

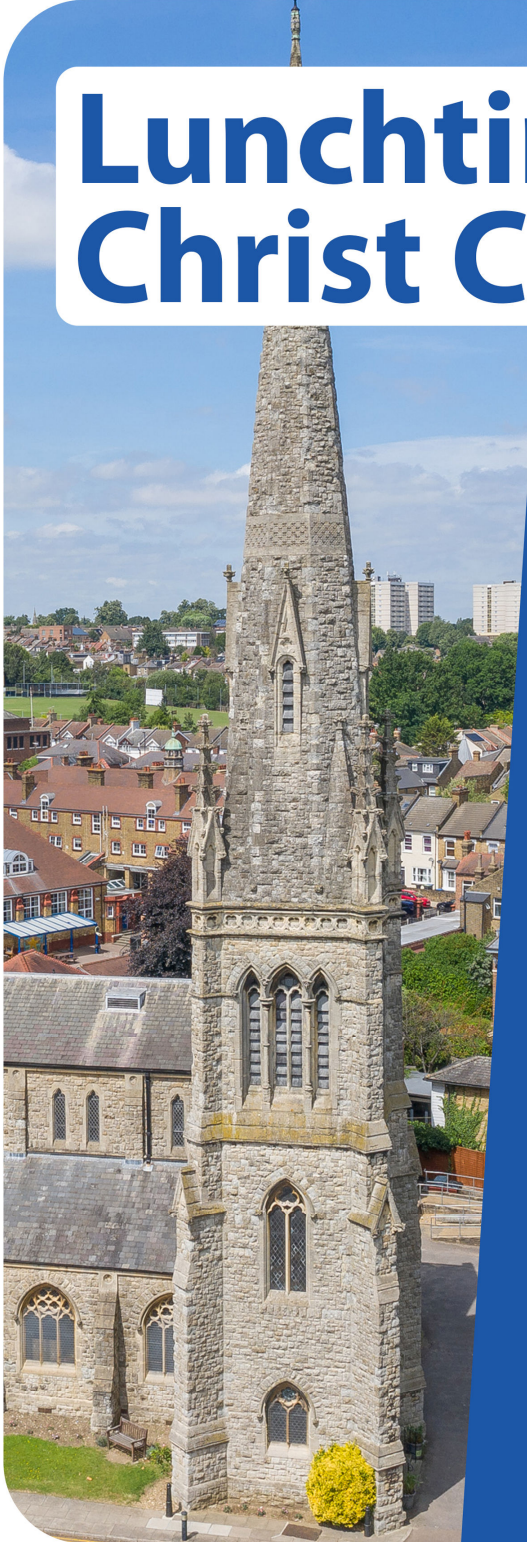
# NEWSLETTER

July & August 2025 | No. 833



Christ Church  
United  
Reformed  
Church

# Lunchtime @ Christ Church



**Saturday  
9 August**

**12:00pm-2:00pm**

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](http://ccurc.org.uk)**

# Pastoral Letter July & August 2025

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Hello everyone,

This magazine is a bumper edition to cover July and August. Can I take this opportunity to, on behalf of all of us who read the monthly magazines, say a huge thank you to Lisa, Martin and Tom who put together our magazines from across the three churches. It takes a good proportion of their time to put each magazine together, which also involves chasing people to get rotas sent in, etc, to be included each month. Therefore, we wish them our grateful thanks and a well-earned rest!

Recently, we have had a wonderful front garden border of peonies which have been a welcome splash of colour for all who pass by. However, the first downpour of rain and gust of wind has totally spoiled them. Now I know why some gardeners, at the first promise of rain, cover and shelter their peonies from damage.



Before



After

It made me think of the hymn, well known for being sung by Boys' Brigade units:

"Will your anchor hold in the storms of life?  
When the clouds unfold their wings of strife."

It then begs the question, how strong is our faith? Do we drop our 'petals' as soon as the wind and rain of trials engulf us? Who do we really put our trust in to shelter us from damage and destruction?

It is so easy to get disappointed because the peonies are wrecked. Similarly, we can get downhearted with the present situations some of us find ourselves in but in the same way we know these same peonies will grow back in ever increasing number next year, God gives us hope that there is another opportunity ahead and a future always with him.

"After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself perfect, confirm, strengthen, and establish you." (1 Peter 5:10)

May these next two months allow, at some point, time for rest and recuperation from all the business of life.

God bless,

Ruth



# Zoom Bible Study Group

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The Zoom Bible Study Group will be meeting on Saturdays 12 and 19 July, 2 and 16 August at 9:30am. The group will be continuing a series of studies by Tom Wright based upon the Gospel of Luke.

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

## Friendship Club programme

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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:

- **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

# Communion offering

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The Communion offering on Sunday 6 July is for the Communion Fund, which is distributable at the discretion of the Minister to assist those in need.

On Sunday 3 August we will be supporting North London Hospice with the Communion offering. The hospice is a registered charity that has been caring for local people since 1984. They are committed to empowering patients with life-limiting illnesses, supporting them to achieve the best quality of life possible, and welcome people from all faiths and communities within the boroughs of Barnet, Enfield and Haringey, also offering some of their services to people within Camden and Islington. They provide physical, emotional and spiritual care to patients and families, friends and carers and their multi-professional team consists of specially trained doctors, nurses, physiotherapists, social workers, counsellors and chaplains. Their goal is to help patients live life to the full despite their illness.

As well as their Inpatient Unit at Woodside Avenue (N12), they also work within the wider community to improve people's quality of life. They also have Outpatient and Wellbeing services, provide support in patients' homes, and have Community Palliative Care Teams. Their Specialist Palliative Care Services are provided free of charge. They receive some government funding, but on the whole rely on donations and legacies to meet the cost of providing their services.

A collection plate will be at the back of the church after each service, and any donations would be gratefully received.

# Christ Church 150th anniversary

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A reminder that our 150th anniversary celebratory events and dates for 2025, including a couple of updates and additions, are:

- Lunchtime @ Christ Church on the following Saturdays - 9 August and 11 October, both 12:00pm-2:00pm. If you are able to help with one or both of these, please speak to an Elder.
- Open Day - Saturday 13 September, 10:00am-4:00pm. On the same day there will also be a worship concert by Rony Padillo from 4:30pm-6:30pm. Volunteers will be needed for both parts of the day to welcome visitors and serve refreshments. If you can sign up for an hour, or two, please speak to one of the Elders.
- Enfield Choral Society Concert - Saturday 8 November, 7:30pm. Further details to follow.
- 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.
- Christmas Tree Festival - Saturday 13 December. Further details to follow.

# South and East Enfield Pastorate

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Congratulations to the Revd Packiaraj Asirvatham, who was inducted as Minister of the South and East Enfield Pastorate (Palmers Green, Ponders End and Winchmore Hill URCs) at a service at Palmers Green URC on Saturday 14 June.

Packia is pictured with the Revd George Watt, Moderator of Thames North Synod (photo from Thames North Synod on Facebook).



Packia was ordained in the Church of South India and has been living in the UK since 2020, and moves to Enfield following a placement at High Cross Church Camberley. Please pray for Packia, his wife and son, as well as the three churches as they begin a new chapter together.

## Aspiring to More

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‘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](mailto:training@urcthamesnorth.org.uk)**



# Lancaster Road URC Holiday Club

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Lancaster Road URC's Holiday Club will be heading to 'Psalm Tree Island' on Monday 28 July to Friday 1 August!

The Holiday Club is open to all children aged 5-11 and will take place in their church from 9:30am-12:30pm each day. For further information and to request a registration form please email **holidayclub@lancaster-road-urc.org.uk**

## First Aid training

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Lancaster Road URC is planning to run an Emergency First Aid course, which is also open to others from the Local Area Group.

The course will last 2.5 hours and will cover CPR and the use of an AED, the recovery position, choking, heart attacks and strokes.

If you are interested please speak to Ruth or one of the Elders.

## Christian Aid Week

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Thank you again to those supported our contributions towards Christian Aid Week. We are pleased to say that around £300 was raised, which doesn't include any donations direct to Christian Aid.

# Boys' Brigade update

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From Friday 24 to Monday 27 May members of our Company age group took part in Unite, a national BB camp which brings together young people and leaders from across England and Wales, at Well End Activity Centre in Borehamwood.

Throughout the weekend they took part in loads of activities including team challenges, carnival-style games, campfires, bingo, wide games, a silent disco, a talent show, gameshows as well as opportunities to come together in worship and also to meet old and new friends!

Each group is part of a camping village, who compete for points throughout the weekend by taking part in the various activities as a fun competition. For the fourth year in a row we were part of the winning team, this time the Blue Village!

It was also great that three of our leaders were able to take on roles as part of the Unite volunteer team, helping to ensure a fantastic weekend for the 200+ people who attended.



Two weeks later, from 6 to 8 June, some of our younger members took part in the Enfield Battalion Juniors Weekend Camp at Gilwell Park Activity Centre.

Throughout the weekend they had the opportunity to take part in a range of activities including a climbing wall, a zip wire, Aeroball, a grass sled run, an assault course, mini golf, slack lining, sports/games, a quiz, a campfire, devotions and lots more!

We are now into our Summer Programme on Monday evenings, where we are trying to do some activities away from the hall. On Monday 9 June all of our age groups enjoyed a visit from Essex & London Gaming Bus, with their vehicle featuring 11 screens with consoles including Xbox, PS5, Nintendo Switch as well as VR headsets and racing simulators, and plenty of games including FC25, Minecraft, Roblox, Fortnite, Mario Kart and loads more.

The older lads had the opportunity to get involved in an FC25 tournament as part of their session - well done to Moisis who was victorious!



On Saturday 14 June we took part in the Enfield Battalion Hare & Hounds (Fun Race & Cross Country) at Grovelands Park. We had teams in all four age groups and the boys all ran brilliantly to come 2nd in each of the Anchors, Juniors and Company age groups, and 3rd in Seniors.



Well done to them all, and congratulations to Ellis who was the individual winner in the Anchors race and William S who finished 1st in the Company event!

On Monday 16 June, to continue our Summer Programme, all of our age groups had a fun (and warm!) evening taking on the 18 hole course at Jungle Falls Adventure Golf in Trent Park. Well done to our winners Ellis (Anchors), Tristan (Juniors), Zaydan (Company) and Sunny (Seniors)!



Over the coming weeks we will be continuing with our Summer Programme each week until we hold our end of term BBQ on Monday 14 July (6:00pm start, food from 6:30pm). All from the Christ Church family are welcome to join us. Later in August we will be holding our Summer Camp in Norfolk with our friends from 10th Enfield and 4th Barnet, so please do pray for us as we do so.

Tom



**FOLLOW QR TO  
REGISTER**



**THAMES NORTH & SOUTHERN SYNOD**

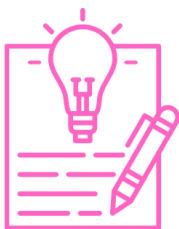
# **CREATIVE WEEK**

**TUES 5<sup>TH</sup> – SAT 9<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2025**  
**LUMEN, LONDON – WC1H 9RS**

**FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN SECONDARY  
SCHOOL (AGE 11–16)**

**CHOOSE FROM A RANGE OF CREATIVE  
STREAMS INCLUDING  
DRAMA, MUSIC, CREATIVE WRITING  
MOVEMENT & DANCE, STAGE CRAFT**

**REGISTER ONLINE AT  
[WWW.BIT.LY/CW-REGISTRATION](http://WWW.BIT.LY/CW-REGISTRATION)  
DEADLINE 6TH JULY**



**COME AND WATCH OUR SHOWCASE  
PERFORMANCE ON  
SATURDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST AT 4PM  
ALL ARE WELCOME**

# The Miraculous Draught of Fishes and Christ's Charge to Peter

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Rafaello 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 designs 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.

One of the most demanding commissions that Raphael received was to design ten monumental tapestries on the lives of Saints Peter and Paul. These were woven in 1516 in Brussels and hung on the walls of the Sistine Chapel in the Papal Palace in Rome. Seven of the 10 cartoons (as the designs were known) have survived. They were painted in body colour (watercolour with white added to make it opaque) on to paper which was later mounted on canvas.

John's Gospel records how, after his resurrection, Jesus appeared to some of his disciples at Lake Tiberius (Sea of Galilee). They had been on the lake but had not caught any fish until Jesus appeared and told

them to try again. This time they caught many fish (John 21:6).

In Raphael's painting and the tapestry disciples are leaning over the side of the boat to pull up the net full with fish while birds are standing on the shore looking hopefully for fish to eat. At the side Peter is kneeling in front of Jesus with his hands clasped together.

In Christ's Charge to Peter which follows, Jesus asks Peter three times whether he loves him and tells Peter to care for his sheep (John 21:15-17).

In the painting and the tapestry Jesus is standing in front of a group of his disciples and pointing at Peter who is kneeling in front of him. With his other hand Jesus is pointing towards a flock of sheep.

The cartoons of the lives of Peter and Paul may be seen in the Victoria and Albert Museum in South Kensington in London. The tapestries are in the Vatican Museum in Rome.

You may see full colour versions of Raphael's *The Miraculous Draught of Fishes* and *Christ's Charge to Peter* on page 23.

Stephen

## Transforming Lives for Good

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Our service on Sunday 17 August will be led by Richard Ockan from Transforming Lives for Good - a national Christian children's charity that helps churches to bring hope and a future to struggling children.

# Prayer diary July 2025

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- 1 Pray for God's guidance at the start of a new month.
- 2 Pray for a lasting end to the conflict between Israel and Iran.
- 3 Pray for all those who have been affected by the recent Air India accident.
- 4 Pray for the Rainbows and Brownies as they meet this evening.
- 5 Pray the URC General Assembly, which began yesterday in Swanwick and continues through to Monday.
- 6 Pray for the Adventurers as they meet during our service today.
- 7 Pray for the Boys' Brigade as they meet this evening.
- 8 Give thanks to God for his word to us through the Bible.
- 9 Pray for the Revd Packiaraj Asirvatham as he settles into ministry with the South and East Enfield Pastorate.
- 10 Pray for the local businesses in our area.
- 11 Pray for the Guides and Rangers as they meet this evening.
- 12 Pray for the Zoom Bible Study Group as they meet this morning.
- 13 Pray for The Worship Group as they meet this morning.
- 14 Pray for the Boys' Brigade's end of term BBQ this evening.
- 15 Pray for the residents of Gordon Road.
- 16 Pray for anyone you know who is suffering from sickness or ill health.
- 17 Pray for the work of the Enfield Society.
- 18 Pray for our Elders.
- 19 Pray for the Zoom Bible Study Group as they meet this morning.
- 20 Pray for Janine Stolz as she leads our service this morning.
- 21 Pray for the Friendship Club as they meet this afternoon.
- 22 Pray for Ruth and Stuart.
- 23 Pray for Feryal Clark, our Member of Parliament.



- 24 Pray for those who you may find it difficult to love.
- 25 Give thanks to God for summer and, hopefully, good weather.
- 26 Pray for those who suffer persecution for their faith.
- 27 Pray for Margaret & Stuart Jenkins, who are both from Palmers Green URC, as they lead our service this morning.
- 28 Pray for the children's Holiday Club taking place at Lancaster Road URC this week.
- 29 Pray for the work of the Enfield & East Hertfordshire Local Area Group.
- 30 Pray for all those who are going on holiday at this time and in the coming weeks.
- 31 Pray for God's guidance in your own life.

## Prayer diary August 2025

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- 1 Give thanks to God at the start of a new month.
- 2 Pray for the Zoom Bible Study Group as they meet this morning.
- 3 Pray for the work of North London Hospice as we support them with our Communion offering this morning.
- 4 Give thanks to God for the beauty of his creation.
- 5 Pray for the external groups that use our church premises.
- 6 Pray for the work of Enfield Council.
- 7 Pray for those who are experiencing financial difficulties at this time.
- 8 Pray for the local community and for Christ Church's place in it.
- 9 Pray for today's Lunchtime @ Christ Church.
- 10 Pray for this morning's Breakfast Service.

- 11 Pray for the residents of Halifax Road.
- 12 Pray for the young people in our church fellowship.
- 13 Pray for our Elders.
- 14 Pray for all those who are receiving A-Level results today.
- 15 Pray for a peaceful end to the conflict between Ukraine and Russia.
- 16 Pray for the Zoom Bible Study Group as they meet this morning.
- 17 Pray for Transforming Lives for Good as Richard Ockan joins us to lead our service this morning.
- 18 Pray for the Friendship Club as they enjoy summer tea this afternoon.
- 19 Pray for the work of Christian missionaries who are working for God in other countries.
- 20 Pray for our emergency services.
- 21 Pray for all those who are receiving GCSE results today.
- 22 Pray for the Holy Spirit's presence in your life.
- 23 Pray for the BB Company & Seniors members who are heading off to Summer Camp in Norfolk today.
- 24 Pray for Linda Clarke as she leads our service this morning.
- 25 Pray for those who are having to work on this bank holiday.
- 26 Pray for those who are considering coming to faith in Jesus.
- 27 Pray for the work of Thames North Synod.
- 28 Pray for anything that is particularly on your heart and mind at this time.
- 29 Pray for our government.
- 30 Pray for the staff at Chase Side Primary School as they prepare for another new school year.
- 31 Pray for friends from across the North Enfield Pastorate as we come together in worship at Bush Hill Park URC today.

# Church diary July 2025

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**Sunday 6 July** **10:45am**  
**The Revd Ruth Dewis**  
**Holy Communion (offering for the Communion Fund)**  
**Duty Elder - Sarah Harry**

Saturday 12 July 9:30am-10:30am  
Zoom Bible Study Group (see page 5)

**Sunday 13 July** **10:45am**  
**The Worship Group**  
**Duty Elder - Sarah Harry**

Saturday 19 July 9:30am-10:30am  
Zoom Bible Study Group (see page 5)

**Sunday 20 July** **10:45am**  
**Janine Stolz**  
**Duty Elder - Rosemary Milns**

Monday 21 July 2:15pm  
Friendship Club  
Who would be a volunteer? - Sylvia Coombs

**Sunday 27 July** **10:45am**  
**Margaret & Stuart Jenkins**  
**Duty Elder - Alison Gibbs**

# Church diary August 2025

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Saturday 2 August 9:30am-10:30am  
Zoom Bible Study Group (see page 5)

**Sunday 3 August 10:45am**  
**Michaela Lawrence**  
**Holy Communion (offering for North London Hospice)**  
**Duty Elders - Alison Gibbs & Rosemary Milns**

Saturday 9 August 12:00pm-2:00pm  
Lunchtime @ Christ Church (see page 2)

**Sunday 10 August 10:15am**  
**The Revd Ruth Dewis & The Worship Group**  
**Breakfast Service**  
**Duty Elder - Alison Gibbs**  
Breakfast will be from 10:15am and the service will start at 10:45am

Saturday 16 August 9:30am-10:30am  
Zoom Bible Study Group (see page 5)

**Sunday 17 August 10:45am**  
**Richard Ockan (Transforming Lives for Good)**  
**Duty Elder - TBC**

Monday 18 August 2:15pm  
Friendship Club  
Summer tea - The Revd Ruth Dewis



**Sunday 24 August**  
**Linda Clarke**  
**Duty Elder - Alison Gibbs**

**10:45am**

**Sunday 31 August**  
**Speaker TBC**

**10:30am**

**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

## **Church diary September 2025**

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**Sunday 7 September**  
**Jeevan Bethala**

**10:45am**

**Holy Communion (offering for the Communion Fund)**  
**Duty Elders - Sarah Harry**

## **September 2025 Newsletter**

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The **September 2025** edition of the Christ Church Newsletter will be published on **Sunday 24 August** (a week earlier than usual as there is no service at Christ Church on Sunday 31 August). Items intended for inclusion in this issue should be with the Editor by Sunday 10 August. Any late submissions may be held over to the following issue.

# Key information

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**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** @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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*The Miraculous Draught of Fishes* (top) & *Christ's Charge to Peter* (bottom), both Raphael 1515, Victoria and Albert Museum, London. Public domain images via Wikimedia Commons. A related article by Stephen Gilburt can be found on pages 14-15.

Front cover image by Stephanie Klepacki 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

