to know one another that much better. In these smaller family units, we are able to offer each other care, support and encouragement - yet not forgetting we are part of something much bigger than where we worship on a Sunday.

This is what a church family can provide; a sense of being wanted, being cared for, being thought about and most importantly, being prayed for, especially when we are going through difficult times. Stuart and I have definitely felt your warm welcome, your generous hospitality and loving care over these first few weeks and know that anyone who wanted to see what our three church families are like will

receive this same warm and genuine welcome.

As we enter November we start to think about Remembrance Sunday and those who lost their lives - all those who have lost their lives to allow us the life we are able to enjoy in peace. This year Remembrance Sunday will fall on what would have been my father's birthday. He was a medic in Burma during World War II. He was fortunate that he was not on the battle fields in the way so many were. Sadly, while we live in peace, so many across the world still are suffering the trauma of war and having to flee their homes and in many cases their home countries. Often we feel helpless - what can we do that makes a real difference? We can pray! There is power in prayer especially when we use Scripture.

The Psalms give us words of lament that we can use to cry out to God on behalf of those we so often will never know or meet yet are called to cry out for. The Psalms are prayers that we can look to when we don't know what to pray for. Even Jesus quoted Psalm 22:1 when he was on the cross:

"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

The Psalms are filled with raw but honest emotion. So may I encourage you all to delve into the Psalms and use them in your prayer times especially when appropriate words become difficult to find. As I bring this month's letter to a close I will leave you with a prayer for us all this month based on Psalm 91:2-7:

Heavenly Father,

This we declare about you our Lord: you alone are our refuge, our place of safety; you are our God, and we trust you. For you will rescue us from every trap and protect us from deadly disease. You will cover us with your feathers. You will shelter us with your wings. Your faithful promises are our armour and protection. We thank you gracious Father. Hear our prayer of praise in Jesus' precious name. Amen.

May God bless you all and keep you safe.

Your servant in Christ,

Ruth

Thank you from Lancaster Road

On behalf of the volunteers who help out at the Food Hub at Lancaster Road URC, thank you for your wonderful Harvest gifts which we will be distributing to our customers who regularly use the Food Hub on a Wednesday.

We are seeing more and more using the Food Hub and the need to continue to support this outreach for the community is ongoing until we run out of funding.

Clare Locke (on behalf of the Food Hub at Lancaster Road URC)

Ordination and Induction of Ruth Dewis

On Saturday 23 September over 150 people came together at Christ Church for the Ordination and Induction of Ruth Dewis.

Having recently completed her training at Westminster College, Cambridge, and having been called by the North Enfield Pastorate (Bush Hill Park, Christ Church and Lancaster Road URCs), Ruth was ordained to the ministry of Word and Sacraments and inducted as minister of the three churches.

The Revd George Watt, Moderator of Thames North Synod, presided over the service, which included contributions from Dr Alison Gray, the Revd Dr Rick Mearkle and the Revd Dr Robert Pope (all from Westminster College, Cambridge); the Revd Jim Gascoigne and the Revd Martin Legg (on behalf of the Enfield & East Hertfordshire Local



Area Group); the Revd Dominic Grant (Interim Moderator); and Robin Ward, Rosemary Milns and Clare Locke (Secretaries of the three churches). Thank you to them all for the parts they played.

Thank you also to all those who were involved in the day in any way - there was a real team effort to prepare the church, set up and pack away as well as to undertake a wide range of tasks on the day, and we greatly appreciate everyone's help with what was a wonderful occasion.

We thank God for sending Ruth to the North Enfield Pastorate and pray for her, Stuart and their family as well as each of our churches as we move forward into an exciting future together!

Ruth can be contacted on **07592 125 027** or **minister@ccurc.org.uk** and you can see dates that she will be leading worship at Christ Church in the diary. Please note that her day off will usually be Saturday.

From Ruth: *Thank you to everyone for my beautiful gift from the Pastorate, I will treasure it. Many thanks to you all and God bless, Ruth.*



Photo with thanks to the Revd George Watt, Moderator of Thames North Synod



Boys' Brigade update

In recent weeks all of our age groups have been celebrating 140 years of the BB, which began in Glasgow on 4 October 1883.

On Saturday 30 September our older lads took part in the Brigade's 140 Monopoly Challenge in London, with similar events running concurrently in Glasgow, Manchester and Aberdeen.

Over 700 young people and leaders in 140 teams took part across the four locations. Starting at the Joy of Life Fountain in Hyde Park, our lads had five hours to visit as many locations on the Monopoly board as possible, as well as some additional challenges including a selfie with a police officer, visiting Big Ben at exactly 1:40pm, the whole team off the ground, and more. Our A team came 34th and our B team 4th overall. Well done everyone!

On Monday 2 October our youngest members took part in the Anchors 140 Challenge, which involves trying to create the number '140' in the most creative way possible. Our boys did so by constructing Lego models! All of our age groups also learned a bit about BB's 140-year history.



Over the weekend of 7 and 8 October, nearly 2,000 Juniors in over 100 locations across the country took part in the Juniors 140 Sleepover. We joined together with 1st and 2nd Enfield for a joint sleepover at the Armfield Road Hall.



During our time together the boys got involved in activities including a pizza party, Minute to Win It challenges, toasting marshmallows, a 'sleeping bag prayer', enjoying a film, games and more. It was great also to participate in an online gathering on the Saturday evening, which brought many of the groups together and saw a big check in take place, as well as some on the spot challenges and learning a card trick and hearing a Christian message from magician Paul Brown.

Following breakfast on the Sunday morning we returned to Christ Church to join with our other age groups and the church congregation for our Enrolment Service.



This occasion saw the boys and leaders renew promises to support the work of the Company, and the boys also received their membership cards. The service was led by the Revd Mandy James, who spoke to us about the opportunities that God provides us with and how we can respond.

Tom

Zoom Bible Study Group

The next meetings of the Zoom Bible Study Group will take place on Saturdays 4 and 18 November from 9:30am. At these sessions we will be concluding our series called "Freedom to serve God", which is based on the Book of Exodus. If you are interested in taking part please contact Ruth (4 November) or Rosemary (18 November) for joining instructions - everyone is very welcome.

Explore church membership

What does membership involve? Do you want to know more without making a commitment?

The Pastorate will be running a church membership course. The first session will be on 7 December at 7:30pm (online) and the second on 14 December at 7:30pm at Lancaster Road URC (in person). Please let Rosemary know if you are interested in attending one or both of the sessions by Sunday 19 November.

Eco Church Prayer Forum

The next online Eco Church Prayer Forum will take place on Thursday 16 November at 7:30pm. The A Rocha UK churches team will lead the group in prayer, and there will be the opportunity to meet in breakout groups to connect and pray with others in the Eco Church community. Find out more and register at **arocha.org.uk/events**

A Saviour Had Been Promised

An Advent hymn - Micah 5:2-5, Isaiah 9:2 & 6-7

1. A Saviour had been promised by
the prophets, who had said
that he would rule the Israelites
and also would bring peace.

But when he came, he was not like
the rulers of the past,
his kingdom was a heavenly one,
which welcomed everyone.

2. At that first Christmas, Mary bore
a son called Jesus Christ,
who was the holy son of God,
sent here to save us all.

So we should always celebrate
his coming here to us
and spread the news of Jesus' love,
so all may share our joy.

Stephen Gilburt

Double Common metre 8686D iambic

Tunes *Noel* (RS 144 *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*)

Forest Green (RS 145 *O Little Town of Bethlehem*)

Ruth

The Saturday morning Zoom Bible Study Group will next be considering the Book of Ruth, looking in particular at various aspects of loving demonstrated in the book. Themes from Ruth will also be examined in Sunday morning services.

Ruth's story is set in the period between 1200 and 1075 BC during the times of military and religious leaders who were known as the Judges. These included Deborah, Barak, Gideon, Abimelech, Jephthah, Samson and Samuel. This was before Israel had kings (Ruth 1:1).

The book was however not written until many years later, possibly around 400 BC in response to contemporary events concerning intolerance towards foreigners. This was after Cyrus, King of Persia had conquered Babylon in 539 BC and freed the captives, including Jews, in 538 BC. Many of the Jews then returned from their exile. From 520 BC onwards they rebuilt Solomon's Temple and later the city of Jerusalem, which was then part of the Persian Empire (2 Chronicles 36:22-23 and Ezra 1:1-4).

When Nehemiah was the Jewish governor of Jerusalem, from about 445 BC, and later when Ezra was the priest, from about 398 BC, non-Jews were exiled from Jerusalem and marriages between Jews and foreigners were prohibited to preserve racial purity (Nehemiah 13 and Ezra 9 & 10). However, the writers of the books of Ruth and also Jonah considered that God was not just for the Israelites, but that non-Jews also had a place in God's love. They would have agreed with the author of the third part of the Book of Isaiah. He wrote, probably in

Jerusalem between 516 and 444 BC, "A foreigner who has joined the Lord's people should not say 'The Lord will not let me worship with his people.'" (Isaiah 56:3a)

Ruth is a peaceful story of domestic life in an Iron Age farming community. Its themes include faithfulness, loyalty, loving, kindness and welcoming foreigners. Ruth is a Moabite from south-east of the Dead Sea who marries an Israelite (Ruth 1:4). When her husband Chilion dies, Ruth will not leave her mother-in-law Naomi and continues to follow the God of the Israelites. Ruth says to Naomi, "Wherever you go, I will go, wherever you live, I will live. Your people will be my people and your God will be my God." (Ruth 1:16). A colour image of William Blake's 1795 print *Naomi Entreating Ruth and Orpah to Return to the Land of Moab* may be seen on page 19.

Just as Ruth is kind to her mother-in-law Naomi, so Boaz, one of Ruth's late husband's relatives, is kind to Ruth, who comes to work in one of his corn fields (Ruth 2). Ruth the Moabite later marries Boaz and goes on to become the great-grandmother of King David (Ruth 4:13-17). Thus, the story ends with a pointed reference to the mixed racial heritage of Israel's greatest ruler.

For me the most important message in Ruth is that God is for everyone and not just a chosen few. This anticipates the teachings and actions of Jesus, such as in the Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37) and when Jesus met the Samaritan woman (John 4:5-42). We should also remember Paul, who wrote to the Christians in Rome, "Is God the God of the Jews only? Is he not the God of the Gentiles also? Of course he is." (Romans 3:29). Stephen

Wherever You Go, I Will Go

A hymn and poem, paraphrasing Ruth's words to Naomi in Ruth 1:16-17, which demonstrates her loyalty and faithfulness

1. Wherever you go, I will go,
 wherever you live, I will live,
wherever you die, I will die
 and I will then be buried there.
Your people will be also mine
 And your God will be my God too.

Stephen Gilbert

Metre 888888 iambic tetrameter

Tunes *Melita* (RS 58 *Eternal Father, Strong to Save*)
 Sussex Carol (RS 153 *On Christmas Night All Christians Sing*)

Prayer diary November 2023

- 1 Pray for God's guidance at the start of a new month.
- 2 Pray for Ruth, our Minister.
- 3 Pray for the Brownies as they meet this evening.
- 4 Pray for the Zoom Bible Study Group as they meet this morning.
- 5 Pray for the work of Mission Aviation Fellowship as we support

- them with our Communion offering today.
- 6 Pray for the Anchors as they meet this evening.
 - 7 Pray for a peaceful end to the conflict in Israel and Palestine.
 - 8 Pray for the residents of Chase Side Avenue.
 - 9 Pray for this evening's Joint Elders Meeting.
 - 10 Pray for the Rainbows as they meet this evening.
 - 11 Remembrance Day: Pray for those who have lost loved ones as a result of conflict.
 - 12 Remembrance Sunday: Pray for the civic events taking place today as we commemorate those who went before us.
 - 13 Pray for the Juniors as they meet this evening.
 - 14 Pray for the local community around Christ Church.
 - 15 Pray for those who are new to the Christian faith.
 - 16 Pray for Feryal Clark, the Member of Parliament for Enfield North.
 - 17 Pray for the Rangers as they meet this evening.
 - 18 Pray for the Zoom Bible Study Group as they meet this morning.
 - 19 Pray for our church as we celebrate our Church Anniversary at this morning's Family Parade Service.
 - 20 Pray for the Friendship Club as they meet this afternoon.
 - 21 Pray for the Property Committee and the work they do.
 - 22 Pray for this evening's Elders Meeting.
 - 23 Pray for those who are suffering from ill health at this time.
 - 24 Pray for the Guides as they meet this evening.
 - 25 Pray for today's Service of Thanksgiving and Remembrance.
 - 26 Pray for the Adventurers as they meet during our service today.
 - 27 Pray for the Company and Seniors as they meet this evening.
 - 28 Give thanks to God for the beauty of his creation.
 - 29 Pray for all those who work at Chase Farm Hospital.
 - 30 St Andrew's Day: Pray for Scottish friends.

Church diary November 2023

Saturday 4 November 9:30am-10:30am
Zoom Bible Study Group
Please contact Ruth for joining instructions

Sunday 5 November 11:15am
The Revd Ruth Dewis
Holy Communion (offering for Mission Aviation Fellowship)
Duty Elder - Philip Taylor

Sunday 12 November 10:45am
The Revd Ruth Dewis
Remembrance Sunday
Duty Elder - Sarah Harry
Please note the earlier start time for this service to allow a two-minute silence to be observed at 11:00am

Saturday 18 November 9:30am-10:30am
Zoom Bible Study Group
Please contact Rosemary for joining instructions

Sunday 19 November 11:15am
The Revd Martin Legg
Family Parade Service (Church Anniversary)
Duty Elder - Philip Taylor

Monday 20 November 2:15pm
Friendship Club

Saturday 25 November

4:00pm

Service of Thanksgiving and Remembrance (see page 2)

Sunday 26 November

11:15am

Speaker TBC

Duty Elder - Rosemary Milns

Church diary December 2023

Sunday 3 December

11:15am

Terry Silvey

Advent Sunday & Holy Communion (offering for the Bible Society)

Duty Elder - TBC

December 2023 & January 2024 newsletter

The **December 2023 & January 2024** edition of the newsletter will be published on **Sunday 26 November**. Items intended for inclusion in this issue should be with the Editor by Sunday 19 November. 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

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

Bookings Secretary 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 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.

Website ccurc.org.uk **Facebook** [@ccurcenenfield](https://www.facebook.com/ccurcenenfield) **Twitter** [@ccurc](https://twitter.com/ccurc)

Address Christ Church URC, Chase Side, Enfield, EN2 6NJ

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.



Naomi Entreating Ruth and Orpah to Return to the Land of Moab by William Blake, 1795, Victoria and Albert Museum, London. Public domain image via Wikimedia Commons.

William Blake (1757-1827) was an English artist, engraver, printer and poet who wrote *Jerusalem*. His 1795 colour print, finished in pen and watercolour, of *Naomi Entreating Ruth and Orpah to Return to the Land of Moab* is now in the Victoria and Albert Museum collection in London. It shows Ruth clinging to and refusing to leave Naomi, while Ruth's sister-in-law Orpah returns weeping to her Moabite people (Ruth 1:14). You can read Stephen's article on Ruth on pages 12-13.

Front cover image by Susanne Jutzeler, suju-foto on Pexels

Regular activities at Christ Church URC

Email mail@ccurc.org.uk for more details



The
United
Reformed
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 5-20
9thenfield@gmail.com



Zoom Bible Study Group

Saturdays (twice monthly) at 9:30am

See diary for upcoming dates

