

# NEWSLETTER

March 2026 | No. 839



Christ Church  
United  
Reformed  
Church



# Afternoon Tea

Hosted by 3rd Enfield Boys' Brigade

**Sunday 29th March 2026 at 3pm**

at Christ Church URC Hall, Chase Side, EN2 6NJ

**£10 adults / £5 children**

includes sandwiches, sweet treats and tea/coffee

To book contact Tom on  
[info@3rdenfieldbb.co.uk](mailto:info@3rdenfieldbb.co.uk)  
or 07903 605 545



**3RD ENFIELD**

Raising funds for our **Build Trip to Mexico** in July 2026

# Pastoral Letter March 2026

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Hello everyone!

March is here! Spring is here! The wonders of new life are emerging! We can celebrate that the darker nights are getting less. However, the darkness within the world can be seen to be hanging over so many. Despite this darkness in the world, as Christians we have a hope beyond our imagination as long as we stay faithful and remain steadfast in our reliance on Jesus.



I've been reading the Book of Revelation lately and am reminded of the wonderful grace of God but also one day there will come judgement. We're not very eager to be reminded of that side of God.

This is why we are called to rely on him and his victory over death because his victory is ours when we accept Jesus into our lives.

Jesus spoke to the seven churches and told them what we will receive if we remain victorious. As I write this it is the Winter Olympics in Italy. The prize to win is a gold medal and the accolade that goes with it. However, what is this worth if the prizes they win doesn't include the following:

"To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to eat from the tree

of life, which is in the paradise of God.” (Revelation 2:7)

“The one who is victorious will not be hurt at all by the second death.” (Revelation 2: 11)

“To the one who is victorious, I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give that person a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to the one who receives it.” (Revelation 2: 17)

“To the one who is victorious and does my will to the end, I will give authority over the nations - that one ‘will rule them with an iron sceptre and will dash them to pieces like pottery’ - just as I have received authority from my Father. I will also give that one the morning star.” (Revelation 2: 26-27)

“The one who is victorious will, like them, be dressed in white. I will never blot out the name of that person from the book of life, but will acknowledge that name before my Father and his angels.” (Revelation 3: 5)

“The one who is victorious I will make a pillar in the temple of my God. Never again will they leave it. I will write on them the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which is coming down out of heaven from my God; and I will also write on them my new name.” (Revelation 3:12)

“To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I was victorious and sat down with my Father on his throne.” (Revelation 3: 21).

May we stay steadfast in faith, remain guided by the Spirit and be servants of Christ to all we meet, sharing his love to those in need. We were never promised an easy path, in fact the contrary but in God's strength we can be victorious to the end. All glory to God in the highest. Amen.

God bless,

Ruth

Article image by JoaBal on iStock.

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## **Zoom Bible Study Group**

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The Zoom Bible Study Group will be meeting on Saturdays 7 and 14 March at 9:30am. The group is continuing with its study of the Gospel of Luke. If anyone is interested in joining this friendly group, please speak to Rosemary.

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## **Communion offering**

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The Communion offering at our service on Sunday 1 March will be for the Communion Fund. This fund is distributable at the discretion of the Minister, to assist those in need. A plate will be at the back of the church after the service, and any donations would be most be gratefully received.

# Lunchtime @ Christ Church

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Our monthly Lunchtime @ Christ Church events will be restarting this month, and will take place on Saturdays 14 March, 11 April, 9 May, 13 June, 11 July, 8 August, 12 September and 10 October.

All of these events will take place from 12:30pm-2:30pm and everyone is very welcome to join us for this time of fellowship. There is no set price for the food and drink - donations are accepted.

Volunteers are needed to help with these - if you can assist, even if it's just for one of the dates, please speak to Rosemary.

## Horse chestnut tree

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As reported in last month's issue, the horse chestnut tree by the containers in the car park at the back of the church has had to be removed because it has died.

As it has a Tree Preservation Order on it, the Council requires it to be replaced. The new tree will cost about £300, and we are asking people if they would like to make a donation towards the cost of this, as part of our 150th anniversary celebrations. The names of donors (if they agree) will be recorded as being a sponsor of the tree.

Envelopes to make a donation are at the back of the church, or please contact Pam if you would like to make a payment by bank transfer.

# Annual General Meeting

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Our Annual General Meeting will take place on Sunday 12 April following the morning service.

All members are encouraged to attend this meeting as we discuss important church matters. Non-members are welcome to attend and speak, but cannot vote.

Leaders of church organisations are requested to send their annual reports for 2025 to the Editor on **newsletter@ccurc.org.uk** by Sunday 8 March, so that they may be included in the April 2026 newsletter.

## United Services

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There will be two Sundays in March where we will be holding United Services away from Christ Church.

On Sunday 8 March we will join with friends from Lancaster Road URC at their church, to celebrate their Church Anniversary. This service will start at the later time of 11:15am and will be led by Ruth.

On Sunday 29 March there will be a United Service for the North Enfield Pastorate at Bush Hill Park URC. This will start at the slightly earlier time of 10:30am and will be led by the Revd George Watt, the Moderator of the URC's Thames North Synod.

# 2026 Lent Course

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The Pastorate Lent Course will continue through March on the following dates:

- Tuesdays 3, 10, 17 and 24 March at 10:30am in the Lancaster Road URC Church Lounge
- Thursdays 5, 12, 19 and 26 March at 7:30pm in the Christ Church URC Hall

The sessions will follow a book entitled *Discipleship* written the Revd Alex Jacob, a URC minister. For further details about the course please speak to Ruth.

## Lenten offering

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It is still possible to make a Lenten gift if you would like to do so. You can do this by using a Lenten offering envelope, or via bank transfer, with the reference of 'Lenten offering'. Lenten offering envelopes can be placed in the weekly collection bag, or given to an Elder. If you would like the church's bank details, please speak to Pam or Rosemary. If you are a UK tax payer you can Gift Aid your donations, which will enable us to claim an additional 25p for every £1 given, at no extra cost to you. A form to do this is available from Rosemary.

The Lenten offering goes towards supporting the work of Christ Church. Thank you for anything that you can give - we really appreciate it.

# Friendship Club update

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For our opening session of Friendship Club in January we were pleased to welcome Alan Goldring from Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF) once more. This is an organisation which we, as a church, also support with an annual Communion offering so it is always interesting to learn more about MAF's work.

MAF is a Christian organisation reaching men, women and children in over 25 countries operating more than 115 aircraft. They offer help for all people regardless of race, religion, nationality etc. MAF's pilots serve people in places which may be inaccessible due to derelict roads, natural disasters or violent conflict. Their aircraft fly into more than 1,000 destinations transporting food and water, health professionals and medical supplies, emergency workers and Christian missionaries to places where they are most needed.

Each flight brings practical help, spiritual hope and physical healing to thousands of isolated people in remote communities for whom flying is a lifeline and not a luxury.

In addition to telling us more about the regular work of MAF Alan was excited to be able to share with us how the organisation had joyfully celebrated 80 years of MAF throughout 2025 as the organisation had started at the end of World War II when there were brave, experienced pilots who were happy to be able to use their skills in more peaceful, helpful, loving and constructive ways. They saw great needs in many parts of the world and were eager to be able to help save lives instead of fighting.

This is how MAF describe themselves:

MAF is a story of ordinary people, extraordinary faith and a mission to bring help, hope and healing where it is needed most. Every flight has only been made possible by God's faithfulness and the generosity of supporters like you (including both the Friendship Club and Christ Church as a whole through our Communion offerings). We want to take this moment to thank you for your faith and commitment, alongside countless others which has sustained this mission across the decades - providing 80 years of lives saved and transformed through aviation.

At Friendship Club we were shown pictures of some of their 80th anniversary celebrations which included being invited to a reception organised by King Charles III in the grounds of Buckingham Palace and a new small plane, ready to go into service, displayed outside in central London.

We were able to give MAF a donation of £83 partly from Friendship Club funds and the rest from individual members who donated extra cash, and we have already received a letter of thanks. It begins: "Thank you for a gift of £83 to MAF from Christ Church Friendship Club following Alan Goldring's visit on 19 January. This kind of support allows us to keep on reaching isolated people with the Good News and with physical help."

The letter goes on to describe how a 25-minute MAF flight saved the life of a premature baby by flying him with his mother to a hospital which had an essential incubator.

Alongside the money for MAF, we were also able to give Alan a large bag full of postcards which had been donated. The collection box at the back of the church has been emptied and is now ready to receive more postcards of any kind - old, new, used, not written on etc. MAF have been able to raise thousands of pounds over many years for post cards collected like this so please keep donating!

Sylvia

Forthcoming Friendship Club meetings for the remainder of 2026 will take place as follows:

- 16 March: Air traffic safety - Stuart Dewis
- 20 April: Linda Clarke paints a picture
- 18 May: Speaker - The Revd Mandy James
- 15 June: Chair exercise time - Rosemary Randall
- 20 July: Desert Island Discs
- 17 August: Summer tea - The Revd Ruth Dewis
- 21 September: Our favourite subjects to study
- 19 October: A volunteer in Sierra Leone - Sylvia Coombs
- 16 November: Quiz time - The Revd Mandy James
- 21 December: Christmas programme including a Christmas tea - The Revd Ruth Dewis

The meeting will also include tea/coffee, cakes and an opportunity for a chat! Everyone is very welcome. For further information please speak to Sylvia.

# Boys' Brigade update

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It has been a packed start to 2026 at BB with lots going on for all of our boys!

So far our younger members have taken on activities themed around robots, Braille, a Nightline challenge and more, while the programme for our older lads has included some pool noodle games, a 'Winter Olympics Taskforce' challenge, as well as 'Faithfuls' - a Traitors-inspired game from Open Doors which explored stories of real-life underground Bible smugglers and secret Christians from around the world.

Back on Saturday 24 January we held our annual fundraising Quiz Night, welcoming around 100 people to the hall in what was our biggest ever quiz!

13 teams tested their knowledge across 10 different rounds, also enjoying some delicious food and helping us to raise around £1,200 towards supporting the weekly activities that we do at BB as well as our Build Trip to Mexico this summer. A huge thank you to everyone who supported the event in any way - we really appreciate it!



The following Saturday, a group of our young people and leaders attended the London District Awards Celebration at City Hall in London, where they were recognised for awards that they had received during 2025. Certificates were presented by Kim Bromley-Derry CBE DL, Deputy Lieutenant for Greater London.



- President's Badge: Austin, Joe, Max, Nathan, Tyla
- Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award: Joe, Tyla
- Jack Petchey Leader Award: Tina

We were also delighted to be a runner-up in the Community Impact Award, for our involvement in the Help For Hunger appeal which saw us put together three hampers for local families and support with the distribution of hundreds more.

Following the Awards Celebration we took a trip across the river on the IFS Cloud cable car for lunch in The O2, before finishing off the day by climbing 52 metres to the top of the building to take in the 360-degree views over London!



On Saturday 7 February our boys took part in the Enfield Battalion Swimming Gala at Southgate Leisure Centre.

Our boys swam brilliantly to win an incredible nine races out of nine entered between them, and despite being spread across three different age groups, they still placed 5th, 4th and 3rd in the overall team standings in their respective categories - well done boys!



Most recently, just before half term all of our age groups enjoyed an early Shrove Tuesday celebration with pancakes and thinking about the significance of Lent in the lead up to Easter.



We'd also like to say a big thank you to everyone who has contributed towards our BB Build Trip fundraising so far - at time of writing we are at just over £6,000 of our £8,000 target! If you would still like to donate, please speak to one of the leaders or visit [justgiving.com/campaign/bbbuildmexico2026](https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/bbbuildmexico2026)

As part of our fundraising efforts we'll be holding an Afternoon Tea on Sunday 29 March at 3:00pm in the hall - see page 2 for more details. Thanks to the generosity of Enfield Chase Rotary Club we are also running a prize draw to win a giant Easter egg - please speak to one of the leaders for more details or visit the competition page on our website at [3rdenfieldbb.co.uk/easter-egg-competition](https://www.3rdenfieldbb.co.uk/easter-egg-competition)

Tom

# The Last Supper

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**Matthew 26:17-30, Mark 14:12-26, Luke 22:7-20, John 13:21-30, 1 Corinthians 11:23-26**

At their last supper together, on the evening before he was arrested, Jesus celebrated Passover with his twelve disciples in Jerusalem. The earliest account of what Jesus said and did then is in Paul's first letter to the Christians in Corinth (1 Corinthians 11:23-26). Jesus took bread and gave thanks to God. He broke the bread and said, "This is my body which is for you. Do this in memory of me." He took a cup of wine saying, "This cup is God's new covenant, sealed with my blood. Whenever you drink it do so in memory of me." These are the words used in our Communion services. The moment of blessing is recorded in the stone relief carving on the west wall of the apse at Christ Church, behind the Communion table.

In medieval monasteries the Last Supper was often painted on the end wall of refectories, where the monks would eat together.

Leonardo da Vinci (1452-1519) was, with Raphael and Michelangelo, one of the greatest artists of the Italian High Renaissance. He was born in Vinci in Tuscany and was apprenticed to Verrocchio in Florence. In 1481 he moved north to work for the Duke of Milan. After 1499 he moved back to Florence, then to Rome and finally to France where he died.

He is famous for his paintings of the Virgin Mary and some fine female portraits including the Mona Lisa of 1503-1506. Although only about

10 finished paintings have survived, he produced numerous drawings of buildings, fortifications, machinery, anatomy, landscapes and astronomy.

It was while Leonardo was in Milan that he painted the 30 feet by 14 feet fresco of the Last Supper on the end wall of the refectory of the monastery of Santa Maria delle Grazie between 1495 and 1498. However, the painting soon began to deteriorate partly due to the experimental pigment which he used. The fresco has been restored many times, with varying degrees of success, and was further repaired after damage during the Second World War.

In Leonardo's painting Jesus is shown seated with his twelve disciples, having blessed the bread and wine. It illustrates the moment when Jesus says to his disciples that one of them will betray him (Matthew 26:21). Several of them can be seen pointing to themselves with their hands raised or outstretched saying, "Surely Lord, you don't mean me?" (Matthew 26:22). Peter to the right of Jesus, with his arms flung wide is saying that he will never leave or deny Jesus (Mark 14:27-31). John is thought to be the disciple to the left of Jesus. Judas Iscariot, whose head is in shadow fourth from the left, is the disciple who did betray Jesus to the Jewish authorities (Matthew 26:25). The upset container of salt, by Judas' right hand, is a symbol of betrayal.

What the painting would have probably originally looked like can be seen in a copy, painted in oil on canvas, in about 1515. It is attributed to two of Leonardo's pupils Giampietrino and Giovanni Antonio Boltraffio (1467-1516). This copy may be seen, free of charge, at the Royal Academy of Arts, Piccadilly, in London. It is part of the

Academy's permanent collection.

You may see a full colour version of Leonardo's painting of the Last Supper on page 23.

Stephen

## As We Come to His Table

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### A communion hymn - 1 Corinthians 11:23-25

1. As we come to his table  
to eat and drink with friends,  
may we here now remember  
his sacrifice for all,  
his body broken for us  
and blood shed for our sins,  
his life so freely given  
that all may share his grace.

2. May we resolve to follow  
his guidance for us all  
and to remember always  
his life and sacrifice,  
so that we may tell others  
of what he did for us  
and they may come to know him  
as their true living Lord.

Stephen Gilbert

Metre 7676D iambic

Tunes 'Aurelia' (RS 566 'The Church's One Foundation')  
'Penlan' (RS 590 'In Heavenly Love Abiding')

# Prayer diary March 2026

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- 1 St David's Day: Pray for friends in Wales.
- 2 Pray for the Anchors as they meet this evening.
- 3 Pray that our church may grow in numbers, in spiritual commitment to God, and in service to our local community.
- 4 Give thanks to God for friends and families.
- 5 Pray for the Pastorate Lent Course as it continues this evening.
- 6 Pray for the Rainbows as they meet this evening.
- 7 Pray for the Zoom Bible Study Group as they meet this morning.
- 8 Pray for Lancaster Road URC as we join them in worship today.
- 9 Pray for the Juniors as they meet this evening.
- 10 Pray for our Elders.
- 11 Pray for the external groups that use our church premises.
- 12 Pray for peace in areas of the world where there is conflict.
- 13 Pray for the Brownies as they meet this evening.
- 14 Pray for the Zoom Bible Study and Lunchtime @ Christ Church.
- 15 Mothering Sunday: Pray for mothers and motherly figures.
- 16 Pray for the Friendship Club as they meet this afternoon.
- 17 St Patrick's Day: Pray for Irish friends.
- 18 Pray for Ruth and Stuart.
- 19 Pray for those who are new to the Christian faith.
- 20 Pray for the Guides as they meet this evening.
- 21 Pray for anyone you know who is unwell at this time.
- 22 Pray for Laura Marlow as she leads our service this morning.
- 23 Pray for the Company and Seniors as they meet this evening.
- 24 Pray for the local community around Christ Church.
- 25 Pray for the leaders of our church organisations.
- 26 Pray for this evening's final session of the Pastorate Lent Course.

- 27 Pray for the Rangers as they meet this evening.  
28 Pray for your own personal faith.  
29 Pray for friends from the North Enfield Pastorate as we come together in worship for Palm Sunday at Bush Hill Park URC today.  
30 Pray for events taking place this week as we approach Easter.  
31 Pray for all those who will be travelling over the Easter period.

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## Church diary March 2026

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**Sunday 1 March**

**10:45am**

**The Revd Ruth Dewis**

**Holy Communion (offering for the Communion Fund)**

**Duty Elder - Sarah Harry**

Tuesday 3 March

10:30am

Pastorate Lent Course part 3 (at Lancaster Road URC - see page 8)

Thursday 5 March

7:30pm

Pastorate Lent Course part 3 (at Christ Church URC - see page 8)

Saturday 7 March

9:30am-10:30am

Zoom Bible Study Group (see page 5)

**Sunday 8 March**

**11:15am**

**The Revd Ruth Dewis**

**United Service at Lancaster Road URC to celebrate their Church Anniversary (no service at Christ Church)**

Please note the location and later start time for this service

Tuesday 10 March 10:30am  
Pastorate Lent Course part 4 (at Lancaster Road URC - see page 8)

Thursday 12 March 7:30pm  
Pastorate Lent Course part 4 (at Christ Church URC - see page 8)

Saturday 14 March 9:30am-10:30am  
Zoom Bible Study Group (see page 5)

Saturday 14 March 12:30pm-2:30pm  
Lunchtime @ Christ Church

**Sunday 15 March 10:45am**  
**The Worship Group**  
**Mothering Sunday**  
**Duty Elder - Alison Gibbs**

Monday 16 March 2:15pm  
Friendship Club  
Air traffic safety - Stuart Dewis

Tuesday 17 March 10:30am  
Pastorate Lent Course part 5 (at Lancaster Road URC - see page 8)

Thursday 19 March 7:30pm  
Pastorate Lent Course part 5 (at Christ Church URC - see page 8)

**Sunday 22 March**

**10:45am**

**Laura Marlow**

**Duty Elder - Rosemary Milns**

Tuesday 24 March

10:30am

Pastorate Lent Course part 6 (at Lancaster Road URC - see page 8)

Thursday 26 March

7:30pm

Pastorate Lent Course part 6 (at Christ Church URC - see page 8)

**Sunday 29 March**

**10:30am**

**The Revd George Watt**

**Palm Sunday**

**United Service for the North Enfield Pastorate (at Bush Hill Park URC - no service at Christ Church)**

Please note the location and earlier start time for this service

Sunday 29 March

3:00pm

3rd Enfield Boys' Brigade Afternoon Tea (see page 2)

## **April 2026 Newsletter**

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The **April 2026** edition of the Christ Church Newsletter will be published on **Sunday 22 March** (a week earlier than normal as there is no service at Christ Church on Sunday 29 March). Items intended for inclusion in this issue must be with the Editor by Sunday 8 March. Any late submissions will either miss inclusion or be held over to the following issue.

# Key information

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<b>Minister</b>	The Revd Ruth Dewis	07592 125 027 / minister@ccurc.org.uk
<b>Secretary</b>	Rosemary Milns	secretary@ccurc.org.uk
<b>Serving Elders</b>	Alison Gibbs, Sarah Harry & Rosemary Milns	
		elders@ccurc.org.uk
<b>Safeguarding</b>	Alison Gibbs	safeguarding@ccurc.org.uk
<b>Treasurer</b>	Pamela Mansley	treasurer@ccurc.org.uk
<b>Property Committee</b>		property@ccurc.org.uk
<b>Hall &amp; Room Hire</b>		bookings@ccurc.org.uk
<b>Newsletter &amp; Website</b>	Tom Boorman	newsletter@ccurc.org.uk
<b>Activities for adults</b>		
<b>Bible Study Group</b>	Rosemary Milns	secretary@ccurc.org.uk
<b>Friendship Club</b>	Sylvia Coombs	020 8363 3543 / mail@ccurc.org.uk
<b>Activities for children and young people</b>		
<b>Adventurers</b>	Rosemary Milns	secretary@ccurc.org.uk
<b>Boys' Brigade</b>	Tom Boorman	info@3rdenfieldbb.co.uk
<b>Girlguiding</b>	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](http://ccurc.org.uk)

**Facebook & Instagram** @ccurcenenfield

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

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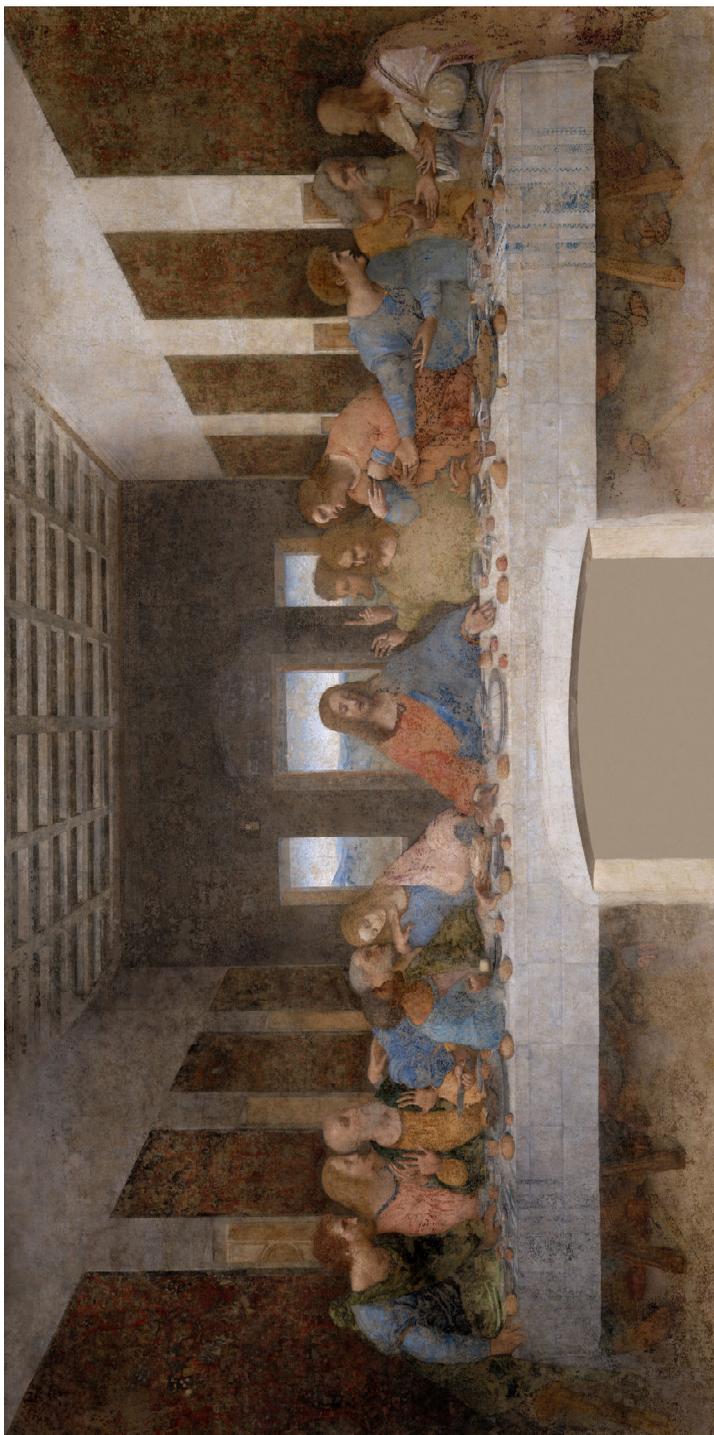
**Christ Church URC** is a part of the **North Enfield Pastorate** and the **Enfield & East Hertfordshire Local Area Group**.

**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.

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Left (please turn page sideways):  
*The Last Supper*,  
Leonardo da Vinci  
1495-1498, Santa  
Maria delle Grazie,  
Milan, Italy. Public  
domain image via  
Wikimedia  
Commons. A  
related article by  
Stephen Gilburt can  
be found on pages  
15-17.

Inside front cover image  
by grandriver on iStock.  
Front cover image by  
Yoksel Zok on Unsplash.



Christ Church  
United  
Reformed  
Church

Email [mail@ccurc.org.uk](mailto: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 **10:45am**  
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](mailto:info@3rdenfieldbb.co.uk)



**Friday evenings**  
**For girls aged 4-18**  
[9thenfield@gmail.com](mailto:9thenfield@gmail.com)



## Zoom Bible Study Group

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

