

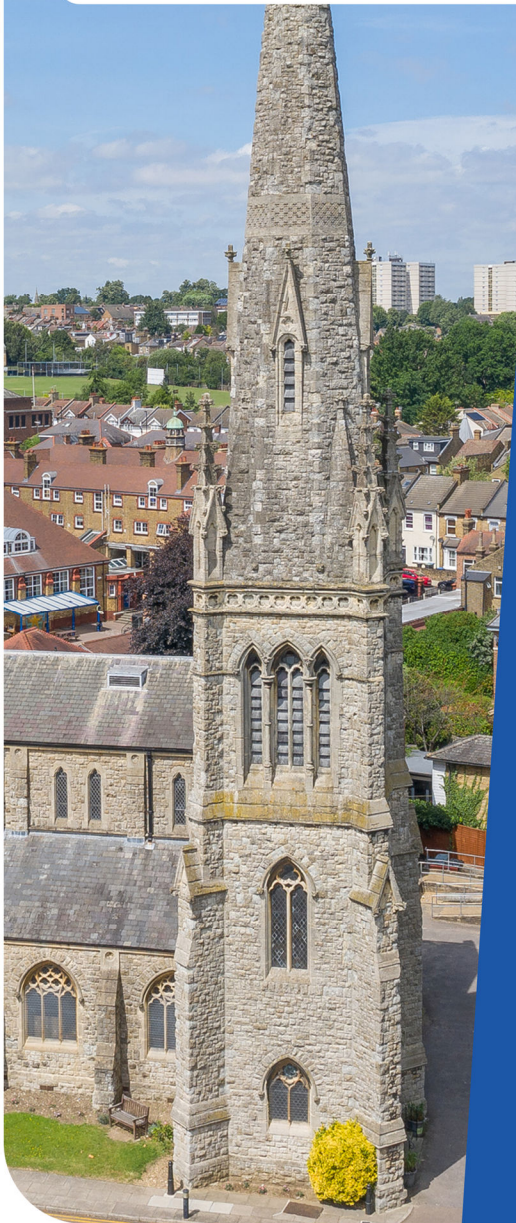
NEWSLETTER

October 2026 | No. 845



Christ Church
United
Reformed
Church

Lunchtime @ Christ Church



**Saturday
10 October**

12:30pm-2:30pm

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 October 2026

Hello,

I hope this month's letter finds you well?

Why is going out into the world so important for Christians? Why are we called by God for mission?

We will now be entering the season of darker nights and unfortunately if we consider what is regularly in the news we are living in darker times, not just here but across the world. Why is the world in such a mess? People wanted to take God out of society and that's what's left: a God-less society.

Now some people deny that the devil exists but Jesus knows of his existence and the devil believes in Jesus. Jesus was himself tempted in the desert by the devil (Matthew 4:1) and for example saw Satan fall from the sky like lightning (Luke 10:18). Why would Jesus make this up? Why would Jesus have warned us about the schemes of someone who didn't exist?

When Jesus was explaining he is the Good Shepherd and has come to give life in fullness, he warns us that:

"The thief (Satan) comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." (John 10:10)

The famous saying "the greatest trick the devil ever pulled was

convincing the world he didn't exist" is credited to the French poet Charles Baudelaire. And how many have fallen for this trick?

Satan's main work is to stop people believing in Jesus. He doesn't want people to be safe in God's presence when he's been cast out of God's presence for eternity himself.

"Those along the path are the ones who hear, and then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved." (Luke 8:12)

However, the fantastic news as followers of Christ is that we have been given the authority to resist his efforts.

"Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. " (James 4:7)

And because of that knowledge given to us, we have been called to be salt and light in this world. It is important now, more than ever before, that we "step up to the plate" as the saying goes.

We can share the hope in Christ we have, which can bring light into someone's life. I came across this poem by William Brodrick which explains beautifully where we need to place ourselves (with the Holy Spirit's guidance) in the world and how hope in Christ helps.

We have to be candles,
burning between hope and despair,
faith and doubt,
life and death,
all the opposites.

That is the disquieting place
where people must always find us.
And if our life means anything,
if what we are goes beyond the monastery walls
and does some good,
it is that somehow,
by being here,
at peace,
we help the world cope
with what it cannot understand.

What a privilege we have been given to work with God in peace but
with such powerful authority. Life throws us a “few spanners in the
works” and it isn’t plain sailing at times but we know the One who
does understand and who promises to walk alongside us and sustains
us even in the storms of life.

Holy Spirit, fill us afresh so we can shine your light of love into a
darkened world, spreading your hope of eternal life to all we meet. To
God be the glory. Amen.

God bless,

Ruth

Zoom Bible Study Group

The Zoom Bible Study Group will be meeting on Saturdays 3 and 24 October at 9:30am. The Group is continuing a series of studies on the Gospel of Mark.

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

Boys' Brigade Membership Celebration

On Monday 5 October at 6:30pm in the hall, 3rd Enfield Boys' Brigade will be holding its Membership Celebration.

This is a reimagining of what was previously the Enrolment Service, in the hope of engaging more of the boys with this aspect of church life. It will be a celebration of what it means to be a part of BB and the links with Christ Church, and to give thanks for the work of the BB.

The boys will receive BB membership cards for this session and there will be a few other presentations, as well as a faith-based message. It will last for around an hour and refreshments will be available afterwards.

Everyone at Christ Church is warmly invited to join the boys, their families and the leaders for this very special occasion.

Communion offering

The Communion offering at the service on Sunday 4 October is for Goldie College in the Solomon Islands.

Christ Church's connection with Goldie College is that two of our members taught there: Sylvia Coombs for 18 years and Alison Gibbs for 8 years.



The College is one of the oldest and most respected secondary schools in the Solomon Islands, situated on Vona Vona Lagoon in the Western Province. It has a proud history of academic excellence, moral guidance, and community leadership.

The College offers a comprehensive curriculum that combines academic subjects with spiritual development, life skills, and extracurricular activities. Its strong emphasis on Christian values underpins every aspect of school life. It is well-known for producing many prominent leaders, professionals, and community figures in Solomon Islands society.

Any donations will be gratefully received and sent to the College to put towards whatever project is in most need of funding at this time. A collection plate will be at the back of the church after this service.

Friendship Club update

It is a chilly windy rainy grey day here today as I write, which is in stark contrast to the lovely sunny warm Monday afternoon at our August Friendship Club meeting when we were treated to a very delicious cream tea, prepared served and cleared up by our minister Ruth and husband Stuart.



We were really spoilt with dainty sandwiches, cakes, more birthday cake and scones, jam and clotted cream with of course as many cups of tea as we could manage! Also a doggy bag to take home!

Sylvia thanked Ruth and Stuart and presented them with a bouquet on behalf of us all.

Forthcoming Friendship Club meetings will take place as follows, all at 2:15pm in the hall.

- Monday 19 October: Desert Island Discs
- Monday 16 November: Quiz time - The Revd Mandy James
- Monday 21 December: Christmas programme including a Christmas tea

All are welcome at our friendly meetings.

Margaret

Painting with Linda Clarke

At our service on Sunday 23 August it was wonderful to be joined by Linda Clarke from Enfield Baptist Church.

Linda reflected on John's disciples following Jesus and Jesus' call to Philip and Nathanael in John 1:35-46, and produced another of her wonderful paintings which, as ever, was a joy to see come together as the service progressed.



Harvest Festival

Our Harvest Festival Celebration Service on Sunday 20 September was led by The Worship Group, looking at Jesus saying "I am the true vine" in John 15:1-8.



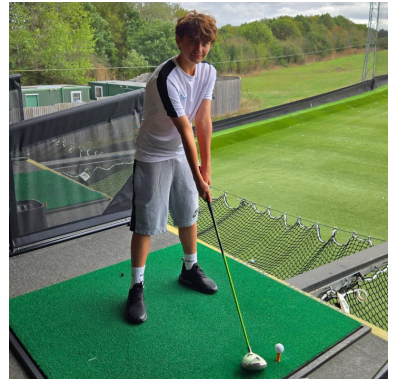
Thank you to the Boys' Brigade and Girlguiding members who created some lovely decorations, and to all those who donated gifts - the food items have been given to Lancaster Road URC's Food Hub, and the loose offering will go to Christian Aid's Harvest Appeal.

Boys' Brigade update

It has been great to get into a new session of BB over the last couple of weeks! So far our under 11s have created some artwork for the Harvest Festival and taken on a 'Healthy MasterChef Challenge', while the older group have got into some 'Getting to know you' activities and a football-themed programme.



On Saturday 19 September our Juniors, Company and Seniors age groups took part in the Enfield Battalion Topgolf Competition at Topgolf Chigwell, where the boys each played two games with the aim of scoring as many points as possible towards their team scores. Our Company team came 2nd in their age group, with the Juniors and Seniors both winning their events - well done to them all!



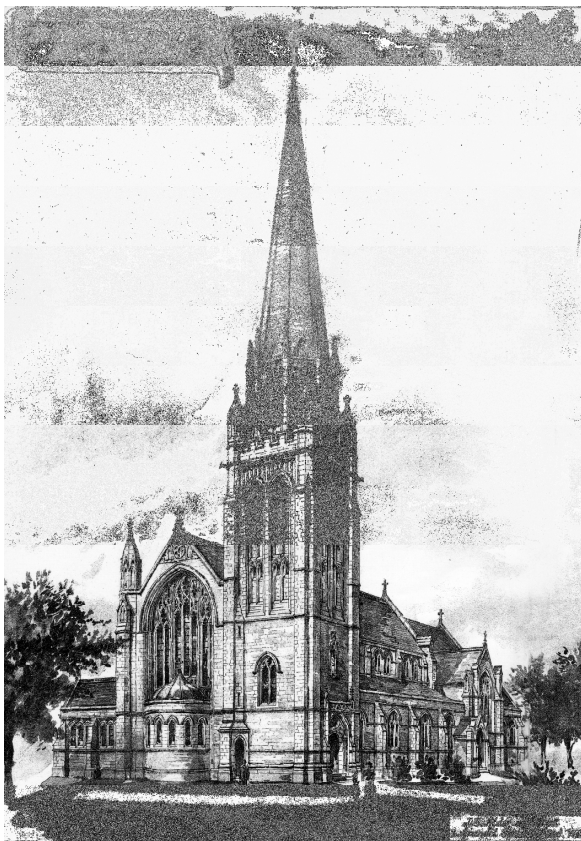
On page 6 you will see more details about our Membership Celebration on Monday 5 October. All are welcome to join us as we celebrate what it means to be a part of BB and our links with Christ Church.



Tom

Sacred Images: St Stephen's Church, Bush Hill Park

In 1906 work began on a permanent church in the Decorated Gothic style to replace the corrugated iron Anglican church of St Stephen in Bush Hill Park. The first part was opened in 1907 but the nave was not completed until 1916. The tower and spire, shown to the right in this 1904 sketch by the architect John S Alder were not built.



1904 sketch of proposed St Stephen's Church
(credit Richard Barnard)

The cast window, above the altar and reredos in the chancel, was installed in 1946. In the centre is the risen and ascended Christ with his right hand raised in the act of benediction and holding the regal symbol of an orb with a cross. Above are angels and a dove representing the Holy Spirit, while below are alpha and omega, the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet: "I am the first and the last" says the Lord." (Revelation 1:8)

On the far left is St Stephen, the first Christian martyr, to whom the church is dedicated. He is shown wearing the robes of a deacon and holding a martyr's palm and a Gospel book on which are the stones used to kill him (Acts of the Apostles 6:1-8:1).

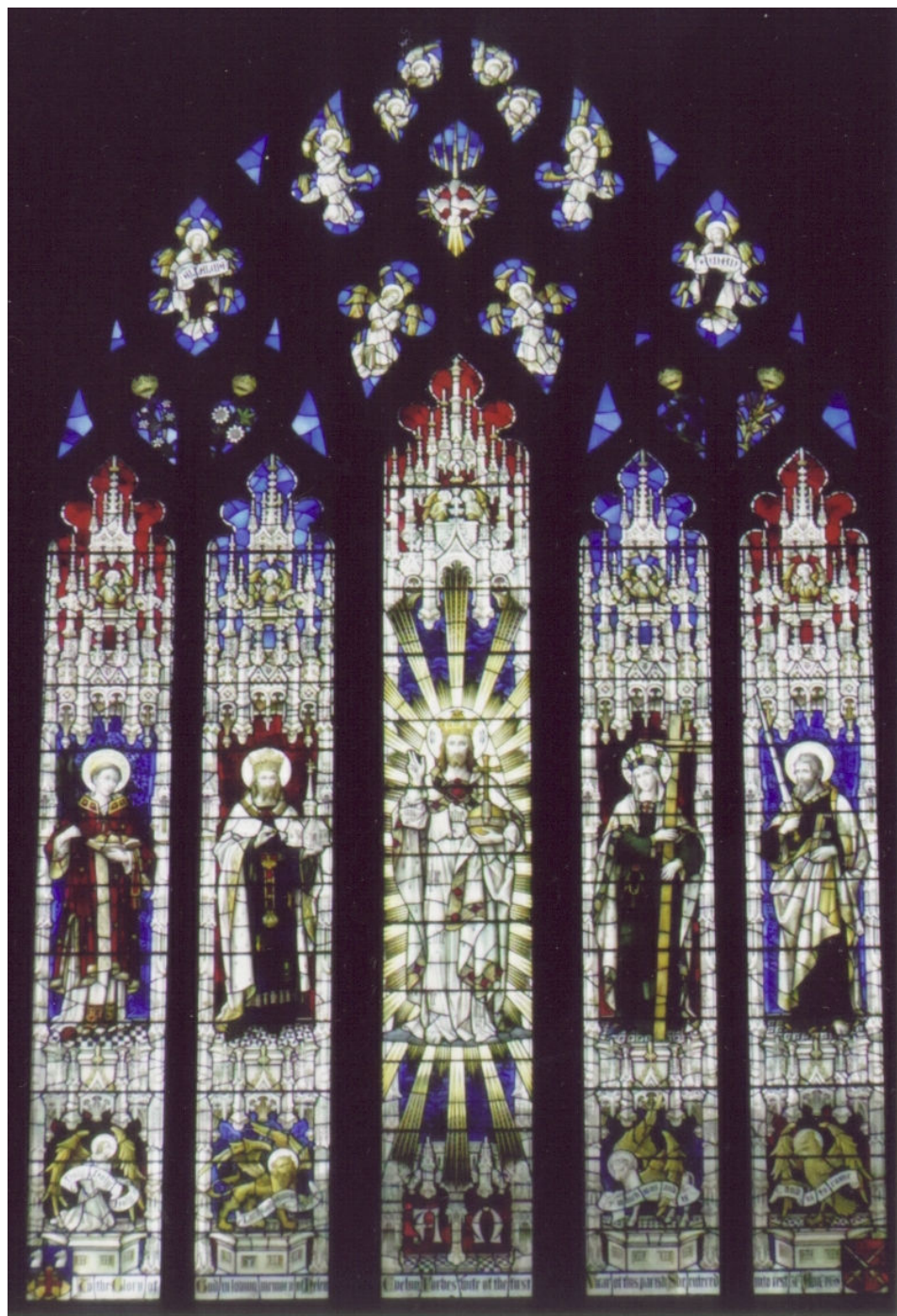
Next is St Edward the Confessor, King of Anglo-Saxon England, who died in 1066. He is shown wearing a crown and holding a ring and a model of a church, symbolising Westminster Abbey which he founded.

On the right is St Helena, mother of the first Christian Roman Emperor, Constantine, in the 4th century. She is holding the True Cross, which she claimed to have discovered in Jerusalem.

On the far right is St Paul, holding a sword, the emblem of his martyrdom, and a book containing his letters to the early Christians. Below the saints are the four creatures recorded in Revelation 4:7 - a lion, a bull, a human face and an eagle in flight, standing for the four Gospel writers.

Stephen

The page to the right shows the stained glass window at St Stephen's Church (photo by Stephen Gilburt).



Three Choirs Festival

At the end of July I spent an interesting and enjoyable week at the Three Choirs Festival, which this year was in Gloucester.



Gloucester Cathedral (photo by Geni, CC BY-SA 4.0 via Wikimedia Commons)

Most of the orchestral and choral works were performed in the cathedral, although some of the smaller events took place in other nearby churches in the city. All the churches made provision for disabled visitors with slopes, ramps or lifts provided to cope with the different levels. There were organ recitals, performances by small groups of singers with piano accompaniment and talks. Shakespeare's *The Comedy of Errors* recounts the confusion caused by two sets of identical twin brothers. It was performed by a company of five men all playing several roles in the open air on two very hot afternoons. There were also musical presentations for families where young children were invited to take part.

The festival village on the green outside the cathedral had free performances on a bandstand by various groups of singers and musicians as well as by solo artists. There was also a café and a display of local craft work for sale.

I was able to attend the opening festival service, Sunday morning communion and an evensong service together with receptions and

more than 20 paid events over eight days and free rehearsals for the evening concerts.

The Saturday evening concert included Elgar's stately 'First Symphony'. The Philharmonia Orchestra and the Three Choirs Festival Chorus (comprising members from the

choirs at Gloucester, Hereford and Worcester Cathedrals) performed William Walton's dramatic 1931 work 'Belshazzar's Feast'. It tells the story, related in Daniel chapter 5, of how Belshazzar, king of Babylon, saw the writing on the wall, before his kingdom was destroyed by Darius, king of the Medes and Persians.



Belshazzar's Feast, Rembrandt c. 1635-1638, National Gallery, London (public domain image via Wikimedia Commons.)

Rachmaninov's 'All-Night Vigil (Vespers)' despite its title only lasts 70 minutes. This choral work from 1916 owes much to Russian Orthodox chants. It was performed on Sunday night with an accompaniment of bell sounds.

The Czech composer Janáček's 'Glagolitic Mass' of 1926 is a glorious explosion of life. He aimed to recreate an "Old Church Slavonic" setting of the Latin Mass. This was the main item in Monday's concert.

On Wednesday evening I went to a performance of Beethoven's 'Mass in C'. This was followed by a late night 'Evening with Ivor Novello' where the audience were invited to join in singing two of Novello's best-known songs from his shows - 'Keep the Home Fires Burning' and 'We'll Gather Lilacs in the Spring Again'.

The Italian Monteverdi's dazzling 'Vespers' of 1610 was performed on Thursday evening. Following this I went to the late night concert. The highlight was Bernstein's 'Chichester Psalms' which set all or part of Psalms 108, 100, 23, 2, 131 and 133 in a style which reminded the listeners of Bernstein's *West Side Story*.

Mozart's 'Requiem', which he left unfinished at his death, was the highlight of Friday's evening concert.

The festival concluded on Saturday evening with Elgar's oratorio 'The Dream of Gerontius' with words by Cardinal John Henry Newman. It depicts a man's final hours on earth and his soul's journey to judgement (which is a Roman Catholic concept). It includes 'Praise to the Holiest in the Height', which we sometimes sing as a hymn. Elgar was influenced by Wagner's opera *Parsifal*, which also tells a story of a journey to salvation, and the opera's 'Prelude' was played before Elgar's oratorio.

Next year's festival at Worcester will include Britten's 'War Requiem', Handel's 'Coronation Anthems' and Hayden's 'Nelson Mass'.

Stephen



THE STRUGGLE FOR LAND,

JUSTICE AND PEACE

IN THE WEST BANK

Daoud Nassar: a Palestinian farmer's call to action



1 October 2026



7.00 - 8.30 PM



ST JOHN'S WATERLOO

BOOK HERE!



Daoud Nassar is a Palestinian Christian farmer and peace activist from Bethlehem. Together with his siblings and wider family, he runs Tent of Nations, a 100-acre farm south-west of Bethlehem

The Raising of Lazarus

John 11:1-44

Sebastiano del Piombo (c. 1485-1547) was a Venetian artist who painted a huge *Raising of Lazarus* between 1517 and 1519 for Narbonne Cathedral in southern France. The cathedral claimed to have relics of Lazarus.

The picture shows Jesus with one arm raised and the other pointing towards Lazarus who is wearing a funeral shroud. John's gospel is the only one to record how Jesus raised Lazarus, the brother of Martha and Mary, from the dead.

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

Stephen

You may see a full colour version of *The Raising of Lazarus* by Sebastiano del Piombo on page 23.

Prayer diary October 2026

- 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 the Zoom Bible Study Group as they meet this morning.
- 4 Pray for the work of Goldie College in the Solomon Islands as we support them with our Communion offering this morning.

- 5 Pray for this evening's Boys' Brigade Membership Celebration.
- 6 Pray for Ruth and Stuart.
- 7 Pray for the external groups that use our church premises.
- 8 Pray for those who face uncertainties in their faith.
- 9 Pray for the Brownies as they meet this evening.
- 10 Pray for today's Lunchtime @ Christ Church.
- 11 Pray for the Revd Mandy James as she leads our service today.
- 12 Pray for the Boys' Brigade as they meet this evening.
- 13 Pray for the work of Enfield Council.
- 14 Pray for the residents of Parsonage Gardens.
- 15 Pray for peace in areas of the world where there is conflict.
- 16 Pray for the Guides and Rangers as they meet this evening.
- 17 Pray for today's meeting of the Thames North Synod.
- 18 Pray for the Adventurers as they meet during our service today.
- 19 Pray for the Friendship Club as they meet this afternoon.
- 20 Pray for our Elders.
- 21 Pray for anyone you know who is unwell at this time.
- 22 Pray for our local community.
- 23 Pray for the BB members who are heading on a weekend away to Alton Towers and the Peak District.
- 24 Pray for the Zoom Bible Study Group as they meet this morning.
- 25 Pray for Alison Gibbs as she leads our service this morning.
- 26 Pray for young people who are on half term this week.
- 27 Pray for our Finance Committee.
- 28 Pray for friends from across the North Enfield Pastorate.
- 29 Pray for the homeless and that they may be provided with the help and support that they need.
- 30 Pray for the pupils and staff of Chase Side Primary School.
- 31 Pray for the work of the emergency services.

Church diary October 2026

Saturday 3 October 9:30am-10:30am
Zoom Bible Study Group (see page 6)

Sunday 4 October 10:45am
Martin Wells
Holy Communion (offering for Goldie College)
Duty Elder - Alison Gibbs

Monday 5 October 6:30pm-7:30pm
3rd Enfield Boys' Brigade Membership Celebration (see page 6)

Saturday 10 October 12:30pm-2:30pm
Lunchtime @ Christ Church (see page 2)

Sunday 11 October 10:45am
The Revd Mandy James
Duty Elder - Alison Gibbs

Sunday 11 October 12:15pm
Church Meeting

Sunday 18 October 10:45am
Jeevan Bethala
Duty Elder - Rosemary Milns

Monday 19 October 2:15pm
Friendship Club
Desert Island Discs

Saturday 24 October 9:30am-10:30am
Zoom Bible Study Group (see page 6)

Sunday 25 October 10:45am
Alison Gibbs
Duty Elder - Phyllis Shoults

Church diary November 2026

Sunday 1 November 10:45am
Laura Marlow
Holy Communion (offering for Mission Aviation Fellowship)
Duty Elder - Pam Mansley & Rosemary Milns

November 2026 Newsletter

The **November 2026** edition of the Christ Church Newsletter will be published on **Sunday 25 October**. Items for inclusion in this issue must be with the Editor by Sunday 11 October. 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, Rosemary Milns & Phyllis Shoults elders@ccurc.org.uk

Safeguarding Phyllis Shoults 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 adventurers@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 Raising of Lazarus, Sebastiano del Piombo 1517-1519, National Gallery, London. Public domain image via Wikimedia Commons. A related article by Stephen Gilburt can be found on page 18.

Front cover image by MEDITERRANEAN on iStock.



Christ Church
United
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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

