

NEWSLETTER

April 2026 | No. 840



Christ Church
United
Reformed
Church

Lunchtime @ Christ Church

**Saturday
11 April**

12:30pm-2:30pm

Come and join us for a
time of food, drink and
fellowship together

Lunch and refreshments
will be available

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donations accepted

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Pastoral Letter April 2026

April is upon us. I must admit that the time between writing my minister's letters seems to get shorter and shorter. I sometimes sit and wonder what I can write but God always gives me something which I am always so grateful for.

I was looking out of the dining room window at our lawn and thought how lush it was. Then I was reminded that it hadn't looked quite like that last year when we decided to take out every single dandelion from the lawn. I asked Stuart how many he thought we had removed and he said it had to be in the hundreds. It took 10 days of hard work to finally remove them all. The lovely Janice Luckett had lent us a weeding tool which removed the weed and more importantly its root system and this made the work considerably easier than if we were on our hands and knees taking the weeds out by hand. I wished that Janice could see the lawn now. Her advice was taken and we are now benefitting from her wisdom.

Thinking back to the lawn last year it was full of holes, in fact it looked like a 500 hole golf course and the grass was very patchy. The squirrels had an easier job burying their finds - we'd done their work for them! However, whilst reflecting, it came to me that God often works in this way. The weeds in our lives have to be pulled out, roots and all. This can be painful and not a pleasant experience but one that is absolutely necessary if we are to reach our potential in God's plan for us.

Hebrew 12:6 says, "For the Lord disciplines the one he loves and

chastises every son whom he receives.”

It is out of love that the Lord disciplines us and when we listen and lean on his will and understanding we do indeed flourish.

So, what does the next year have in store for our lawn? Well, that depends on the gardener’s (Stuart’s) plans. It certainly isn’t perfect as it has a few bumps and dips still in it but rather like us, it’s a work in progress. God is the gardener of our lives let him work out his plans so that with each year we become more as he intended us to be.

Have a very blessed April.

God bless,

Ruth

Lunchtime @ Christ Church

Forthcoming Lunchtime @ Christ Church events will take place on Saturdays 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

We have now collected enough money to cover the cost of the new horse chestnut tree. This has been planted in the garden at the back of the church.

A big thank you to all those who have contributed to sponsoring the tree. We are proposing to have a dedication ceremony later in the year.



Zoom Bible Study Group

The Zoom Bible Study Group will be meeting on Saturdays 4 and 18 April at 9:30am. The Group will be concluding its study of the Gospel of Luke. If anyone is interested in joining this friendly group, please speak to Rosemary for the login details.

Communion offering

The Communion offering at our service on Easter Sunday, 5 April, 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.

Holy Week services

On Maundy Thursday (2 April), Ruth will be leading a Pastorate Service at 7:30pm at Bush Hill Park URC.

On Good Friday we will be joining with churches from around Enfield for an open air Act of Worship by the Fountain in Enfield Town at 10:30am, followed by a United Service in St Andrew's Church at 11:00am - all are welcome to one or both of these events.

Our service for Easter Sunday, 5 April, will take place in the church at the normal time of 10:45am. It is being led by Ruth and will include Holy Communion.

Lenten offering

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.

Post-Easter Prayer Gathering

As part of the Eastertide journey, Thames North Synod will be hosting an online ecumenical prayer gathering on Wednesday 15 April from 7:00pm-8:00pm.

This will be a simple and reflective hour of shared prayer and gentle creativity as we continue to live in the light of resurrection. During the time together those attending will be using a small palm sized stone as a prayer focus, so please bring a small stone (light in colour is best) and permanent pens, paint (acrylic is best) or paint marker to draw on it. There's no artistic skill required, just a willingness to pause, pray, and mark something of hope into this season.

To obtain the Zoom link please speak to Rosemary or email mail@ccurc.org.uk



Lancaster Road URC Holiday Club

Lancaster Road URC's Holiday Club (for children aged 5-11) has been confirmed as taking place on Monday 3 to Friday 7 August.

Further details will follow in due course. If you have a child in this age range and would like to find out more or register interest, please email [**holidayclub@lancaster-road-urc.org.uk**](mailto:holidayclub@lancaster-road-urc.org.uk)

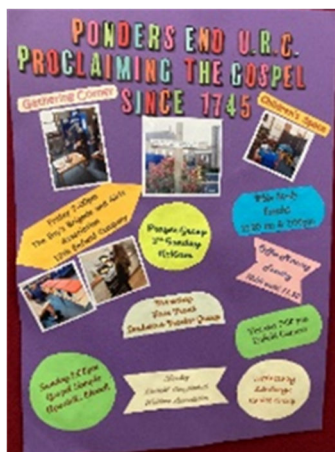
Visit by Catriona Wheeler

On the weekend of 22 February we were visited by Catriona Wheeler, who is this year's Moderator of the General Assembly of the United Reformed Church.

We had a celebration service at Trinity Church, Enfield, with our URC/ Methodist friends who gave us a very warm welcome. The service had different church representatives taking part and the singing was wonderful. The offertory amounted to £420.74 and was donated to CAP Enfield, who were very grateful.

It would have been a tall order for Catriona to visit all the churches in Enfield so each of the eight churches represented were asked to put together an A2 poster to show what their church did and how they reach out to their communities. Many people said how lovely it was to see Trinity Church full and to be able to worship together.

Ruth



Pictures of the various church posters that were on display at Trinity Church, Enfield.

Friendship Club update

On a cold and dreary Monday afternoon in February we were treated to a laughter-filled, hilarious double act by Sylvia and Alison, reminiscing amusing and to us strange things that had happened to them during their working lives many thousands of miles away from suburban Enfield, either in the Solomon Islands or in Zambia.

On being asked to introduce herself to the whole school and staff, Sylvia started with an innocent account of her life before arriving on the remote Pacific island. Although teaching was in English, of course they all spoke Roviana amongst themselves. Sylvia described her life, they all listened but became extremely interested when mentioning playing hockey and enjoying it very much, this provoked a reaction. No one interrupted her talk, and seeing how interested they had all become about hockey, carried on. It was only after her talk that the Headmaster explained to her that the word 'hockey' in their language refers to sexual intimacy!

Alison followed on with an account of being rescued in the early hours of the morning in her flimsy nightdress by a charming man after being accidentally locked in the bathroom all night! No one had heard her shouts for help, she didn't know it was a faulty lock that had jammed so had spent a very cold and uncomfortable night there before being woken from a fitful sleep by a banging on the door, before being rescued.

Travelling around the Solomons was either by canoe or light aircraft. It is an understatement to say that the Pacific Ocean is huge and

therefore dangerous, so travel away from the island had to be carefully prepared. Both amphibious and small light aircraft were used, Sylvia was on one of these flights in a very small plane over the vast ocean, all was going well and according to plan when the pilot started fumbling around searching for something: "I'm sure it's here, it has to be here, I can't find it...".

Sylvia is not easily frightened but the searching carried on, "It's a box...". More searching, plane going a bit haywire, eventually "I've got it!" - the box was found under the pilot's seat - it contained his sandwiches! Panic over. New instructions, "Pre-flight inspections must ensure that his sandwiches are within reach."!

There's more than one baby in Zambia called Alison Gibbs! Having a vehicle in this remote village in Zambia meant that Alison was often asked to help transport people to hospital or clinic. On one occasion the pregnant wife of one of the teachers at her school went into labour when her husband was away on a training course, they had very little money and no baby basics. Alison and the Chaplain drove her to the clinic, Chaplain stayed with the wife while Alison went to buy things for the baby. When they had managed to contact the husband (a bit the worse for wear) to tell him he had a baby daughter, he said, "She must be called Alison Gibbs!". It wasn't the only time that happened.

Travelling is very hazardous in Zambia, with very few made up roads, no street lights and long distances involved, so as she had a truck, Alison was usually the driver as in the case when a church evangelist had died in a remote village. It is the custom there for people to

gather in the house to mourn, and as the wife of the deputy was related to the dead man of course they wanted to go and mourn. Alison offered to take them and the Chaplain to the house. That was not so easy, it was not just a pleasant drive out into the country, it was the rainy season, long sections of the road had been washed away, they had been given the wrong directions and it was getting dark and they found themselves by mistake over the border into Tanzania! At one point Alison realised with horror that they would have to cross over a very deep ravine and there was no bridge... On seeing two long logs over this ravine she stopped the car and all inside prayed very hard, then inch by inch she drove the vehicle along the logs over the ravine. At the house one of the mourners gave them directions to go back a different way as it was by now very dark and raining. This they did, a long way round and again with a lot of prayer as at one stage the car was floating. They got back eventually, the Lord had protected them.

Sylvia finished the presentation with an account of an accident and an operation that took place under very primitive conditions. An enormous coconut fell from a great height and knocked a lady unconscious. Coconuts were plentiful and important and had many uses in the Solomons so everybody was used to them and tried to avoid walking underneath the trees. However this lady was unlucky and did not recover consciousness, there was no surgeon, just a basic church hospital, basic treatment room with windows all round, a wooden table for the patient to lie on and an Anglepoise lamp, general doctor and nurse. They thought the lady would not survive the night, she had an enormous lump on her head. Travelling for surgery was impossible so a message was sent to Honiara, the capital,

200 miles away for a surgeon to come. He arrived the day after, the room was set up as best they could, and an audience looking in through all the windows. The operation took place, it was successful, the swelling reduced however the anaesthetic wore off, the lady woke up, sat up and hit her head on the Anglepoise lamp cutting an artery in her neck! Blood everywhere! The fear was that she would die from blood loss. It proved impossible to stitch the artery, the nurse assisting was chewing gum, the surgeon asked for the gum he was chewing and successfully used it to stop the bleeding! Success; in fact so successful was that operation that an account of it appeared in the world famous medical journal *The Lancet!*

We had such a wonderful and entertaining afternoon that no one was in a hurry for the tea and cakes. Thank you Sylvia and Alison for sharing part of your working lives with us. As entertaining as it was, we have to look beyond, to the strength of your faith in dedicating your lives to bringing the gospel to remote peoples, sharing their lives, by living alongside them, through good times and bad.

Our next meeting is on Monday 20 April, when Linda Clarke will be painting a picture. This will be followed by tea/coffee, cake and a chance for a chat. The meeting will take place at the usual time of 2:15pm in the hall, and all are welcome.

Margaret

Boys' Brigade update

From Friday 20 to Sunday 22 February we had a great time away with others from across Enfield Battalion for the Company & Seniors Weekend Away at Frith Grange Campsite.

Our two days away included a packed programme which saw us head to Coral Reef Waterworld for some swimming, Laser Quest, Topgolf as well as on site activities including Pillow Bash battles, games tournaments, a quiz, bonfire with toasted marshmallows and music, devotions and more!

On Monday 23 February our younger boys had a go at the Juniors International Team Games, a series of six games which sees them competing against each other as well as others from across the BB world. Our scores will be sent in and we'll see how we got in in May!

On Sunday 1 March five of our Company & Seniors lads, along with members of 11th Enfield and 133rd London, completed the BB's Building Your Skills course, which we hosted at our hall.



This session explores their teamwork and negotiating skills and how they can use these to help make a difference in their lives and at BB. It also forms a key part of their journey towards the President's Badge, the second-highest award in BB. A big well done to Micah, Moisis, Sunny, William and Zaydan for successfully completing the course!



The following day our Company & Seniors lads took part in the Top Team Challenge, a series of six challenges set by The Boys' Brigade for teams across the UK & RoI. Our scores have been sent in and we look forward to seeing how we got on in May!



All of our age groups have continued to take part in a wide range of activities on Monday evenings, including our younger boys taking on Chocolate, Incredible Inventors and Robots themed evenings, and our older lads getting into a TikTok theme which included thinking about our own digital wellbeing as well as how we are all precious to God. By the time you read this newsletter we will have just



held our MasterChef Challenge, with the Company and Seniors cooking a dish from scratch ready to be scored by our judges.

We are very grateful for your continued support for our fundraising efforts for our BB Build Trip to Mexico, in which we're currently at around £7,250 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)



Tom

The Procession to Calvary

Matthew 27:32, Mark 15:21, Luke 23:26-27, John 19:17

Raffaello Santi (or Sanzio), known as Raphael, Michelangelo and Leonardo da Vinci were the three greatest artists of the Italian High Renaissance. Raphael was also a draughtsman, architect and archaeologist. He was born in 1483 in Urbino in the Italian Marches, where his father was a court painter. After working with Perugino in Perugia in Umbria, he moved to Florence. From 1508 he was in Rome where, with assistants, he painted frescoes on the walls and ceilings of rooms in the Papal Apartments between 1509 and 1514. He was much in demand for church altarpieces of the Virgin and Child and for portraits, which included that of his patron Pope Julius II. He also

painted various other frescoes and sketches for tapestries. In 1514 he was appointed architect for St Peter's Basilica in Rome and remained in the city until his death in 1520.

The Procession to Calvary was painted in oil on poplar in about 1504-1505. It formed the central panel of a strip of paintings (known as a predella) below an altarpiece of *The Virgin and Child With Saints*. This was commissioned for the church of a Franciscan convent in Perugia in Umbria, central Italy. Other scenes in the predella included *The Agony in the Garden* (of Gethsemane) and a *Pietà* (Mary weeping over the body of the dead Christ).

The gospel accounts of what happened on the road to Calvary vary. Matthew 27:32 and Mark 15:21 imply that the task of carrying the cross was given to Simon of Cyrene almost at the beginning, while Luke 23:26 suggests that he took over from Jesus. John 19:17 does not mention Simon.

Jesus can be seen in the centre of Raphael's painting carrying the cross, just as Simon behind him is about to take over. Jesus is preceded by two horsemen and is surrounded by five-foot soldiers. They are followed by the disciple John and the three Marys supporting Jesus' mother Mary who is fainting (Luke 23:27).

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

Stephen

See a full colour version of *The Procession to Calvary* on page 39.

St John Passion

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750) lived and worked as a composer, organist and organ repairer in various places in what are now the German provinces of Thuringia and Saxony. He also had a wife and a large family to support.

The last 27 years of Bach's life were spent in Leipzig. He was music director for the city and music master at St Thomas' School which was attached to St Thomas' Church. The post was one of the most prestigious as well as demanding positions in church music in 18th century Lutheran Protestant Germany. As music master Bach had to teach the boys and prepare four choirs to sing cantatas each week at four churches in Leipzig. (The cantatas were short sacred choral works which were accompanied by professional instrumentalists.) Bach was also required to write music for civic events, visits by members of the Saxon royal family and various religious festivals such as Christmas and Easter.

Bach composed oratorios on the Passion of Christ for performance on Good Friday. (An oratorio is a semi-dramatic musical composition, usually on a sacred theme.) The 'St John Passion' movingly describes the events leading up to the death of Jesus as recorded in John's gospel. The narrative and dialogue are delivered in recitative (a sung recitation) by soloists who also sing arias (songs). These are interspersed with chorales (simple tunes written for psalms or hymns which would have originally been sung in unison by the members of the congregation). When readings from the Bible in Martin Luther's German translation, prayers and a long sermon were included, the

whole service would have lasted for several hours.

On Good Friday evening, 3 April, I plan to hear the 'St John Passion' at St Martin in the Fields Church by Trafalgar Square. It will be performed by the St Martin Voices and the Academy of St Martin in the Fields, but without the readings, prayer and sermon in Bach's time!

Stephen

What Would We Have Done?

What would we have done if we had been there
when Jesus entered Jerusalem on a donkey,
when Jesus threw the money changers out of the Temple,
when Jesus celebrated his Last Supper,
when Jesus went to pray in the Garden of Gethsemane,
when Jesus was betrayed and arrested,
when challenged that we were Jesus' friend,
when asked whether Jesus should be set free,
when Jesus was sentenced to be crucified,
when Jesus died,
and when Jesus rose from the dead?

Stephen

He Died For Us Upon a Cross

A hymn for Good Friday and Easter Sunday - Matthew 27-28

1. He died for us upon a cross,
the Lord and Saviour of us all,
may we remember what he did,
the one who hung and
suffered there.

2. Some people mocked him in his
pain
and called on him to leave that
cross
if he was truly God's own son,
but Jesus knew it was God's will.

3. His friends had hoped that he
would be
the Saviour who would set
them free
and lead them to eternal life,
so they were saddened at his
death.

4. When Joseph placed him in his
tomb
and sealed the entrance with a
stone,
that tomb was guarded to prevent
his body being then removed.

5. However, when some friends
arrived
and found his body was not
there,
they were afraid, yet joyful too
on learning that he was alive.

6. Now let us all rejoice and praise
the one who is our risen Lord
and spread the message of his love
to everyone throughout the
world.

Stephen Gilbert

Long metre 8888 iambic tetrameter

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

'Fulda' (RS 613 'Lord Speak to Me, That I May Speak')

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Annual General Meeting

Christ Church's AGM will be held on Sunday 12 April at 12:15pm (after the morning service).

The annual accounts and reports will be presented at the meeting, and elections will take place for various church officers, committee members and representatives.

On the pages that follow you can find the annual reports for 2025.

Minister's report

2025 has been a continued time of making sure Christ Church URC is compliant with the required policies. We have an Eldership of three and myself on the church leadership team. The most recent drive has been around making sure we regularly check our risk assessments for events, etc. Our safeguarding requirements are up to date and food hygiene certification has been achieved and in place for when we offer food.

There seems to be a closer sense of working together between the three churches within the pastorate without compromising each church's own uniqueness.

We have seen a continual flow of new people visiting our church, with some people returning on a regular basis. There is however continued commitment from our regular church family which is wonderful. Our

congregation may appear, to some, to be lacking in numbers (there is growth) but Christ Church certainly doesn't lack in spiritual growth.

2025 was a year of celebration as it was our 150th Anniversary. We had various events to help with our celebrations. The bigger events included our open day in September which included guided tours of the church concluding with a worship service to finish the day. In November Enfield Choral Society came to do a concert for us. This included a programme of sacred music and a work that was premiered. Finally we ended the year with a Christmas Tree Festival which was well attended and will become an annual event after requests from the wider community.

There has been a lot of work around administration and building maintenance which has taken up considerable amounts of time but much has been achieved and plans do seem to be moving in the right direction.

One of the groups I have invested time into is the Friendship Club. We start with a devotion and it has been a great opportunity to get to know the people who attend. I have been able to attend most of the sessions in 2025. I also made a monthly visit to the Boys' Brigade meetings and have been able to cover staff shortages at times. The boys have an amazing programme of activities each week.

I have been working closely with other clergy within Enfield Town which has meant we have built up supportive friendships. We have been able to provide Sunday morning Bible class space for Chase Family Church. We also were able to worship together in December

when they led a Carols by Candlelight service. It was a great time of unity when we were joined by Chase Family Church and Enfield Baptist Church on the church driveway on the evening of the Parade of Light. We were able together to offer live music, face painting and giving our hot chocolate to passers by.

My work with Chase Side Primary School continues and that relationship is getting stronger with support travelling both ways. It was a privilege to welcome the children for their Christingle session and carol services as well as a talk about racial equality. There was enormous support from the school with the Christmas Tree Festival.

There's always much to report on but this is just a snapshot of what has been achieved. Now it's the time to look forward to what God has planned for Christ Church URC in 2026.

The Revd Ruth Dewis

Worship Group report

The Worship Group (Sylvia Coombs and Rosemary Milns) has planned and taken 10 services in 2025.

At the beginning of the year, we led a series of services on themes from the Letter to the Hebrews, to tie in with the topics being covered by the Zoom Bible Study Group. We have also planned and led the services for Easter, Pentecost, Harvest Festival, Remembrance Sunday and the Christmas Nativity.

We continued 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 during the year. If you haven't done so yet, but would be interested in finding out more, please speak to Rosemary. We are looking for people to do readings (from the Bible or elsewhere), prayers, take part in dramatised sketches, and to lead the singing - it would be nice to have little choir and we know that there are some good voices out there!

I have been working on the Aspiring to More Course run by the Synod to become a Locally Recognised Worship Leader, and completed this in November.

Rosemary Milns

Zoom Bible Study Group report

The Zoom Bible Study Group meets twice a month on a Saturday morning at 9:30am by Zoom, though we do meet face-to-face once a year for a Christmas breakfast! During the year we have had 10 members from four different churches. Topics looked at during 2025 have been the Letter to the Hebrews and the Gospel of Luke.

New members are always welcome. Please contact me for further information.

Rosemary Milns

Adventurers report

Adventurers meet at the back of the Church during the Sunday morning service. The group is for children aged 3 years and upwards. We usually follow the themes from the lectionary, unless the person taking the service particularly requests a different topic. We enjoy exploring the amazing stories of the Bible, using a mixture of drama, discussion, and activity sheets. 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.

If anyone is interested in helping with Adventurers, please speak to me for further details.

Through the charity, World Vision, we are sponsoring a boy called Wario, who is 12 years old and lives in Sololo in Kenya, with his mother. In his free time, he loves playing football. We send him a birthday and Christmas card each year with a short message. Through World Vision, Wario receives school supplies to help him with his education and personal development. His family have also taken part in World Vision's income generation training, which aims to create opportunities to start small businesses and improve family incomes. In the last year, World Vision has organised a clean water supply to Sololo, which has made a huge difference to the health and everyday lives of the community. If anyone else is interested in sponsoring a child through World Vision, please do speak to me.

Rosemary Milns

Boys' Brigade report

We have enjoyed another year full of BB activities in 2025, with 31 boys across all of our age groups as of the end of the year.

We have a team of 10 leaders, including Frankie George who we were delighted to welcome the team after having spent many years in the Company as a young person.

In January 2025 we held a fundraising Quiz Night, which was attended by over 70 people and raised over £800 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.

Special events that all of our age groups got involved with included the Hare & Hounds Fun Race, Athletics & Sports, Remembrance events and the Enfield Christmas Parade of Light.

Our Anchors (5-8 years) enjoyed a range of special events including a Superhero Themed Fun Day along with trips to Chessington World of Adventures and Whipsnade Zoo.

As well as joining the Anchors at Chessington and Whipsnade, our Juniors (8-11 years) had the opportunity to take part in the Swimming Gala, a Fun Day, a Weekend Camp at Gilwell Park, and a Ten Pin Bowling Competition.

The Company (11-14 years) & Seniors (14-18 years) age groups took part in a London District Awards Celebration, the Swimming Gala, a Weekend Away, Waltham Walk (in which they won the Main Event category), the BB's national Unite camp, a trip to Thorpe Park, a Quiz & Pizza Evening, a trip to Wembley Stadium to see England play Wales, a Paintball Event, Badminton and Ten Pin Bowling competitions, and were able to attend the VE Day 80 Concert on Horse Guards Parade. They also took part in the BB's Top Team Challenge, a national competition where young people take part in a range of physical and logical challenges in their own meeting space, with one of our teams receiving medals as the highest placed team within the London District area.

In August we once again joined with our friends from 10th Enfield and 4th Barnet for our annual Summer Camp, staying in Beeston Regis and enjoying a packed week of activities around Norfolk.

A few weeks prior to that we ran our Summer Programme for all age groups, enjoying some outdoor games on Chase Green, trips to Jungle Falls Adventure Golf and Hollywood Bowl Finchley, and a visit from a gaming bus. Our younger boys also took on some outdoor team challenges and our older lads took part in an Around the Town Challenge as well as an evening of go karting. We also held our Summer BBQ for all of the boys and their families.

In January six of our Seniors took part in a Building Your Skills course as part of work towards their President's Badge, and subsequently received the awards at our Awards Evening in May. At this event all of the boys were presented with awards, certificates and trophies to

celebrate their achievements throughout the previous year, watched on by their families.

In March our leaders had the opportunity to attend the Enfield Battalion Leaders Social & Awards, recognising their service to the organisation over many years.

In September three of our boys completed their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award expedition, and after completing the other three sections (Volunteering, Physical, Skills) received their awards in December, becoming our first DofE recipients in over 30 years.

In October we held our Enrolment Service, with boys and leaders joining with the Christ Church congregation and rededicating themselves to the organisation.

In November & December we were delighted to support Help for Hunger, putting together three hampers to support local families in need over the Christmas period.

All of our age groups continue to meet on Monday evenings in the hall. For more information please email info@3rdenfieldbb.co.uk or visit us online at 3rdenfieldbb.co.uk

We were able to do so much as a Company during 2025 with plenty for all of the boys to get involved with. 2026 is of course well underway and looking equally busy!

Tom Boorman

Girlguiding report

The Rainbows enjoyed a Unicorn Fun Day at Morven Guide Campsite with unicorn-themed crafts. They also had a visit from the Guide Dog Association who taught the Rainbows about how a guide dog helps blind and partially sighted people.

As always, our Rainbows grow so quickly and we've enjoyed seeing lots of our little ones move up to Brownies and beyond.

The Brownies enjoyed a Space Themed Camp filled with out of this world crafts, games and snacks! Our young leaders prepared a great water fight evening in the summer where everyone got completely drenched, and we had a visit from a local hockey group who taught the girls some tricks and new skills (they even recruited some new members).

The Guides and Rangers had a trip to Ware Lido for a summer evening of pool games. They also enjoyed a week-long Summer Camp filled with activities and a day trip out to Stevenage. Something which has become a tradition for them is our annual Christmas Camp, which is always very cosy and gets us all in the Christmas spirit.

In 2026 we're planning another epic fun in the sun camp for all age groups which is always exhausting but so fun. The Rangers will be doing a Monopoly Run around London, seeing all the sights and trying to navigate the London Underground System. Our Guides and Rangers will also be going to Girlguiding's exclusive music concert, the Big Gig.

The 9th Enfield meets on Friday evenings in the hall with activities across the four age groups - Rainbows (4-7 years), Brownies (7-10 years), Guides (10-14 years) and Rangers (14-18 years). For more information please email **9thenfield@gmail.com**

Vicki Stratton-Stubbs

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 Yvonne who has given help with the refreshments. In addition, we are grateful to all the members who help with the many 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 and Liz for help with setting up, putting away tables, and other heavy jobs. Very many thanks too, to Ruth, for coming and helping whenever she has been able to join us and for her much appreciated support.

During the year we have been saddened by the loss of two of our members - Olive Parsons, our Treasurer, and Brenda Brown who has helped with all aspects of our programmes and been a regular speaker for us too. We thank God for them both, for all their help and for their love, care and friendship which have enriched our Friendship Club over the years. We are also very thankful that Stuart has kindly agreed to take over the job of Treasurer for us.

In 2025 our programme included a wonderful variety of very varied topics again. We started with Sylvia's account of animal encounters in Africa including the story of her 'far too close for comfort' encounter with a lion in Zimbabwe, and then heard some more about Alison's life in Zambia. Rosemary Randall told us all about the work of the Bridge of Hope project in Uganda, helping very needy children with life and education, towards which we made a small donation. Then, much closer to home, Margaret provided some very local memories of Enfield particularly of the area immediately around Christ Church and Lancaster Road.

In our February meeting Mandy James shared another of her amazing presentations which she entitled "More or Less". Her presentation on screen included a large number of hugely varied topics with lots of facts and figures about each one. All we had to do was to decide whether there were more or less than the numbers which she gave us. Mandy also gave us another of her fun quiz programmes with plenty of hilarity later in the year. Another very popular programme was Linda Clarke painting us a new picture accompanied by her choice of music. This time her picture was of the seaside, a beautiful small bay with all the colours of the sea from dark blue on the horizon to turquoise closer to the shore and a small sandy beach, as she talked to us about the beauty of God's wonderful creation.

In August we thoroughly enjoyed a sumptuous summer tea, we shared some of our favourite poems in September, and in October sang and learned more from Ruth about a wide variety of well-known hymns. For our Christmas programme Ruth spoke about the real meaning of Christmas as we read again the Bible story of the first

Christmas and sang carols. Ruth and Stuart organised, prepared and served us a wonderful Christmas tea as well as the summer tea for which we want to give them very many thanks. Sharing food has become a very popular part of our regular Friendship Club Programme! Our final Christmas excitement was for the Friendship Club to win a certificate for second place in the Christmas tree decorating competition as part of the church's Christmas Tree Festival.

Sylvia Coombs

Knitting request

If you like knitting would you consider helping us to build us a stock of little angels to give out to all those who visit the Nativity Festival that will be held at Lancaster Road URC (the same weekend the Christmas Tree Festival at Christ Church and the Enfield Christmas Parade of Light on 5 and 6 December).



Knitting instructions will be available on printed sheets at the back of the church, or please speak to Ruth.

If you are able to knit, please hand your little angels to Ruth to look after until December.

Prayer diary April 2026

- 1 Pray for God's guidance at the start of a new month.
- 2 Maundy Thursday: Pray for this evening's Pastorate service at Bush Hill Park URC.
- 3 Good Friday: Give thanks for the ultimate sacrifice made by Jesus on the cross.
- 4 Pray for this morning's Zoom Bible Study Group meeting.
- 5 Easter Sunday: Celebrate the risen King Jesus!
- 6 Pray for all those from our Pastorate who are travelling to Spring Harvest at Butlins in Minehead for the next few days.
- 7 Pray for a peaceful and swift resolution to the ongoing conflicts in the Middle East.
- 8 Pray that our church may grow in numbers, in spiritual commitment to God, and in service to our local community.
- 9 Pray for anyone you know who is suffering from sickness or ill health at this time.
- 10 Pray for the residents of Windmill Hill.
- 11 Pray for today's Lunchtime @ Christ Church.
- 12 Pray for our Church AGM, which is taking place following the service today.
- 13 Pray for the Anchors and Juniors as they meet this evening.
- 14 Pray for all those who are new to the Christian faith.
- 15 Pray for Ruth and Stuart.
- 16 Pray for all those who work in the CAMHS unit at Bay Tree House, just behind our church.
- 17 Pray for the Rainbows and Brownies as they meet this evening.
- 18 Pray for the Zoom Bible Study group, which is meeting online this morning.

- 19 Pray for Richard Ockan as he leads our service this morning.
- 20 Pray for the Friendship Club as they meet this afternoon, and for Linda Clarke who is painting for the group.
- 21 Pray for our friends and families.
- 22 Pray for our Elders.
- 23 St George's Day: Pray for England.
- 24 Pray for the Guides and Rangers as they meet this evening.
- 25 Give thanks to God for his word to us through the Bible.
- 26 Pray for the Adventurers as they meet during our service this morning.
- 27 Pray for the Company and Seniors as they meet this evening.
- 28 Pray for the work of our Finance Committee and especially Pam, our Treasurer.
- 29 Pray for the external groups that use our church premises.
- 30 Pray for the work of the wider United Reformed Church.

May 2026 Newsletter

The **May 2026** edition of the Christ Church Newsletter will be published on **Sunday 26 April**. Items for inclusion in this issue must be with the Editor by Sunday 12 April. Late submissions will either miss inclusion or be held over to the following issue.

Church diary April 2026

Thursday 2 April

7:30pm

The Revd Ruth Dewis

Pastorate Maundy Thursday Service (at Bush Hill Park URC)

Friday 3 April

10:30am & 11:00am

Act of Worship (at the Fountain, Enfield Town) and United Service for Good Friday (at St Andrew's Church)

Saturday 4 April

9:30am-10:30am

Zoom Bible Study Group (see page 5)

Sunday 5 April

10:45am

The Revd Ruth Dewis

Easter Sunday & Holy Communion (offering for the Communion Fund)

Duty Elder - Alison Gibbs

Saturday 11 April

12:30pm-2:30pm

Lunchtime @ Christ Church

Sunday 12 April

10:45am

Martin Wells

Duty Elder - Rosemary Milns

Sunday 12 April

12:15pm

Church AGM

Saturday 18 April 9:30am-10:30am
Zoom Bible Study Group (see page 5)

Sunday 19 April 10:45am
Richard Ockan
Duty Elder - Sarah Harry

Monday 20 April 2:15pm
Friendship Club
Linda Clarke paints a picture

Sunday 26 April 10:45am
Ola Lawal
Duty Elder - Sarah Harry

Church diary May 2026

Sunday 3 May 10:45am
The Revd Martin Legg
Holy Communion (offering for the Lancaster Road URC Special Supper Ministry)
Duty Elder - Rosemary Milns

Saturday 9 May 12:30pm-2:30pm
Lunchtime @ Christ Church

Key information

Minister	The Revd Ruth Dewis	07592 125 027 / minister@ccurc.org.uk
Secretary	Rosemary Milns	secretary@ccurc.org.uk
Serving Elders	Alison Gibbs, Sarah Harry & Rosemary Milns	elders@ccurc.org.uk
Safeguarding	Alison Gibbs	safeguarding@ccurc.org.uk
Treasurer	Pamela Mansley	treasurer@ccurc.org.uk
Property Committee		property@ccurc.org.uk
Hall & Room Hire		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.

Website ccurc.org.uk

Facebook & Instagram @ccurcenenfield

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

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.



Left (please turn page sideways): *The Procession to Calvary*, Raphael 1504-1505, National Gallery, London. Public domain image via Wikimedia Commons. A related article by Stephen Gilburt can be found on pages 16-17.

Front cover image by D-Keine on iStock.



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 **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



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

