

NEWSLETTER

May 2025 | No. 831





**Together
we can
beat
extreme
poverty.**

**Join us this Christian Aid Week.
11-17 May 2025**



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Pastoral Letter May 2025

Hello,

I'm writing this month's letter to you while I'm in Skegness. 14 of the pastorate members have come to Spring Harvest. This year's theme is 'No Greater Story'. There is no greater story than God's story, is there? We really do have good news to share, don't we? What really struck me was what the main Bible teaching session leader (Leon Evans) mentioned; that our own stories might not have been the stories we would have desired (due to illness, grief, abuse, addiction etc) but our stories can be redeemed by the one who redeems, the Lord Jesus Christ.



Our stories, as believers, are part of God's story of love for the world. There was great emphasis on how we need to be more intentional in sharing the good news about Jesus and how he has impacted our stories, as there is an increase in those searching for that something that is missing.

Despite the opinion that youngsters are not interested in Christianity this is actually not true. The sale of Bibles is increasing as people are searching for hope. The church is actually growing globally with around 2.6 billion people already members of God's family.

The sun shone and in fairness Skeggie wasn't as cold as expected at the start, but it did get cold at times. However the worship and teaching definitely wasn't cold - in fact that got hotter. It really is wonderful when you are in the midst of around 2,000 people praising our God.

What I love about Spring Harvest is that denomination disappears. We are there to worship as one church family. It's a glimpse of what heaven will be like - no religious systems to be seen and people having that freedom to worship the one and only God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, as they want - no one cares if you hold your arms in the air or clap as you sing.

The Bible book of the week, which we concentrated on, was the book of Isaiah. The 66 chapters of Isaiah remind us of the 66 books of the Bible. What absolutely blows my mind is that planning for each Spring Harvest event starts well before the week. Planning starts over two years prior but it always feels it was written specifically for the moment we live in. This year could not have been more relevant thinking about the chaos and madness we are watching unfold across the globe.

Like Isaiah, as believers we are commissioned to go and tell people about the judgement of God that is coming (Isaiah 6) but better still, that a Redeemer has always been part of God's plan and that he hears our cries:

"Comfort, comfort my people, says your God." (Isaiah 40:1)

Our Redeemer did come but not quite as people expected; rather than a warrior he was a suffering servant for us all:

“But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.” (Isaiah 53:5)

We have been redeemed through Christ as soon as we believe and our own stories can then be wonderfully transformed to glorify God’s holy name.

As the weather warms up, I pray that the flame of the Spirit inside us all is fanned and increased to empower us as we go out to share what God has done for us all and that we can help people to find the One that will satisfy their searching.

God bless you in this coming month.

Ruth



Zoom Bible Study Group

The Zoom Bible Study Group will be meeting on Saturdays 3 and 17 May at 9:30am. The group will be starting on a new series of studies based upon the Gospel of Luke.

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

Communion offering

The Communion offering at our service on Sunday 4 May is to support Ben & Friends Supper for Those in Need, which is Lancaster Road URC's Special Supper Ministry. A plate will be at the back of the church after the service, and any donations are gratefully received.

Lancaster Road URC Holiday Club

Lancaster Road URC's Holiday Club (for children aged 5-11) will be heading to 'Psalm Tree Island' on Monday 28 July to Friday 1 August!

Details of how to register and further information 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

Friendship Club programme

The Friendship Club meets in the church hall on the third Monday of each month at 2:15pm for friendship, fellowship and cups of tea!

New members are very welcome at any of these meetings - for more details please speak to Sylvia Coombs.

Forthcoming meetings in the remainder of 2025 will take place as follows:

19 May: Bridge of Hope - Rosemary Randall

16 June: Linda Clarke paints us a picture

21 July: Who would be a volunteer? - Sylvia Coombs

18 August: Summer tea - The Revd Ruth Dewis

15 September: Our favourite poems

20 October: Songs of Praise - The Revd Ruth Dewis

17 November: Quiz time - The Revd Mandy James

15 December: Christmas programme including a bring and share tea - The Revd Ruth Dewis

Christ Church 150th anniversary

Our 150th anniversary celebratory events and dates for 2025 are:

- Lunchtime @ Christ Church on the following Saturdays - 10 May, 14 June, 9 August and 11 October, all 12:00pm-2:00pm (note amended times). 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.
- 'From Zion Chapel to Christ Church: A story of Congregationalists in Enfield' - Wednesday 19 November, 3:00pm at Jubilee Hall, 2 Parsonage Lane. This is an illustrated talk by Stephen Gilburt organised by the Edmonton Hundred Historical Society. All members and friends from Christ Church will be welcome.

Coffee Morning at Lancaster Road

1st Enfield Boys' Brigade will be holding a Plant Sale and Coffee Morning on Saturday 17 May from 10:00am-12:00pm at Lancaster Road URC. There will also be jigsaws, bric-a-brac, books and a tombola. Everyone is very welcome.

Rejoice and Sing Live

Rejoice and Sing Live is a hymn-filled service and celebration of *Rejoice and Sing*, the URC hymn book, on Saturday 3 May at Coventry Central Methodist Hall (Warwick Lane, Coventry, CV1 2HA), with an exhibition and café from 12:00pm and the service at 2:00pm-4:00pm.

Special guests include short talks from the Revd Prof David Thompson DD and the Revd Prof Stephen Orchard (who were on the committee that created the hymn book), the Revd Anne Sardeson (author of *50 Hymns for 50 Years*), hymnwriter the Revd Dominic Grant, who has written a new hymn for the anniversary to be sung at the event for the first time, Roo Stewart and David Williams, who will lead the music, the Revd David Jenkins, author of *The Rejoice and Sing Tour Guide*, and a special contribution from hymnwriter Brian Wren and Brenda Stephenson, who also helped to create *Rejoice and Sing*.

Find out more and book online at **bit.ly/reform-live**

Aspiring to More

‘Aspiring to More’ is a Thames North Synod training and learning programme for those who want to become preachers or worship leaders, or who wish to explore Christian faith and worship in more depth. Taster sessions will be held on Saturday 12 July from 10:30am-3:30pm at Lumen URC (88 Tavistock Place, London, WC1H 9RS) and Tuesday 2 September from 7:30pm-9:30pm on Zoom. Find out more and register interest by emailing **training@urcthamesnorth.org.uk**

Christian Aid Week

Christian Aid Week this year takes place between Sunday 11 and Saturday 17 May.



Christian Aid is one of the charities that Christ Church supports. We are looking for volunteers to deliver Christian Aid envelopes to local designated streets. If you are able and willing, you can knock to collect them as well, otherwise there will be details on the envelope as to where it can be returned, or people can make a donation online.

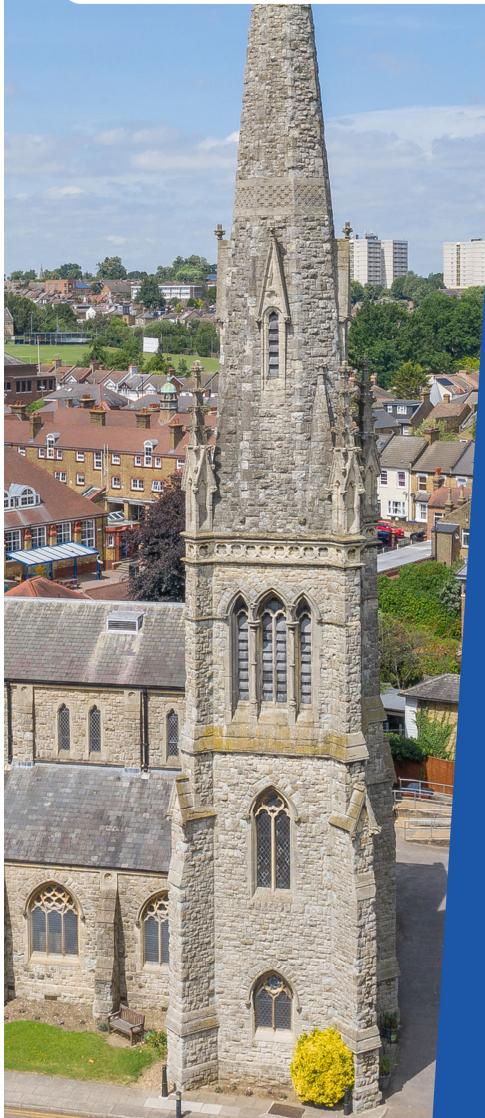
There are so many areas of the world where Christian Aid's help is desperately needed. The money which is collected this week can make a real difference. There will be envelopes available in the church for people who wish to make their own donation.

On Saturday 10 May our Lunchtime @ Christ Church will be held in support of Christian Aid. Please note that the time has been amended to 12:00pm-2:00pm. If you are able to help at this event, or to attend, please sign up on the sheet which will be at the back of the church, or let one of the Elders know.

You can find out more about Christian Aid Week and, if you would prefer to, make a donation online at

christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/christian-aid-week

Lunchtime @ Christ Church



Saturday 10 May
12:00pm-2:00pm



In support of **Christian Aid Week**

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

Christian Aid 80th anniversary

Christian Aid will be holding a special Service of Thanksgiving and Reflection to mark their 80th anniversary, which will take place on Thursday 12 June at 12:00pm at Westminster Abbey.

The Revd Jerry Pillay, General Secretary of the World Council of Churches (WCC), will deliver the address, and the service will also include the Kingdom Choir, who will join the Sacred Choir from Twyford CofE School and Emmanuel Smith to sing a newly commissioned version of 'When I Needed a Neighbour'.

The service will offer an opportunity to reflect on the incredible journey that Christian Aid has taken together working closely with their global partners, to thank supporters for their ongoing action and support, and together to renew a commitment to ending poverty and injustice.

This service is open to all, and Christian Aid would love to be joined by people who have supported them over the past 80 years.

For more information and to register to attend please visit christianaid.org.uk/events/80th-anniversary-service-ginvite - registrations will close by Monday 27 May, however may close earlier if capacity is reached.



THE UNSTOPPABLE POWER OF HOPE

actalliance
Christian Aid is a member of ACT Alliance.

A bit more from Spring Harvest

You will have read in Ruth's Pastoral Letter that a group from the pastorate recently attended Spring Harvest, where there is a packed programme that includes something for everyone.



This was certainly true on the evening of day 2, where the after hours entertainment was provided by Kingdom Wrestling - yes, professional wrestling at Spring Harvest!

Kingdom Wrestling is a charity that partners with churches to put on wrestling events whilst also providing an opportunity to share the Christian faith with people who might not otherwise engage with it.

At Spring Harvest, three entertaining matches were complimented with the founder (and also one of the wrestlers!) Gareth Thompson sharing a powerful message of how he overcame an extremely challenging upbringing to find Jesus, train to be a wrestler and then combine the two to share the Gospel with others.

It was also a great reminder of how God can use all sorts of people and situations in incredible ways - we certainly don't have to be in a 'traditional' church environment for God to be at work.

Tom

Be With Us Lord Jesus

A hymn of intercession

1. Be with us Lord Jesus
in all that we do,
guide and help us always
so we may serve you.

Let us not forget you
in our busy lives,
but find time to thank you
for your loving care.

2. Be with us Lord Jesus
show us how to live,
so that we may follow
all that you have taught.

May we then help others
in their daily lives,
so that they may know you
as a loving friend.



Stained glass window at Christ Church URC, Enfield, depicting Faith, Love and Hope (1 Corinthians 13:13), Ward and Hughes 1892 (photo from Christ Church archives.)

Stephen Gilbert

Metre 6565D trochaic

Tunes 'Au Clair de la Lune' (RS 197 'Jesus' Hands Were Kind Hands,
Doing Good to All')
'Ruth' (RS 120 'Summer Suns Are Glowing Over Land and Sea')

Jesus Opens the Eyes of a Man Born Blind

John 9:1-12

In 14th century Italy Siena was an independent city state ruled by a committee of nine and was the principal rival to Florence in Tuscany.

Until 22 June the National Gallery in London has a fine exhibition of Sienese religious art between 1300 and 1350. It includes a number of altarpieces dedicated to the Virgin Mary who was particularly venerated in Siena. The exhibition concentrates on works by Duccio di Buoninsegna, Simone Martini, and the brothers Pietro and Ambrogio Lorenzetti.

For me the highlight is a series of scenes from the life of Jesus by Duccio (1255/1260-1319) and his assistants which were painted in egg tempera on poplar. These were part of a large altarpiece known as the *Maestà* which was created for Siena Cathedral between 1308 and 1311. On the front the Virgin Mary is seated with Jesus as a child. They are surrounded by angels and saints and small pictures of stories about Mary's life and the childhood of Jesus. On the back are over 30 pictures illustrating various events in the ministry of Jesus leading up to his crucifixion.



Exterior of Siena Cathedral (photo
© Raimond Spekking / CC BY-SA
4.0, via Wikimedia Commons)

The wooden altarpiece was taken down in 1506 and sawn into pieces in 1771. Parts were sold and can be seen in various museums around the world. However most of the altarpiece is still in Siena, in the Cathedral Museum.

The eight scenes from the *Maestà* altarpiece in the exhibition are *The Temptation of Christ in the Temple*, *The Temptation of Christ on the Mountain*, *The Calling of the Apostles Peter and Andrew*, *The Wedding at Cana*, *Christ and the Woman of Samaria*, *The Healing of a Man Born Blind*, *The Transfiguration* and *The Raising of Lazarus*.

Jesus Opens the Eyes of a Man Born Blind, which belongs to the National Gallery, combines two events recorded in John's Gospel. Duccio sets the scene in a typical Tuscan town. In the centre Jesus, with a gold halo, is rubbing the blind man's eyes with mud mixed with spittle before telling him to go and wash his face in the pool of Siloam. The same man can be seen again on the right at the pool of Siloam which was in Jerusalem. He looks up at Jesus (who is portrayed in the next picture of the Transfiguration) giving thanks that his sight has been restored (John 9:6-7).

You may see a full colour version of Duccio's painting *Jesus Opens the Eyes of a Man Born Blind* on page 23.

Stephen

Right: Reconstruction of the front and back of the *Maestà* - the eight scenes featured in the exhibition can be seen on the bottom row of the back side. Public domain images via Wikimedia Commons.



Boys' Brigade update

The last few weeks at BB have been a little quieter than normal due to the Easter holidays. Before we finished the term all of our age groups explored Easter through a range of activities, helping us to think about Jesus' ultimate act of love on the cross.



On Monday 19 May from 6:30pm-7:30pm we will be holding our Annual Awards Evening in the hall, where we will present a range of badges, certificates and trophies to celebrate the achievements of our boys over the last year. Friends from Christ Church are very welcome to join us!

Tom

Prayer diary May 2025

- 1 Pray for God's guidance at the start of a new month.
- 2 Pray for the Rainbows as they meet this evening.
- 3 Pray for the Zoom Bible Study Group as they meet this morning.
- 4 Pray for Ben & Friends Supper for Those in Need (Lancaster Road URC's Special Supper Ministry) who we are supporting with our Communion offering today.
- 5 Pray for events that are taking place this week to mark the 80th anniversary of VE Day.
- 6 Pray for those who are new to the Christian faith.

- 7 Pray for the new Romanian Orthodox Church that has recently opened at the former St Paul's Centre on Church Street.
- 8 Pray for Roman Catholic brothers and sisters following the death of Pope Francis.
- 9 Pray for the Brownies as they meet this evening.
- 10 Pray for today's Lunchtime @ Christ Church.
- 11 Pray for Christian Aid Week.
- 12 Pray for all of the Boys' Brigade age groups as they meet today.
- 13 Pray for our Elders.
- 14 Pray for the pupils and staff at Chase Side Primary School.
- 15 Give thanks to God for his word to us through the Bible.
- 16 Pray for the Guides as they meet this evening.
- 17 Pray for the Zoom Bible Study Group as they meet this morning.
- 18 Pray for Ruth as she leads our service this morning.
- 19 Pray for the Friendship Club as they meet this afternoon, and for the Boys' Brigade Annual Awards Evening later on.
- 20 Pray for Feryal Clark, MP for Enfield North.
- 21 Pray for friends from the South and East Enfield Pastorate.
- 22 Pray for missionaries who serve God overseas.
- 23 Pray for the Rangers as they meet this evening.
- 24 Pray for the BB members who are attending the BB's national Unite camp this weekend.
- 25 Pray for the Adventurers as they meet during our service today.
- 26 Pray for all those who are enjoying the bank holiday today.
- 27 Pray for the local community around Christ Church.
- 28 Pray for the work of Thames North Synod.
- 29 Pray for families and friends.
- 30 Pray for the work of the emergency services.
- 31 Pray for the residents of Manor Road.

Church diary May 2025

Saturday 3 May 9:30am-10:30am

Zoom Bible Study Group (see page 6)

Sunday 4 May 10:45am

Roseline Lyanda-Mogaji & Evodian Fonyonga

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

Duty Elder - Alison Gibbs

Saturday 10 May 12:00pm-2:00pm

Lunchtime @ Christ Church (see page 11)

Sunday 11 May 10:45am

The Worship Group

Duty Elder - Sarah Harry

Saturday 17 May 9:30am-10:30am

Zoom Bible Study Group (see page 6)

Sunday 18 May 10:45am

The Revd Ruth Dewis

Duty Elder - Rosemary Milns

Monday 19 May 2:15pm

Friendship Club

Bridge of Hope - Rosemary Randall

Monday 19 May 6:30pm-7:30pm
3rd Enfield Boys' Brigade Annual Awards Evening

Sunday 25 May 10:45am
The Revd Ruth Dewis
Duty Elder - Sarah Harry

Church diary June 2025

Sunday 1 June 10:45am
Martin Wells
Holy Communion (offering for Khristiya Seva Niketan Hospital)
Duty Elder - Rosemary Milns

Sunday 8 June 10:45am
The Worship Group
Pentecost
Duty Elder - TBC

June 2025 Newsletter

The **June 2025** edition of the Christ Church Newsletter will be published on **Sunday 25 May**. Items intended for inclusion in this issue should be with the Editor by Sunday 11 May. 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

Alison Gibbs, Sarah Harry & Rosemary Milns elders@ccurc.org.uk

Safeguarding Alison Gibbs 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** @ccurcenfield

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.



Jesus Opens the Eyes of a Man Born Blind, Duccio, National Gallery, London. Public domain image via Wikimedia Commons. A related article by Stephen Gilbert can be found on pages 15-17.

Front cover image by Bill Nino 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@3rdendenfieldbb.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

