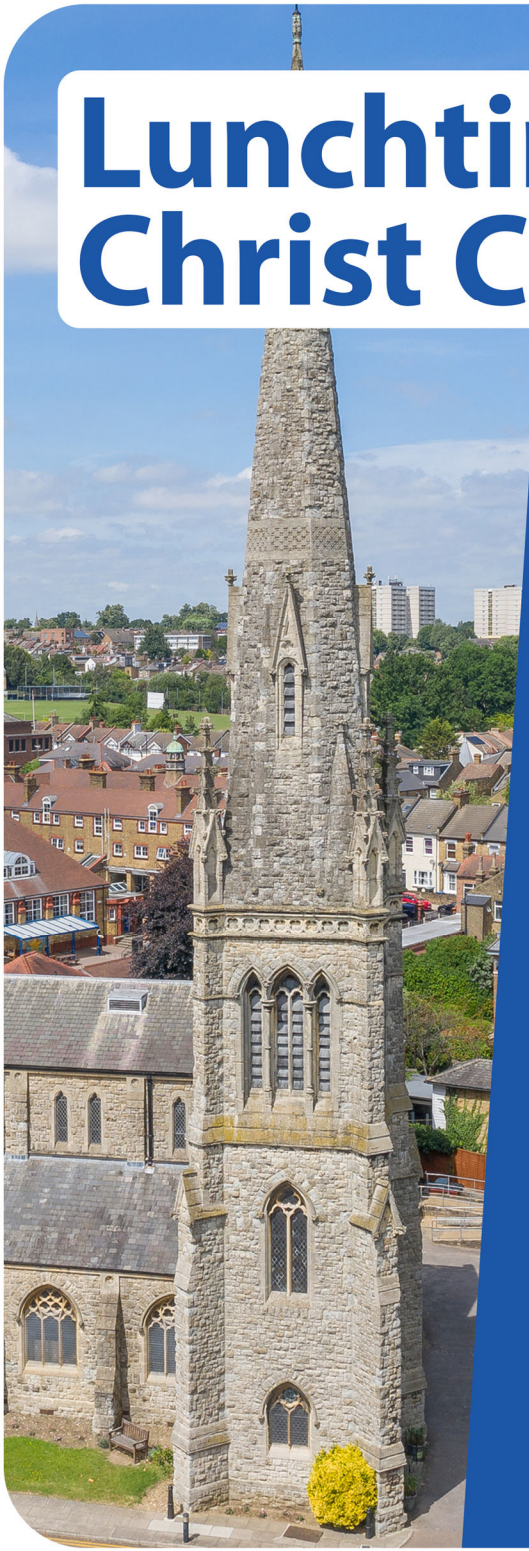
NEWSLETTER

November 2026 | No. 846



Christ Church
United
Reformed
Church

Lunchtime @ Christ Church



Saturday
7 November
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 November 2026

Hello everyone,

It's November already! How has that happened? They say the older you get, the quicker time flies. This year is certainly speeding along, so I must be getting older!

This month on Remembrance Sunday we remember those who gave their lives for the freedom of this country. Hopefully we will never be placed in such a position as those people were. However, Jesus never said we would be saved from trouble in this world, in fact he said persecution was always a risk for those who followed him. Are we ready to face whatever lies ahead of us? Are we ready for what God has planned for us to do for him?

In Jude, we read in verse 3 that we are to contend for the faith: "I felt compelled to write and urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to God's holy people."

We have been entrusted by God. As well as a huge privilege, it can also feel overwhelming if we consider what God wants us to do. God puts so much trust in us, doesn't he? He sees in us the things we can't see in ourselves. We can spend so much time doubting what we can do for God. I came across this helpful meditation which helped me realise we only need to be concentrating on what he's asked us to do now in the present and not worry about what he is going to ask us to do in the future.

"What God may hereafter require of you,
you must not give yourself the least trouble about.
Everything he gives you to do,
you must do as well as ever you can.
That is the best possible preparation
for what he may want you to do next.
If people would but do what they have to do,
they would always find themselves ready for what came next."
(By George MacDonald)

Today's work will be preparing us for what we'll be called to do in the future. Doing our best for him is what we are called to do. However, it is important to remember Jesus promised to be with us always and never leave us, his Spirit lives in us. We are never asked to do anything in our own strength, quite the opposite.

Proverbs 3:5-6 tells us: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight."

Let us therefore do our best in whatever we are being called to do now for God and let us contend for the faith we have been entrusted with, in order that those around us can learn about the hope we have. May all we do and say today and always glorify the One who loves us beyond our imaginations. Amen.

God bless you throughout this month,

Ruth

Zoom Bible Study Group

The Zoom Bible Study Group will be meeting on Saturdays 7 and 21 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.

Communion offering

Our Communion offering at the service on Sunday 1 November is for Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF). MAF is the world's largest humanitarian air operator. For over 75 years they have been flying light aircraft over jungles, mountains, swamps and deserts.

They enable more than 1,400 aid, development and mission organisations to bring medical care, emergency relief and long-term development to remote areas of the world. Their pilots and personnel deliver relief workers, doctors, pastors, school books, food, medicines - everything that can only be safely and speedily delivered by air.

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

Building project

There will be a meeting after the service on Sunday 1 November for members of the congregation to consider how they would like to proceed with the building project proposals based on the information that has been provided.

The intention of this meeting will be to decide on the wording of a resolution to be voted on by church members at a Special Church Meeting after the service on Sunday 15 November, to determine if and how the project should proceed.

Please do continue to pray about this matter as it is important that we seek God's will in everything we do at Christ Church.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss any of the information provided, please speak to Ruth or one of the Elders.

Remembrance Sunday

Our service on Remembrance Sunday, 8 November, will be at the usual time of 10:45am and will be led by The Worship Group.

In the opening part of the service the names on our Rolls of Honour will be read out, and the Last Post will be sounded followed by a two-minute silence at 11:00am.

Lunchtime @ Christ Church

Our next Lunchtime @ Christ Church will take place on Saturday 7 November, from 12:30pm-2:30pm in the hall. All are welcome to join us for a time of food, drink and fellowship together. There are no set charges but donations are accepted.

Due to the Christmas events there will be no Lunchtime @ Christ Church in December. The following one will take place on Saturday 9 January 2027. Please speak to one of the Elders if you are able to help out at all with these events.

Friendship Club

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

- Monday 16 November: Desert Island Discs
- Monday 21 December: Christmas programme including a Christmas tea

Please note that the quiz led by the Revd Mandy James took place in October, and Desert Island Discs is now in November. Both the November and December meetings will be led by Ruth.

Everyone is welcome to join these friendly meetings. For more information please speak to Sylvia.

Christmas Tree Festival & Enfield Parade of Light - Can you help?

Our Christmas Tree Festival will be taking place on the weekend of Saturday 5 and Sunday 6 December (10:00am-5:00pm on the Saturday and 10:00am-4:00pm on the Sunday).

We are looking for people who would be willing to help with getting the trees ready for groups to decorate - there are 20 trees that need unpacking and the branches to be spread out! This will be starting to happen from Monday 9 November.

We will also need people to help with setting up in the week leading up to the event, as well as to volunteer during the event itself. You don't have to do the whole time - even if you can only do a couple of hours that would be greatly appreciated.

On the Sunday afternoon, the Enfield Christmas Parade of Light will be taking place. The parade itself starts at 4:00pm from the Civic Centre and goes along Baker Street, Lancaster Road, Chase Side, Church Street, Silver Street and back to the Civic Centre. Christ Church will be providing refreshments outside at the gate, with the parade passing the church at around 4:55pm - any offers of help would be greatly appreciated! There will be carol singing at the Fountain in Enfield Town at approximately 5:20pm and a firework display at around 5:40pm.

If you can help in any way please speak to Ruth or one of the Elders.

Boys' Brigade update



On Thursday 1 October our Company & Seniors took part in the Enfield Battalion Quiz & Pizza Night, taking on a range of quiz rounds against teams from other BB groups. Well done to our team who came in 3rd place overall!



The following Saturday the Seniors took part in the BB's Monopoly Challenge, racing around Central London trying to find as many locations from the classic Monopoly board as possible, with bonus points on offer for completing sets as well as additional photo challenges along the way. After 20,000+ steps throughout the day they did very well to come 9th out of the 26 teams taking part!

On Monday 5 October we held our Membership Celebration, where we celebrated what it means to be a part of the wider BB family and our partnership with Christ Church.

Ruth shared a message about what it means to have Jesus as an anchor for our lives, and the boys, leaders and others present made promises to support the work of BB. We also reflected on our highlights of 2026 so far, including our Build Trip to Mexico back in July as Max shared his experience of the trip and the impact it had.

We also presented the boys with Membership Cards for this session as well as some other awards, including Micah who received his President's Badge - the second-highest award in BB!



The following week all of our age groups turned yellow as we got into a range of activities based around Hello Yellow, YoungMinds' annual campaign for children and young people's mental health.



The Boys' Brigade has been supporting YoungMinds as its Charity of the Year throughout 2026.

The boys took on a range of games, challenges and quizzes all with a yellow theme, and explored ways in which they can look after their own mental health as well as supporting others around them.

On Saturday 17 October our Anchors & Juniors age groups had a great day out at Colchester Zoo with others from across Enfield Battalion, having the opportunity to see and learn about lots of different animals.



Tom

Help for Hunger

In the run up to Christmas the 3rd Enfield Boys' Brigade will again be supporting Help for Hunger, a local charity which works to provide hampers to families who would otherwise go without at Christmas.

The hampers consist of essential food, warm clothing and gifts for all in the family. Families are referred in confidence, and they expect to deliver well in excess of 1,000 hampers to people in the local area.

The 3rd Enfield will be participating again, and to do that we are asking for your generous support once more.

How does it work? Help for Hunger has provided a standard list of items to include in each hamper, which includes food and cleaning/ sanitary products. As the families live in severe deprivation they also ask for a hooded blanket, hat and gloves to be included, as well as a Christmas gift for each member of the family.

We will be encouraging our BB and Christ Church family to get involved by signing up to donate one or more items. A list of required items will be available in the church from the service on Sunday 1 November onwards, initially you just need to put your name against the item(s) you would like to provide. We then ask that the actual items are with us by Sunday 22 November. These will then be collated and given to Help for Hunger to go to the families in December.

If you have any questions about this initiative please speak to Tom. Thank you in advance for any support you are able to give.

Our Church is Dedicated to Jesus Christ Our Lord

A hymn for Church Anniversary

1. Our church is dedicated
to Jesus Christ our Lord,
he teaches us and saves us
and lives for evermore.
Now we should always follow
his teachings every day,
so that we may more clearly
all come to know his love.

2. So now let us remember
all those who built our church,
the people who raised money
and those who worshipped here,
the ministers and members
who helped and guided us,
and those who served in healthcare
or taught in many lands.

3. We always should remember
those who were here before,
the children and the adults,
they all have served our Lord.
But as we leave this morning
we should now be prepared
to tell the news to others
of God's love for the world.

Stephen Gilburt

Metre 7676D iambic
Tunes 'Aurelia' (RS 566 'The Church's One Foundation')
'Penlan' (RS 590 'In Heavenly Love Abiding')

Sacred Images: All Saints Church, Church Street, Edmonton

There has been a church on this site since at least 1136 and fragments of the Norman 12th century building have been discovered and put on display. A chantry chapel was built in 1360. The chancel, vestry, nave and north aisle were rebuilt in the late 15th century. The west tower shown to the right was rebuilt in the early 16th century. It is the oldest external feature. Built of ragstone rubble, it has the only surviving medieval windows.



West tower of All Saints Church (photo by Stephen Gilburt)

In medieval times, before the 16th century Reformation, churches usually had a wooden rood screen separating the nave, where the congregation were, from the chancel to which access was restricted to the clergy and choir. Above the rood screen there would have been a carved and painted representation of the crucifixion with Jesus on the cross and his mother Mary and disciple John standing on either side at the foot of the cross (John 19:25-26). In most churches in England rood screens, crosses, statues and stained glass windows were removed in the 16th or 17th centuries.

At the east end of the chancel above the high altar in All Saints Church there was a reredos with painted wooden panels of biblical

figures. Two of these showing Moses and Aaron survived the Reformation and may now be seen on the west wall. According to the book of Exodus Moses and his brother Aaron were the leaders of the Israelites when they left Egypt for the Promised Land.



Painted wooden panels showing Moses and Aaron (photo by Stephen Gilburt)

Moses, shown dressed in red, is holding a stick. This turned into a snake when he threw it on the ground, but turned back into a stick when he picked it up. This was to show the people that Moses had seen the God of the Israelites' ancestors (Exodus 4:1-5).

Aaron is dressed in robes to indicate that he was a member of the priestly Levite tribe of Israel. As Aaron was a good speaker he acted as spokesman for Moses (Exodus 4:14-17).

On either side of the east window on the east wall of the chancel are paintings of Christian saints. The wall



Wall painting on the left of the east window (photo by Stephen Gilburt)

painting on the left of the window is shown at the bottom of the preceding page. At the back second from the left is St Stephen shown with stones as he was stoned to death (Acts of the Apostles 7:54-60). Next is St Ambrose (339-397), Bishop of Milan, wearing a bishop's mitre. He is holding a book with the words 'Te Deum Laudamus' ('Let Us Praise God'), a poem he composed. At the back on the right is St Paul holding a sword, the emblem of his martyrdom.

More saints are illustrated in the painting to the right of the window. On the left is St Helena (c. 250-330), mother of Constantine, the first Christian emperor of the Roman Empire in the 4th century. She is wearing ermine and is holding the Roman imperial eagle. On the right at the back is St John the Baptist holding a cross with the words "Behold the Lamb of God" (John 1:29). On the right at the front is St George (died c. 303) with his cross on his flag and clothes.



Wall painting on the right of the east window (photo by Stephen Gilburt)

In 1772 galleries and an organ were installed and the exteriors of the north aisle and lower part of the chancel were covered in brick. In 1889 the galleries were removed and the present south aisle was built.

The church is currently on Historic England's Buildings at Risk register and its condition is considered poor. The west tower was restored in

2015 but further works, including on the roof, need to be carried out and there is no access to the south aisle because of its condition. Ideas for improvement include the provision of a kitchenette, accessible toilet and heating upgrades, but these are all subject to the availability of funds.

The church is open to visitors in September during the London Open House Festival week.

Buses W6 and W8 pass along Church Street and Edmonton Green railway and bus stations are nearby.

Stephen

The Annunciation

Luke 1:26-38

Carlo Crivelli was active as a painter from 1457 until his death between 1495 and 1500. He was a native of Venice and may have trained in Padua. In 1465 he was recorded in Zara (now Zadar on the Dalmatian coast of what is now Croatia). Most of his working life was spent in the Marches of central Italy, mainly in Ascoli Piceno where he is recorded from 1468. All his pictures are of religious subjects and many are still in the churches for which they were painted. His hard wiry graphic style was influenced by the Venetian Renaissance artist Mantegna.

In 1482 Pope Sixtus IV granted the town of Ascoli Piceno certain rights of self-government, under the general control of the Roman Catholic Church. Each year thereafter there was a procession on 25 March, the Feast of the Annunciation, to the Franciscan church of Santissima Annunciata. The commemorative altarpiece *The Annunciation with St Emidius* was painted on a wooden panel by Crivelli in 1486 for this church. It was subsequently transferred to canvas and is now in the National Gallery in London.

The Annunciation is set in Ascoli Piceno and includes various scenes of daily life. On the left two Franciscan friars seem to be discussing with a father the education of his child who is peering round a balcony at the scene below. The angel Gabriel, in the bottom left of the picture, is bringing a message to the patron saint of Ascoli Piceno, St Emidius, who is holding a model of the town on his knee. The angel is also telling the Virgin Mary, who is in the house on the right, that she will give birth to Jesus Christ the Son of God. The Holy Spirit, in the form of a dove above Mary's head, has flown down from a ring of cherubs in the sky. The picture is full of symbolism. The peacock top right symbolises Eternal Life. The cucumber at the bottom refers to the Roman Catholic doctrine of the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary. The apple next to it refers to the Fall of Man, in the Garden of Eden, who will be redeemed through the birth of Christ.

Stephen

You may see a full colour version of *The Annunciation with St Emidius* by Carlo Crivelli on page 23.

Celebrating service to Girlguiding

The Mayor of Enfield, Cllr Emma Supple, recently welcomed Girlguiding leaders from across Enfield to the Civic Centre for a Long Service Awards evening.



Photo from the Mayor of Enfield's Facebook page

Congratulations to the leaders from 9th Enfield who received awards - and thank you to them for all that they continue to do for the girls in their groups.

Special congratulations also to Rosemary, who is a leader at 4th Enfield Brownies and was recognised for an amazing 50 years of service and dedication to Girlguiding - a remarkable milestone!

Prayer diary November 2026

1 Pray for the work of Mission Aviation Fellowship as we support them with our Communion offering today.
2 Pray for the Anchors as they meet this evening.
3 Pray for Ruth and Stuart.
4 Pray for the external groups that use our church premises.
5 Pray for a safe and enjoyable Bonfire Night.
6 Pray for the Rainbows as they meet this evening.
7 Pray for today's Zoom Bible Study Group meeting and Lunchtime @ Christ Church.

8 Remembrance Sunday: Pray for the commemorative events taking place across the country today.
9 Pray for the Juniors as they meet this evening.
10 Pray for peace in areas of the world where there is conflict.
11 Remembrance Day: Remember those who sacrificed so much for our freedom.
12 Pray for the residents of Perry Mead.
13 Pray for the Brownies as they meet this evening.
14 Pray for King Charles III as he celebrates his 78th birthday today.
15 Pray for God's guidance at the Special Church Meeting after our Church Anniversary service today.
16 Pray for the Friendship Club as they meet this afternoon.
17 Pray for anyone you know who is suffering from sickness or ill health at this time.
18 It's our 151st birthday! Give thanks for God's continued work and witness through Christ Church.
19 Give thanks to God for the gift of the Holy Spirit.
20 Pray for the Guides as they meet this evening.
21 Pray for the Zoom Bible Study Group as they meet this morning.
22 Pray for Margaret and Stuart Jenkins as they lead worship today.
23 Pray for the Company and Seniors as they meet this evening.
24 Pray for our Elders.
25 Pray for those who struggle with addiction.
26 Pray for our friends from Chase Family Church.
27 Pray for the Rangers as they meet this evening.
28 Pray for those who are considering coming to faith in Jesus.
29 Pray for friends from across the North Enfield Pastorate as we come together in worship for Advent at Lancaster Road URC.
30 Pray for the local community around Christ Church.

Church diary November 2026

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

Sunday 1 November 12:15pm
Building Project Meeting (see page 6)

Saturday 7 November 9:30am-10:30am
Zoom Bible Study Group (see page 5)

Saturday 7 November 12:30pm-2:30pm
Lunchtime @ Christ Church (see page 7)

Sunday 8 November **10:45am**
The Worship Group
Remembrance Sunday
Duty Elder - Alison Gibbs
A two-minute silence will be observed at 11:00am

Sunday 15 November **10:45am**
The Revd Ruth Dewis
Church Anniversary
Duty Elder - Sarah Harry

Sunday 15 November 12:15pm
Special Church Meeting (see page 6)

Monday 16 November 2:15pm
Friendship Club
Desert Island Discs - The Revd Ruth Dewis

Saturday 21 November 9:30am-10:30am
Zoom Bible Study Group (see page 5)

Sunday 22 November 10:45am
Margaret & Stuart Jenkins
Duty Elder - Phyllis Shoults

Sunday 29 November 11:00am
The Revd Ruth Dewis
Advent Sunday
United Service for the North Enfield Pastorate (at Lancaster Road URC)
Please note the location and later start time for this service

December 2026 & January 2027 Newsletter

The **December 2026 & January 2027** edition of the Christ Church Newsletter will be published on **Sunday 22 November** (a week earlier than usual as there is no service at Christ Church on Sunday 29 November). Items for inclusion in this issue must be with the Editor by Sunday 8 November. 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** @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.



The Annunciation with St Emidius, Carlo Crivelli 1486, National Gallery, London. Public domain image via Wikimedia Commons. A related article by Stephen Gilburt can be found on pages 16-17.

Front cover image by Oleksandr Siedov on iStock.

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

THE BOYS' BRIGADE
>the adventure begins here

Monday evenings
For boys aged 5-18
info@3rdenfieldbb.co.uk





Friday evenings
For girls aged 4–18
9thenfield@gmail.com

Girlguiding

Zoom Bible Study Group

Saturdays (twice monthly) at 9:30am

See diary for upcoming dates

