

NEWSLETTER

May 2026 | No. 841



Christ Church
United
Reformed
Church

Lunchtime @ Christ Church

Saturday 9 May
12:30pm-2:30pm



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



Pastoral Letter May 2026

The merry month of May! The warm sun has really started to show itself and the garden is really starting to come to life. The bluebells are spreading like wildfires in the manse garden and apparently, they are now becoming known as invasive. I love bluebells, how has something so beautiful (in my eyes) become a garden pest?

We also seem to have a resident fox who enjoys the garden to rest after a busy night of hunting and comes to sunbathe. Another part of creation considered a pest by many. I don't have much love for rats and mice, but they are very much part of God's wonderful creation. I wonder if Adam and Eve had animals that they didn't particularly like - probably not because they did not know the meaning of fear before they shared in that forbidden fruit.

The Garden of Eden must have been a beautiful place with everything living in harmony until Eve listened to the snake. How we spoil things! What amazes me about the story of Genesis is that it is about much more than how many days it took God to create the world and everything in it. The God of endless love needed to love and so created humans to care for. God came to find them when they were hiding from him due to their nakedness and shame.

"Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man, 'Where are you?'" (Genesis 3:8-9)

God wanted to spend time with them and he wants to spend time with us. Despite their disobedience God took care of their needs:

“The Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them.” (Genesis 3: 21)

Even when Adam and Eve had disobeyed God he didn't stop loving them and made sure they were clothed, even making their clothes himself.

I love the image of God walking in the garden and that he was so close to Adam and Eve. However, I am thankful that I am no longer separated from God, even though I am probably more of a “pest” than the bluebells and the foxes. That even as a sinner I do not need to be afraid of God and hide because of the sacrifice Jesus made for everyone. God is the God of immeasurable kindness and compassion and cares for our every need. As Psalm 23 tells us, “The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.” May God bless you in new ways this month.

Yours in Christ,

Ruth

Zoom Bible Study Group

The Zoom Bible Study Group will be meeting on Saturdays 2 and 16 May at 9:30am. The Group is currently looking at a series of studies on the Book of Revelation, entitled *Revelation: Faithfulness in Testing Times* by the London Institute of Contemporary Christianity (LICC).

If anyone is interested in joining this friendly group, please speak to Rosemary for the login details.

Lunchtime @ Christ Church

Forthcoming Lunchtime @ Christ Church events will take place on Saturdays 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.

Boys' Brigade Awards Evening

3rd Enfield Boys' Brigade will be holding their annual Awards Evening on Monday 18 May from 6:30pm-7:30pm in the hall, which will see the boys presented with badges, certificates and trophies to recognise their achievements over the last year. All are welcome.

Christian Aid Week

Christian Aid Week, which this year takes place from 10-16 May, is a powerful expression of what can happen when compassion leads to action. It's our shared moment to come together -

across churches, communities and households - to stand alongside people living in poverty around the world.



Christian Aid's appeal this year is to help support families in Nairobi, Kenya, facing the devastating reality of urban poverty and the daily struggle to feed their children. Most parents wake every single day knowing that they must go and earn money, otherwise their children won't eat that evening. For Fridah Moraa, this pressure is constant. She is a recently widowed grandmother and the sole provider for her family. Rent, school costs, water and food all depend on what she can earn. Fridah knows this reality well. But she's determined to protect her grandchildren from hunger.

Fridah's situation began to change when she joined Imarisha Kilimo, an urban farming project run by Christian Aid's partner, Beacon of Hope. At first, the idea felt impossible. "I was wondering, where can someone farm here in Nairobi?", she said. Through training, tools and seeds, Fridah learned how to grow food in small city spaces. She learned how to use cone gardens, make compost and conserve water. "I discovered I could sow here. Right where I stand."

At the end of a narrow alley near her home, Fridah now tends her own urban farm. She grows kale, tomatoes and indigenous vegetables. Some feed her family. Some she sells.



For Fridah, this means more than food. It means stability and choice. "Now I can plan. I

can buy this; I can buy that. I can help my family." Fridah's faith sustains her through difficult days. It strengthens her resolve to keep going and to provide for her children.

"It's hard, but in God I trust, for the strength to keep going every day."

Her urban farm is small, but it carries big hopes. Hopes for education, independence and a future beyond daily uncertainty.

At Christ Church, this year we will not be delivering envelopes to local households, but instead there will be an opportunity for people who wish to make a donation to do so after each of the Sunday morning services in May. Alternatively, people can give online at **christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/christian-aid-week**

In addition, our Lunchtime @ Christ Church on Saturday 9 May from 12:30pm-2:30pm will be held in support of Christian Aid. If you would like to attend this event, please sign up on the sheet which will be at the back of the church, or let one of the Elders know.

Horse chestnut tree

The new horse chestnut tree, which has been planted in the garden at the back of the church, is to be dedicated after the morning service on Sunday 7 June. All are welcome.

Once again, many thanks to all who have contributed to the purchase of the tree as part of our 150th anniversary celebrations.



Fellowship lunch

We will be holding a lunch on Sunday 7 June (from 12:30pm; following the morning service and the dedication of the horse chestnut tree) to celebrate the installation of the new kitchen in the hall. All are welcome.



The cost will be £25 for a three-course meal, plus cheese and biscuits, tea/coffee and after dinner mint. A £10 deposit is payable. Please book your place with Rosemary or Sarah and let them know if you have any dietary requirements.

Church officers and representatives update

We would like to say a huge thank you to Rosemary Milns, who stood down as Church Secretary at our Annual General Meeting on 12 April after seven years in the role.

We are extremely grateful for all that Rosemary has done in the role, taking on a significant workload and helping to navigate Christ Church through a period of ministerial vacancy, the Covid-19 pandemic and plenty more besides, alongside a number of other roles that she holds within the church.

Rosemary will be continuing as an Elder, and Alison Gibbs will take on the role of Secretary for one year with support from Ruth. We thank Alison for taking on this role and pray for her and Ruth as they do this.

Pam Mansley is now fully up and running in the role of Church Treasurer. We thank Pam for the work that she is doing, as well as David Fisher for all he has done in the interim and the handover.

The AGM also agreed that Chris Trawin and Barbara Hunt would continue as the Property Committee (with support from others), and that Alison Gibbs would continue as our Thames North Synod Representative. Sarah Harry will help compile reports to the Enfield & East Hertfordshire Local Area Group, of which we are a part. A big thank you to all those who serve God through roles and responsibilities at Christ Church, whether listed here or not.

Easter at Christ Church

Throughout Holy Week we had the opportunity to join with friends from other churches and the wider community as we marked the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

On Palm Sunday we joined with the North Enfield Pastorate for a combined service at Bush Hill Park URC which was led by the Revd George Watt, Moderator of Thames North Synod. It was lovely to be able to worship with friends from across the Pastorate, and to see Mark and Melanie there. On the evening of Maundy Thursday Ruth led another Pastorate service at the same venue.



On the morning of Good Friday, we joined with churches from across Enfield for an open air act of worship in the churchyard outside St Andrew's Church in Enfield Town, before moving into the church itself for the main service. The sermon was given by the Revd Dr Steve Griffiths, Vicar at St Andrew's.



On the morning of Easter Sunday we were led in worship by Ruth as we celebrated the greatest day in history! During the service it was wonderful that Ruth was able to give a blessing to Shiloh, and that we were able to share in Holy Communion.



Quiz Night

On: Saturday 30th May 2026

To raise money for

All People All Places (APAP)

Start Time: 7pm prompt.

At: Lancaster Road URC Church Hall,
Armfield Road, EN2 0DH

Tickets: £12 per person

and includes Ploughman's Supper
and tea or coffee



Bring your own drinks.

Tickets from: **Beryl Woolley 07950 592454**

Teams of 8 or less.

Boys' Brigade update

On Monday 16 March our Company and Seniors lads took on our MasterChef Challenge, having 45 minutes to prepare a main course of their choosing. There were a range of impressive entries which gave our judges a tough choice - well done to Micah who was the winner, as well as our runners-up Noah and Joe!



Over the last couple of weeks of term all of our age groups explored Easter in various ways, getting them thinking about the events of Holy Week and the significance of Jesus' sacrifice. This included our younger boys making Easter Tear Art and chocolate rice crispie cakes, and our older lads getting into Easter-themed discussions.



On Sunday 22 March we took part in the Enfield Battalion Church Parade, which was hosted by 10th Enfield at Winchmore Hill Baptist Church. Following a parade around the local streets, the service helped us think about being part of a team and what it means to be on God's team. It was followed by an Explore



Activity Afternoon with a range of activities to take part in!

For our final meeting of the Spring term, our older lads were able to bring out their competitive sides with a tournament on the inflatable pillow bash!



On Sunday 29 March it was great to welcome around 40 people to the hall for our Afternoon Tea, which helped us to raise over £500 towards our Build Trip to Mexico in July. A big thank you to everyone who came along, to Joe, Max & Tyla for all their efforts, to Ruth for all her work in organising and to Barbara and Stuart for all their help in the kitchen.



That weekend we also announced the winner of the giant Easter egg that was donated to us by Enfield Chase Rotary Club to raise funds for the Build Trip. Well done to William (from our Company age group) and his family who took home the top prize, and thank you to everyone who got involved and helped us raise a further £135 towards the trip.



We have recently started back for the Summer term, and on Saturday

18 April our Anchors and Juniors enjoyed a trip to Legoland Windsor with others from across Enfield Battalion, having the opportunity to go on lots of rides and see some of the many Lego models around the park!

Tom



Friendship Club update

It is exciting in Friendship Club for us to have such a wide variety of topics to think about and our March meeting was certainly most unusual.

Stuart Dewis came to talk to us about his passion - his hobby of aircraft spotting. He described himself as an “anorak”, i.e. someone who goes to great lengths to spot or actually see a particular plane, not just a model, wherever it may be in the world. Although giving us a light-hearted and very entertaining and amusing illustrated talk, we saw the more serious side of it when he produced an extremely thick (1,000 pages?) hardcover reference book which contained details and unique reference numbers of all registered aircraft. Plane spotting is a serious commitment, with each plane that Stuart had seen being ticked off in the book.

We were transported into the varied world of Cessnas, microlights, by contrast the Hercules, de Havilland, Dragon Rapide, a vintage biplane,

B52s, Boeing 727/747/787 private executive jets and all sorts of brightly coloured planes from many different countries. When Stuart took a flight over Arizona, we saw a photo from the air of a military airfield or rather a "graveyard" of old military aircraft in the heat of the desert where it is also so dry they would not rust or degrade. He also reflected on the time some decades ago when Russia and the USA reduced their nuclear capability by agreement, their wings had been removed so spy planes could report back that the agreement had been respected. We also saw a plane belonging to Donald Trump. All were ticked off in the book which was passed round.

An airplane related joke (from a Friendship Club attendee):

An airline pilot and a vicar were at the Pearly Gates waiting to enter Heaven. St Peter said to the pilot, "You can go in but I'm not sure about you, Vicar."

"Why not?" asked the vicar. "I've preached the gospel for over 30 years."

"Yes, I know," said St Peter, "and all the people fell asleep. Yet every time the pilot took off, all the people prayed!"

Thank you very much Stuart for showing us a different and unusual world - it was amazing.

The next Friendship Club meeting will take place on Monday 18 May at the usual time of 2:15pm in the hall, when the Revd Mandy James will be leading. There will also be the usual opportunity for tea/coffee, cake and a chat. Everyone is very welcome.

Margaret

Spring Harvest

From Monday 6 to Friday 10 April a group from Christ Church and Lancaster Road URCs travelled to Butlin's in Minehead, Somerset for Spring Harvest.

The theme for this year's event was "No Greater Life", focusing on how we can embrace God's design for wholehearted love. It was the middle part of a three-year trilogy, following 2025's "No Greater Story" and heading towards 2027's "No Greater Adventure".

Through a packed five days of worship, teaching, seminars and more, the theme was based around Mark's Gospel and Deuteronomy, and reminded us that there is no greater life than following the greatest commandment - to "love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind" (Luke 10:27). Through daily themes, we explored how we can **look up**, to love Jesus in our worship; **look in**, to love Jesus and one another in Christ-centred communities; and **look out**, to love Jesus and our neighbours in our mission - certainly challenging us to think about how we can put Jesus at the centre of all that we do, and show his love to those around us.

We were blessed with a week of wonderful weather in Minehead, and were also able to enjoy all that Butlin's and the surrounding area had to offer, as well as being able to spend time together as a group at various times.

Tom

The Spirit of God

This hymn was written to celebrate the coming of God's Holy Spirit to the first disciples at Pentecost - The Acts of the Apostles 2:1-4

1. O God, your Spirit's here
to show us how to speak
and spread the message of your love
to all those who we meet.
2. O God, your Spirit's here
to show us how to see
the wonders of the universe
which we can help preserve.
3. O God, your Spirit's here
to show us how to hear
and understand each other's needs
and where we can, give help.
4. O God, may we respond
by using all your gifts
and follow as your Spirit leads
to bring us close to you.

Stephen Gilbert

Short metre 6686 iambic

Tunes 'Carlisle' (RS 391 'Stand Up and Bless the Lord')

'Veni Spiritus' (RS 295 'Breathe on Me, Breath of God')

Revelation

The Zoom Bible Study Group is currently studying the last book in the New Testament - the Revelation to John (see page 5 for details of dates). It was probably written to the members of a church.

The vivid allegorical imagery has inspired many artists who painted on the walls of medieval churches and created stained glass windows. One of the most famous collections of images from the Book of Revelation is a series of wall hangings - the tapestries of the Apocalypse. They were ordered by Louis I d'Anjou and woven between 1375 and 1380 by the Parisian artist Nicolas Bataille from sketches by Jean de Bruges. They are now in the chateau of Angers in the Loire Valley, France.

On the page to the right you can see some of the scenes from the tapestry, which depict the following (from left to right, top to bottom):

1. John kneeling and Christ with a sword in his mouth (1:16)
2. God sends the new Jerusalem (3:12)
3. Evil spirits leaving the mouth of the dragon, the beast and the false prophet (16:13)
4. The destruction of Babylon (16:19)
5. Destroyed Babylon is haunted by devils (18:2)
6. John, the angel of trust and Christ on a horse (22:6-7)

Stephen



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The Incredulity of Saint Thomas

John 21:24-29

Giovanni Battista Cima da Conegliano (1459/60-1517/18) was a Venetian painter influenced by Giovanni Bellini and Antonello. Many of his paintings are still in Venice.

The Incredulity of Saint Thomas was painted on wood in 1504 for the Scuola (confraternity) of San Tommaso dei Battuti in Venice as St Thomas was its patron saint.

Thomas had not been with the other disciples when Jesus appeared to them after the resurrection. Thomas said that he would not believe that Jesus was alive unless he could see the scars of the nails and put his finger on them and his hand in the side of Jesus. A week later Thomas was with the other disciples when Jesus appeared and invited Thomas to stretch out his hand and put it in Jesus' side. This is the moment recorded by Cima.

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

Stephen

You can see a full colour version of *The Incredulity of Saint Thomas* on page 27.

The Easter Story

On Good Friday I had the opportunity to see aspects of the Easter story presented in a variety of ways.

Following an act of worship in front of St Andrew's Church, I was glad to be able to join with other local Christians for a service inside the church. The events of Good Friday were told through readings, hymns and prayers. In his sermon the Vicar of St Andrew's told us how he became a Christian and of the effect that Jesus' death had on those who witnessed it.

I then went to Trafalgar Square where the Wintershall Players, comprising 100 amateur actors in costume, two horses, a donkey and some doves vividly performed *The Passion of Jesus* from Palm Sunday through the crucifixion to Christ's resurrection. The scenes were interspersed with excerpts from recordings of musical presentations of the Easter story, including JS Bach's 'St Matthew Passion' oratorio. A modern translation of verses from the gospels was used for most of the dialogue, which could be clearly heard around Trafalgar Square. There was also a large screen for those unable to see all of the action. It was good to see over a thousand people at a Christian event, which also attracted many passing tourists. After a performance lasting over 90 minutes, a minister led a prayer and encouraged those present to go to their local church on Easter Sunday. There were however no religious or political leaders visible. The Wintershall Players have been performing *The Passion of Jesus* for 15 years on Good Friday in Trafalgar Square, but unless the charity responsible can obtain more funds, this will have been the last performance.

In the evening I went to St Martin-in-the-Fields Church, where a capacity audience of 600 heard JS Bach's 'St John Passion' oratorio performed by the Academy of St Martin in the Fields with St Martin's Voices. Using mainly verses from Martin Luther's German translation of John's Gospel, this tells the Easter story from Christ's betrayal in the Garden of Gethsemane to his crucifixion. Copies of the text and English translation were provided in the programme. (See the April newsletter for more information on JS Bach and the 'St John Passion'.)

Stephen

Prayer diary May 2026

- 1 Pray for God's guidance at the start of a new month.
- 2 Pray for the Zoom Bible Study Group as they meet this morning.
- 3 Pray for the Revd Martin Legg as he leads our service this morning, and for the joint service with Chase Family Church which is taking place this evening.
- 4 Pray for all those who are enjoying the bank holiday today.
- 5 Pray for those who are new to the Christian faith.
- 6 Pray for Alison as she takes on the role of Church Secretary for the coming year.
- 7 Pray for elections that are taking place in many parts of the country today, including local elections here in Enfield.
- 8 Pray for the Rainbows as they meet this evening.
- 9 Pray for today's Lunchtime @ Christ Church.
- 10 Pray for the work of Christian Aid, as Christian Aid Week takes place over the coming days.

- 11 Pray for the Boys' Brigade as all of their age groups meet this evening.
- 12 Pray for Ruth and Stuart.
- 13 Pray for peace in areas of the world where there is conflict.
- 14 Pray for the residents of Chase Court Gardens.
- 15 Pray for the Brownies as they meet this evening.
- 16 Pray for the Zoom Bible Study Group as they meet this morning.
- 17 Pray for the Adventurers as they meet during our service this morning.
- 18 Pray for the Friendship Club as they meet this afternoon, and for the Boys' Brigade Awards Evening which is taking place this evening.
- 19 Pray for anyone you know who is suffering from sickness or ill health.
- 20 Pray for the local community around Christ Church.
- 21 Pray for all those who work to maintain our beautiful church buildings.
- 22 Pray for the Guides and Rangers as they meet this evening.
- 23 Pray for the BB members who are attending the BB's national Unite camp this weekend.
- 24 Pentecost: Give thanks for God's gift of the Holy Spirit.
- 25 Pray for all those who are enjoying half term this week.
- 26 Pray for the work of Thames North Synod.
- 27 Pray for our Elders.
- 28 Pray for the work of the emergency services.
- 29 Pray for friends and families.
- 30 Pray for all those who work at Chase Farm Hospital.
- 31 Pray for friends from across the North Enfield Pastorate as we come together in worship at Lancaster Road URC today.

Church diary May 2026

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

Sunday 3 May 10:45am
The Revd Martin Legg
Holy Communion (offering for Christian Aid)
Duty Elder - Rosemary Milns

Sunday 3 May 7:00pm-8:30pm
Celebration Worship Service with Chase Family Church (at Christ Church)

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

Saturday 10 May 10:45am
The Worship Group
Duty Elder - Sarah Harry

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

Sunday 17 May 10:45am
The Revd Ruth Dewis
Duty Elder - Alison Gibbs

Monday 18 May 2:15pm
Friendship Club
Speaker - The Revd Mandy James

Monday 18 May 6:30pm-7:30pm
3rd Enfield Boys' Brigade Annual Awards Evening

Sunday 24 May 10:45am
Terry Silvey
Pentecost
Duty Elder - Rosemary Milns

Sunday 31 May 11:15am
The Revd Ruth Dewis
United Service for the North Enfield Pastorate (at Lancaster Road
URC - no service at Christ Church)
Please note the location and later start time for this service

June 2026 Newsletter

The **June 2026** edition of the Christ Church Newsletter will be published on **Sunday 24 May** (a week earlier than normal as there is no service at Christ Church on Sunday 31 May). Items for inclusion in this issue must be with the Editor by Sunday 10 May. Late submissions will either miss inclusion or be held over to the following issue.

Key information

Minister	The Revd Ruth Dewis	07592 125 027 / minister@ccurc.org.uk
Secretary	Alison Gibbs	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	rosemary@ccurc.org.uk
Friendship Club	Sylvia Coombs	020 8363 3543 / mail@ccurc.org.uk
Activities for children and young people		
Adventurers	Rosemary Milns	rosemary@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 Incredulity of Saint Thomas, Raphael Cima da Conegliano 1504, National Gallery, London. Public domain image from [nationalgallery.org.uk](https://www.nationalgallery.org.uk). A related article by Stephen Gilburt can be found on page 20.

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

