

NEWSLETTER

March 2025 | No. 829



Christ Church
United
Reformed
Church



Mothering Sunday

Celebration Service

Sunday 30 March at 10:45am
at Christ Church URC

A United Service for the
North Enfield Pastorate
led by the Revd Martin Legg

Pastoral Letter March 2025

Hello,

Spring is upon us at last! March is a busy month for all sorts of reasons. There's St David Day and St Patrick's Day when we remember these great saints of the faith. Shrove Tuesday when we prepare for starting Lent but probably spend more time thinking about what toppings to put on our pancakes before entering the period of Lent. We have Mothering Sunday which originally was a day set aside for servants to go back to their mother church and spend the day with their family, now it's a bonus for the economy. It's also a busy month for the church in its preparations for the wonderful celebration of Easter Day.

It's so very easy to get into the business of things that we don't stop long enough to enjoy the view, or take in just one moment from each day. So much to do yet so little time to do it, as they saying goes. Life is just so busy for so many people these days and on top of that we expect so much of others and ourselves, don't we?

Recently being on holiday I found it so difficult to change gear to a lower speed. My mind is my constant voice of things I should be doing! There's always that urge to get the things done that you've not had time to do due to work pressures.

However in the second week being in the Lake District the pace of life just immediately slowed down. We were blessed with amazing weather. It was cold but sunny and Lake Windermere were incredibly still. I often find photography a wonderful way to help me to reflect

and a way I can listen to God. He definitely speaks to me through nature and what I catch in a photograph.

Here are a couple of photos of a scene that allowed me to reflect:



Due to the pace of life we can often just see the difficulties; the things that hinder us (the bramble thorns, the overgrowth). However if we were willing to stop and face the difficulty straight on and be more patient, we might be able to start seeing the beauty that's also within the difficulty and the good that can be apparent because of that difficulty; otherwise known as a blessing in disguise.



(Same view, different perspective)

I also reflected that coming to a difficulty from another angle and not being so rigid and deal with things in the same way as we always do, we get to a different viewpoint and often see a clearer picture more quickly. This can mean that we need to be willing to listen to others and take other people's advice graciously.

God has given us so many ways to listen to him if only we just stopped even for a moment.

“Be still, and know that I am God! I will be honoured by every nation. I will be honoured throughout the world.’ The Lord of Heaven’s Armies

is here among us; the God of Israel is our fortress.” (Psalm 46:10-11)

Let us try each day, in March, to set aside a moment to be still and know that he is God and honour him. It will help us to know that he is with us as our fortress in not just the difficult times but our good times too. Amen.

Yours in Christ,

Ruth

The Revd Roy Martin

We are very sorry to learn that the Revd Roy Martin passed away peacefully on Saturday 1 February after a short illness.

Roy served as Minister of Christ Church URC from 1980 to 1987, following a spell of ministry in Cheadle Hulme and many years in India working with the Church of South India. He was appointed as our Minister Emeritus in 1985, and after leaving Enfield had a further spell of ministry in Harlesden before retiring to Milton Keynes in 1995.

Roy's thanksgiving and funeral service will be held on Tuesday 4 March at 2:30pm at the Church of Christ the Cornerstone, 300 Saxon Gate West, Milton Keynes, MK9 2ES.

Please hold Roy's wife Joy, their son Peter and the rest of their family in your prayers at this incredibly sad time.

2025 Lent Course

This year's Lent Course, titled 'Journey of Generosity', will be held on Tuesdays 18 and 25 March, 1 and 15 April, with two follow up sessions after Easter (dates to be agreed when we meet in person).

There are two options:

- 10:30am in the Lancaster Road URC church lounge, led by the Revd Ruth Dewis.
- 7:30pm in the Bush Hill Park URC church lounge, led by Lisa Hamblin.

Please email **minister@ccurc.org.uk** or speak to Ruth if you want to attend the course. A booklet will then be sent to you as a PDF for you to print out (if required). If you would like a booklet printed out for you, please indicate when you confirm your wish to attend the sessions.

Zoom Bible Study Group

Forthcoming meetings of the Zoom Bible Study Group will take place on Saturdays 1 and 15 March at the usual time of 9:30am. The group is currently looking at the Letter to the Hebrews, using the *Cover to Cover Bible* study book *Hebrews: Jesus - Simply the Best*.

Newcomers are always welcome. Please contact Rosemary Milns for more information and for joining details.

Communion offering

The Communion offering at our service on Sunday 2 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.

Synod Green Team

The Thames North Synod Green Team are looking for new people to join them, as a 'Green Apostle' or 'Green Team supporter'.

The team's work is to promote the URC and Synod Environmental Policies in ways that help us better care for God's creation in our worship, shared life and mission. In its first three years, the team has seen 23 churches in the Synod awarded Bronze or Silver from Eco Church, another 22 registered for the scheme, and the Synod itself reaching a Bronze Award. It has organised an annual Synod Green Day of sharing and celebration for adults and children. Two members have been recognised by the Carbon Literacy Project as qualified to facilitate their courses and are now offering these courses to local churches and members. Team members have also shared ideas with Synod committees and the URC's Green Apostles network and write regularly in the Synod e-news.

Could you help? If you are interested or would like more information about what's involved please email **modpa@urcthamesnorth.org.uk**



Lunchtime @ Christ Church

**Saturday
8 March**

11:00am-1:00pm

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

Lunch and refreshments
will be available

No set charge -
donations accepted

Find us at **Christ Church URC**
Chase Side, Enfield, EN2 6NJ

Visit us online at **ccurc.org.uk**

Annual General Meeting

Christ Church's AGM will be held on Sunday 6 April at 12:15pm (after the morning service).

The annual accounts and reports will be presented at the meeting. Elections will take place for Church Secretary, Treasurer, members of the Property Committee, and representatives on the Enfield & East Hertfordshire Local Area Group and for the Thames North Synod.

Leaders of church organisations are requested to send their annual reports for 2024 to **newsletter@ccurc.org.uk** by Sunday 16 March so that they can be included in the April 2025 newsletter.

Lenten offering

If you would like to make a Lenten gift this year, you can do so 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 Rosemary. The Lenten offering goes towards supporting the work of Christ Church. Thank you for anything that you can give - we really appreciate it.

If you are a UK tax payer you can Gift Aid any donations that you make to Christ Church. This 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.

Christ Church 150th anniversary

A reminder that the proposed events and dates for 2025 are:

- Lunchtime @ Christ Church on the following Saturdays - 8 March, 12 April, 10 May, 14 June, 9 August and 11 October, all 11:00am-1:00pm. If you are able to organise or help at any of the lunches, please sign up on the lists by the coffee area, under the yearly planner for 2025.
- Church Fun Day - Saturday 21 June, times TBC.
- Open Day - Saturday 13 September, 10:00am-4:00pm.
- Enfield Choral Society Concert - Saturday 8 November, 7:30pm.
- Anniversary Service led by the Moderator of Thames North Synod, the Revd George Watt - Sunday 16 November, 10:45am. This will be a North Enfield Pastorate service at Christ Church.

Were you baptised or married at Christ Church?

As part of our 150th anniversary celebrations we would like to put on a display of photographs of baptisms and weddings which have taken place over the years. Were you baptised or married at Christ Church, or do you know someone who was? If so, do you, or they, have any photographs of the event, which you/they would be willing to give/lend to us for exhibiting during our anniversary events? Please arrange for any photos to be given to an elder by Sunday 2 March.

Friendship Club update

On a very cold and dreary Monday afternoon on 20 January, we were all taken well out of our comfort zone, to life in the heart of Africa, Mutare, a town in the east of Zimbabwe.

Sylvia gave us a most entertaining and informative talk about her times spent working with Mission Direct helping to build a school for some children. 'Build' is the key word here, as Sylvia is now a well qualified bricklayer! The school had been started some time ago and now has about 1,000 children all eager to learn. They needed a new toilet block and two classrooms, which the group managed to achieve. Sylvia's bricklaying skills graduated into painting skills and she was kept busy with that too.

In Zimbabwe at that time there was a lack of currency and petrol, which made life difficult for the group, however they were given a few days well earned rest from duties and managed to see Victoria Falls. During their drive through the country they were warned about snakes and painted dogs, but not about lions. On a 'comfort stop' after finding a convenient shrub to hide behind, the shout went up, "Quick, NOW everyone back in the truck". One of the party had come literally face-to-face with a lion the other side of his bush. Sylvia didn't know she could move so fast! Even with open-toed sandals on and feet cut on the sharp spines of acacia, she managed an Olympic sprint back to safety! There had been no warning about lions in the vicinity.

Instead of our usual suburban lives with dogs, cats, rabbits, goldfish and gerbils, we learnt about living with elephants (their babies suck

their trunks instead of a dummy), giraffes (they give birth standing up and the baby falls 6 feet, and they have a very hard blue/black strong tongue to enable them to pull out tough plants) and hippos (who cannot swim but walk along the bottom of the river).

Thank you very much Sylvia, we all had a lovely happy and entertaining afternoon.

The next Friendship Club meeting will take place on Monday 17 March at 2:15pm in the hall. Everyone is very welcome.

Can you help the Adventurers?

Adventurers is our children's and young people's group which meets on a Sunday morning during the church service. The group is called 'Adventurers' because learning about and coming to know Jesus as your personal saviour must be one of the most exciting and life changing adventures you will ever go on!

Do you think that you might be able to accompany and guide a child or young person on that journey? We are looking for some assistants to work with Rosemary to develop and grow the existing group. No previous experience is required and training can be provided.

A full job description was included in the October 2024 newsletter, or a further copy is available on request. If you are interested, or for further information please speak to Ruth or Rosemary.

Boys' Brigade update

On Saturday 25 January it was wonderful to join together with 160+ young people, leaders and guests for the London District Awards Celebration at City Hall.

The Awards Celebration was held to recognise and celebrate the achievements of young people and leaders from across London District, and was held at the home of the Mayor of London and London Assembly overlooking the Royal Docks.

We were delighted to be there with nine award achievers - a very big well done to Austin, Joseph B, Joseph K, Max, Tyla and Yianni (Jack Petchey Awards) as well as Josef, Michael and Stephen (Queen's Badges).

Awards were presented by Craig Haslam, Deputy Lieutenant for Greater London and Jonathan Eales, Chief Executive of The Boys' Brigade UK & RoI, with both also sharing some words of encouragement.



Following the event our group had the opportunity to enjoy lunch as well as trips on the IFS Cable Car and Thames Clipper, giving the opportunity to see London from different perspectives!

Later that same day we held our annual Quiz Night, with over 70 people joining us in the hall for a fun evening and helping us to raise over £800 in support of the work we do with children and young people. A huge thank you to everyone who came along on the evening or donated at other times - we really appreciate your support.



On Saturday 1 February we took part in the Enfield Battalion Swimming Gala at Southgate Leisure Centre, which saw a range of races take place across four different age ranges. Well done to our boys who took part, helping us to 5th (Juniors) and 6th (Company), with William winning the width freestyle race in his age group!



During February four teams from the 3rd Enfield took part in the Top Team Challenge, a national competition run by the BB which groups take part in in their own meeting space. We'll find out how we did in May!



Tom

Jesus Prays at Gethsemane

Matthew 26:36-46, Mark 14:32-42, Luke 21:39-46

The Venetian Andrea Mantegna (1430-1506) painted *The Agony in the Garden* in the 1460s. It portrays Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane praying that he might be spared the agony of the crucifixion, but accepting God's will. His disciples Peter, James and John, who Jesus had asked to pray with him, can be seen asleep at the foot of the Mount of Olives. The single fig tree on the right may symbolise redemption. The artist's love of detail can be seen in the tiny individual leaves, birds and rabbits he has painted.

On the far side of the Kidron brook (John 18:1) on the right, Judas can be seen pointing the way for a crowd of Roman soldiers armed with swords and clubs, who have come to arrest Jesus.

The representation of the walled city of Jerusalem contains several Roman style buildings. It is overlooked by towering mountains of the artist's imagination.

Mantegna's brother-in-law Giovanni Bellini also painted a version of the same scene, but with a more open landscape. Both paintings may be seen together in the National Gallery in London.

Stephen

You can see a full colour version of *The Agony in the Garden* by Andrea Mantegna on page 23.

Forgive Us For the Many Times

A hymn asking for forgiveness

1. Forgive us for the many times
 we have not followed you,
when we have done what we should not
 and failed to do what's right.

2. We know we can depend upon
 your saving grace for all,
forgiving us our many sins
 if we now do repent.

3. May we all seek to follow you
 in everything we do,
so that we may now come to know
 your everlasting love.

Stephen Gilburt

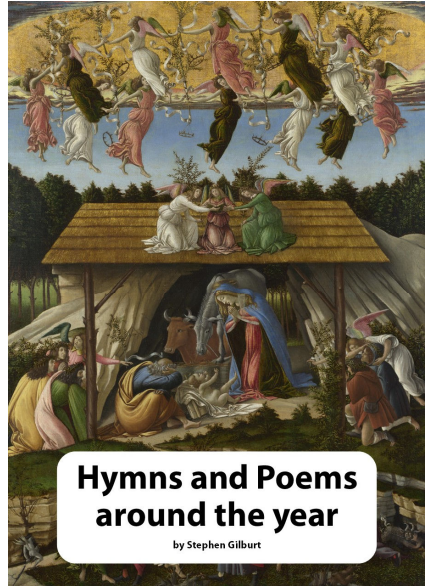
Common metre 8686 iambic

Tunes 'Amazing Grace' (RS 92 'Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound')
 'University' (RS 677 'The God of Love My Shepherd is')
 'Winchester Old' (RS 155 'While Shepherds Watched Their
 Flocks By Night')

Hymn writing

If you haven't yet picked up a copy of Stephen Gilbert's booklet *Hymns and Poems Around the Year*, or would like more, these are still available at the back of the church or by emailing **newsletter@ccurc.org.uk**

This is a collection of 35 hymns and poems that Stephen has written, with colour reproductions of famous paintings illustrating some of them.



A donation of at least £3 per copy, made payable to Christ Church URC, Enfield, to cover printing and postage costs is suggested.

Prayer diary March 2025

- 1 Pray for the Zoom Bible Study Group as they meet this morning.
- 2 Pray for our friend Laura Marlow as she leads our service this morning.
- 3 Pray for the Anchors as they meet this evening.
- 4 Pray for the work of Thames North Synod.
- 5 Ash Wednesday: Pray for God's presence as this season of Lent begins.

- 6 Pray for the residents of Kingsclere Place.
- 7 Pray for the Rainbows as they meet this evening.
- 8 Pray for today's Lunchtime @ Christ Church event.
- 9 Pray for Lancaster Road URC's worship and witness in their community as we join them to celebrate their Church Anniversary this morning.
- 10 Pray for the Juniors as they meet this evening.
- 11 Pray for the work of Enfield Council.
- 12 Pray for our Elders.
- 13 Give thanks to God for friends and families.
- 14 Pray for the Brownies as they meet this evening.
- 15 Pray for the Zoom Bible Study Group as they meet this morning.
- 16 Pray for The Worship Group as they our service this morning.
- 17 Pray for the Friendship Club as they meet this afternoon.
- 18 Pray for today's first sessions of the Lent Course.
- 19 Pray for peace in areas of the world where there is conflict.
- 20 Pray for the external groups that use our church premises.
- 21 Pray for the Guides as they meet this evening.
- 22 Pray for those who are seeking employment at this time.
- 23 Pray for the Adventurers as they meet during our service today.
- 24 Pray for the BB Company age group as they meet this evening.
- 25 Pray for today's second sessions of the Lent Course.
- 26 Pray for Ruth and Stuart.
- 27 Give thanks to God for his word to us through the Bible.
- 28 Pray for the Rangers as they meet this evening.
- 29 Pray for anyone you know who is unwell at this time.
- 30 Pray for the North Enfield Pastorate as we come together for our Mothering Sunday Celebration Service at Christ Church today.
- 31 Pray for the Seniors as they meet this evening.

Church diary March 2025

Saturday 1 March 9:30am-10:30am
Zoom Bible Study Group
Please contact Rosemary for joining instructions

Sunday 2 March 10:45am
Laura Marlow
Holy Communion (offering for the Communion Fund)
Duty Elder - Pam Mansley

Saturday 8 March 11:00am-1:00pm
Lunchtime @ Christ Church (see page 9)

Sunday 9 March 11:15am
The Revd Martin Legg
United Service at Lancaster Road URC to celebrate their Church Anniversary
Please note the location and start time for this service

Saturday 15 March 9:30am-10:30am
Zoom Bible Study Group
Please contact Rosemary for joining instructions

Sunday 16 March 10:45am
The Worship Group
Duty Elder - TBC

Monday 17 March
Friendship Club
Speaker TBC

2:15pm

Tuesday 18 March
Lent Course part 1 (morning at Lancaster Road URC, evening at Bush Hill Park URC - see page 7)

10:30am or 7:30pm

Sunday 23 March
Terry Silvey
Duty Elder - TBC

10:45am

Tuesday 25 March
Lent Course part 2 (morning at Lancaster Road URC, evening at Bush Hill Park URC - see page 7)

10:30am or 7:30pm

Sunday 30 March
The Revd Martin Legg
Mothering Sunday Celebration Service (United Service for the North Enfield Pastorate at Christ Church URC)
Duty Elder - Rosemary Milns

10:45am

April 2025 Newsletter

The **April 2025** edition of the Christ Church Newsletter will be published on **Sunday 30 March**. Items intended for inclusion in this issue should be with the Editor by Sunday 16 March. 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

Sarah Harry & Rosemary Milns elders@ccurc.org.uk

Safeguarding Rosemary Milns (acting) safeguarding@ccurc.org.uk

Treasurer David Fisher 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.



The Agony in the Garden, Andrea Mantegna 1460s, National Gallery, London. Public domain image via Wikimedia Commons. A related article by Stephen Gilburt can be found on page 16.

Front cover image by Yoksel Zok on Unsplash.



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

