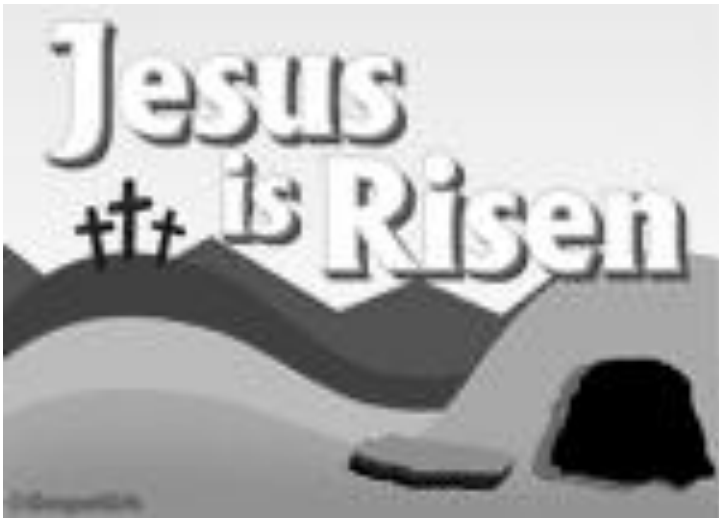




# **CHRIST CHURCH URC**

**Chase Side, Enfield**

**Minister Rev'd David Atkinson**



Please join us in celebrating at our Family  
service on Easter Sunday at 11am

**April 2009**

**[www.christchurchurcenfield.org.uk](http://www.christchurchurcenfield.org.uk)**

# CHURCH ACTIVITIES

## SUNDAY

11.00 am Morning Worship

11.00 am Pilots

Holy Communion *First Sunday*

Family Parade Service *Third Sunday*

12.30pm Church Meeting *bi-monthly see diary*

## MONDAY

7.00pm - Boys' Brigade Anchor Boys (5-8 years)

9.00pm Junior Section (8-11 years)

Company & Senior Section

(11-18 years)

## WEDNESDAY

9.45-11.15 am Combined Bible Study

at Lancaster Road URC *Twice monthly*

2.15 pm Friendship Club *Twice monthly*

## THURSDAY

7.45-9.15 pm Bible Study Group *monthly*

7.30 pm Elders Meeting *bi-monthly*

## FRIDAY

5.00 pm Rainbows (5-7 years)

6.00 pm Brownies (7-10 years)

7.30 pm Guides (10-14 years)

Rangers (14-20 years)

# MINISTER'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

We have recently had the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Charles Darwin who was born on 12<sup>th</sup> February 1809. Earlier this year I read a short book called, "Rescuing Darwin: God and Evolution in Britain today" by Nick Spencer and Denis Alexander. This book tells us that Darwin was an active Anglican and studied theology with a view to entering the Church of England ministry. However, he never entered the ministry but instead went on a five years expedition to South America and the Pacific to study nature.

Darwin always had a rational and logical faith and over the years his doubts grew. But it was the suffering and death of his young daughter Annie which eventually destroyed his faith and turned him into an agnostic. Annie suffered ill health for a long time and eventually Darwin saw her waste away and die.

Suffering is probably the greatest obstacle to faith and especially when it is what we sometimes call "innocent suffering". This is particularly so when such suffering directly affects our own lives.

In February 6 years old Ivan Cameron, the son of the Conservative party leader, David Cameron, and his wife, Samantha, died. Ivan was born severely disabled with a rare illness. This meant that he had to have continuous care and support and involved frequent visits to hospital. I have followed the story mainly on radio and in my newspaper. It has been said that it has changed David Cameron making him a better person. It has made him a much stronger supporter of the National Health Service and brought him into contact with a far wider variety of people. I have not heard about how it has affected his religious convictions but I assume it will have made him think about and question more the existence of a loving God.

Certain questions are always with us. Why does an almighty and loving God allow suffering? Why do some good people seem to suffer and some bad people seem to prosper? Does God really care for his world and his people? There is not a complete answer to these questions here on earth but I am sure we need to say something about this subject of faith and suffering.

We are now in the season of Lent and approaching Holy Week and Easter when we remember the suffering, death and resurrection of God's only Son, Jesus Christ. The Christian belief is that God became man in Jesus Christ entering fully into human life, its successes and failures, joys and sorrows, good and bad times. When Jesus was arrested, put on trial, whipped and put to death on a cross God directly experienced human injustice, pain and death. This does not explain why we suffer but it does show that God has shared our suffering and understands it first hand. I find it easier to believe in such a God rather than in a God who always stands apart from human life and suffering.

Three days after Jesus had died and been buried God raised him to life. In so doing God's love triumphed over the human injustice and sin which crucified Jesus and over death itself. The resurrection of Jesus from the dead is the basis of our own belief in the life after death. Jesus said to his disciples, "Because I live, you too will live" (John 14:19). The resurrection shows us that injustice and suffering do not have the last word, but rather God's love is ultimately victorious. This is our faith in Christ.

May the love and peace of God be with you all. David.

## **NEWS OF THE FELLOWSHIP**

Mary Smart continues to receive hospital treatment.

Irene Baker and Maureen Rye have been unwell.

Let us remember all our church family in our prayers and caring. David.

## **THE FUTURE OF CHRIST CHURCH**

At the February 2008 Church Meeting we agreed to focus on evangelism, growth and bringing people into regular worship at Christ Church for a year. We particularly set ourselves the target of five additional regular worshippers each week over the course of the year. It was decided that we should review the situation at the June 2009 Church Meeting and if there has been noticeable growth to build on it but if there has been no change we should give serious consideration to the viability of Christ Church continuing as an independent congregation.

The February 2009 Church Meeting agreed that because this is such a major subject we should have an extra Church Meeting on Sunday, 17<sup>th</sup> May at 12:30-1:30 p.m. to consider all the options. We hope this meeting will help us in our praying, thinking and discussion about the future of Christ Church and in particular help us with whatever decision we take at the Church Meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> June.

Please pray and think about this matter and do your best to come to both the Church Meetings on 17<sup>th</sup> May and 7<sup>th</sup> June. David.

## Christian Aid week

May 10th to 16th

Please book the dates. We shall need all our 'usual' collectors. New volunteers will be most welcome.

The whole business of envelope distribution and collection takes about 2 hours maximum per road.

*Will you not use 2 hours in helping thousands of people in poverty.*

## The Friendship Club

The Friendship club continues to meet on alternate Wednesday afternoons at 2.15pm in the **Church Hall**.

The Summer Term commences on **April 22nd** with a devotional meeting with **Mrs Parkhouse of the Salvation Army**

**May 6th**

A life in Local History Mr G Darling

Lily Smith

## The Friendship Club Advance Notice

On June 3rd we are planning a lunch and cream tea at Forty Hill Café for our members and friends. Anyone who wishes to join us will be warmly welcomed.

Menus will be available nearer the time. Please contact Lily or Ron Smith if you wish to join us.

Lily Smith

**THE BOYS'**  
**BRIGADE**  
>the adventure begins here



**3rd Enfield (T R Plowman's) Company**

# **Annual Display and Presentation Evening**

At the **Christ Church URC Hall**  
on **Monday 27th April 2009** at **6:30pm**

You are all invited to join with us for our Annual Display and Presentation Evening for the 119th year of the 3rd Enfield. There will be items from the Anchor Boys, Junior Section, Company Section and Seniors, as well as a number of awards and presentations and maybe a surprise or two!

For more information please speak to one of the Company Officers. We look forward to seeing you there!

Please also visit our website at [www.3rdenfieldbb.co.uk](http://www.3rdenfieldbb.co.uk)

Object: The advancement of Christ's Kingdom among Boys, and the promotion of habits of obedience, reverence, discipline, self-respect and all that tends towards a true Christian manliness.

*Winners of the Mothers Day Poem  
or Prayer competition*

Mothers Day Prayer

To God

Thank you for everyone's Mummy who plays with  
us all the time at home

Amen

Dear God

Thank you for mothers every single day because  
they are so much

Amen

Ellie—Rainbow

Mothers Day Poem

Dear Mum,

Happy Mothers Day

I love you, you are the best Mum in the universe.

You make me happy when I am with you.

You make me believe in who I am.

Lots of Love,

Your Daughter,

Anoushka

Anoushka—Brownie



Mothers Day Prayer

Dear God

Thank you, for all the mums in the world,

But most of all thank you for my mum

And thank you for helping her pay for all my  
clubs and school dinners and thank you for  
making her my Mum.

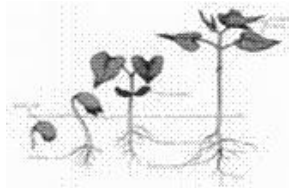
Amen

Katherine—Brownie

**The other 3 winners Poems and Prayers  
will be in the May edition of the  
Christ Church newsletter**

# Every Person Challenge 2009

## Going for Growth



## PRAYER CALENDER FOR THE MONTH

But seek first God's Kingdom, and his righteousness; and all these things will be given to you as well – Matthew 6:33

### **I commit myself to prayer for the following this week**

All people affected by the economic crisis. We pray that even though there may be fear and apprehension, people will not forget that our heavenly Father knows we have need of things and that He delights in providing for us according to His will.

We pray for the world's leaders that they may seek sound advice and not be afraid to make decisions which are right but may be painful.

We pray for our fellowship in Christ Church – our friends who are ill (Irene Baker, Mary Smart, Maureen Rye), friends who may be sad or worried. We pray for God's peace and healing, both physical and spiritual and that they may be comforted to know God loves them.

We pray for God's church at large, that His people will not be afraid to tell of the good news of God's love and His gift of salvation.

We pray for ourselves that we will continue to trust in God and seek to deepen our faith in Him. We pray for the Holy Spirit to empower us to live lives that are pleasing to God.

	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
6.00am							
7.00am							
8.00am							
9.00am							
10.00am							
11.00am							
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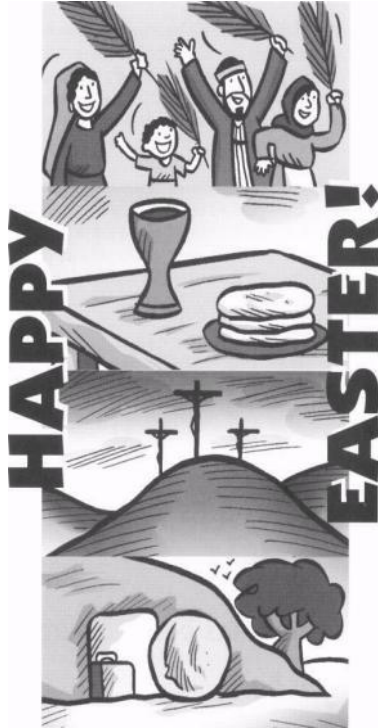
# GOOD FRIDAY



We would encourage everyone who is around on Good Friday to join in the procession of witness through Enfield Town. The procession helps to highlight the fact that Good Friday is a special day in the Christian calendar and also that there is an active Christian community in Enfield.

The procession is preceded by a short service at the War Memorial on Chase Green, Chase Side, starting at 10.30 a.m. Following that, everyone processes through The Town to St Andrew's Church, where there is an Ecumenical Good Friday service, starting at 11.00 a.m., which lasts about an hour.

Easter Sunday Service  
at Christ Church



**11am Family Service  
with Communion  
All welcome**

**Please stay for refreshments  
after the service**

## **3<sup>rd</sup> Enfield Boys' Brigade update February and March 2009**

The last few weeks have been quite busy for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Enfield, and have included members taking part in various London District competitions.

On Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February, the Solo Bugle, Solo Drum and Solo Bell Lyre competitions were held at the headquarters of the 10<sup>th</sup> Ealing Company, Kingsdown Methodist Church. Andrew Clarke took part in the Solo Drum competition for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Enfield, and after a great performance won his competition, in doing so becoming the first London Solo Drum champion from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Enfield since 1989. A total of 11 people entered the Solo Drum, 8 in the Solo Bugle and 5 in the Solo Bell Lyre.

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March saw the 3<sup>rd</sup> Enfield once again join with the 1<sup>st</sup> Enfield for the London District Band competitions, held at the home of the 1<sup>st</sup> Enfield at Lancaster Road United Reformed Church. The combined band took part in the Devonshire Cup, which is the main competition for bands in London, and the Don West Trophy, which involves performing a set test piece and being judged on musical accuracy. The band was second in the Devonshire Cup (to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Bromley) and won the Don West Trophy, which is a very creditable performance for what was generally speaking a young band.

Our next competitions are the London District Drill and Colours, which will have taken place by the time you read this, on 28<sup>th</sup> March at Felden Lodge. We also have our Annual Display and Presentation Evening on 27<sup>th</sup> April, members going to Firm Foundations in May, an Enfield Battalion Junior Section Weekend Camp in June and our Summer Camp with the 10<sup>th</sup> Enfield in July/August. Once again, some busy times ahead!

Tom Boorman



## Check out our Website at Christ Church

- ◇ Our beliefs
- ◇ Links
- ◇ Organisations
- ◇ Newsletters
- ◇ Services/Events
- ◇ History
- ◇ Youth groups
- ◇ Photos

**[www.christchurchurcenfield.org.uk](http://www.christchurchurcenfield.org.uk)**



# vision2020

planning for growth in the urc

## a consultation at pentecost

### what is vision2020?

- A new programme of mission planning that will begin after General Assembly 2010 and will be designed to integrate with the Vision4Life 'evangelism' year and develop beyond that
- It will challenge the church to think about mission priorities at national, Synod and local levels
- It will build a shared commitment to mission across the URC.

### vision2020: your views

- During Pentecost 2009 we are seeking the views of local churches on **vision2020**
- In early May, every church will receive a discussion booklet giving more details of the plans
- Churches are encouraged to discuss the ideas for **vision2020** in small groups, church meetings or church services as part of Pentecost activities. There is a menu of possible activities – some lasting 90 minutes, others just ten
- There will be opportunities to find out more and to respond on the URC website
- There will also be opportunities for further discussion at Synod meetings later in the year.

### vision2020: timetable

Early May:	Local churches receive discussion booklets
Late May:	Local churches discuss <b>vision2020</b> ideas
30 June:	Deadline for local church feedback
Oct/Nov 2009:	Further discussions at Synods
July 2010:	Further discussion at General Assembly 2010
September 2010:	<b>vision2020</b> begins





# April Church Diary

- Wed 1st 9.45- 11.15am Joint bible study with Lancaster Road at Lancaster Road URC
- Sun 5th 11am The Revd David Atkinson  
Holy Communion offering for  
Lancaster Road URC Special Supper  
Ministry  
Duty Elder— Pamela Fisher**
- Thurs 9th 8pm Maundy Thursday Service at Lancaster Road URC
- Fri 10th 10.30am Precession of Witness from Chase Green to the Ecumenical Good Friday service at St Andrews Church in Enfield Town lasting about an hour
- Sun 12th 11am The Revd David Atkinson and the  
Worship Group  
EASTER SUNDAY  
Holy Communion offering for  
Shanthigramam  
Duty Elder— Stephen Gilbert**
- Wed 15th 9.45- 11.15am Joint bible study with Lancaster Road at Lancaster Road URC
- Sun 19th 11am The Revd David Atkinson  
Family Parade Service  
Duty Elder— Pamela Fisher**
- Wed 22nd 2.15pm Friendship Club devotional meeting Mrs Parkhouse of the Salvation Army
- Sun 26th 11am Mr Terry Silvey  
Duty Elder— Ron Smith**
- Wed 29th 9.45- 11.15am Joint bible study with Lancaster Road at Lancaster Road URC

# May Church Diary

Sun 3rd	11am	Mrs Barbara Leighton Holy Communion offering for the Communion Fund Duty Elder— Pamela Mansley
Wed 6th	2.15pm	Friendship Club A life in local historyMr G Darling
Sun 10th	11am	The Worship Group Duty Elder— Stephen Gilbert
Wed 13th	9.45- 11.15am	Joint bible study with Lancaster Road at Lancaster Road URC

## Advance dates for 2009

### Church Meetings

12.30pm

17th May

7th June

6th September

1st November

### Elders Meetings 8pm

13th May 8pm Elders Vestry

6th July 8pm Elders Vestry

7th October 8pm Manse

2nd December 8pm Manse



### **3rd Enfield Boys Brigade**

Annual Company Display  
Monday 27th April

In the Church Hall — Time 6.30pm

### Thames North Synod

10am

September

November

# \*\* PILOTS \*\*

**WHAT:** Pilots are a group for boys and girls aged five upwards. They meet for games, drama, craft activities and fun, based on a bible theme.

**WHEN:**

Sunday  
mornings from  
11am to 12 noon

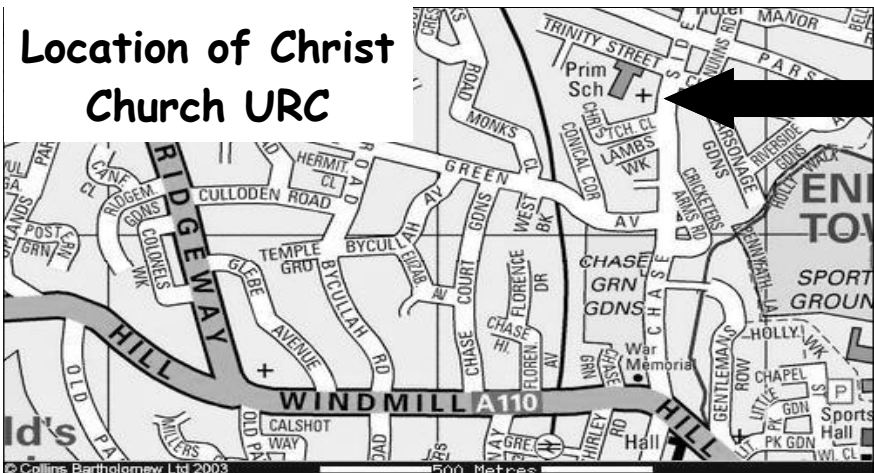


**WHERE:**

Pilots meet in  
the Church Hall

If you are interested in coming or would like further details please contact Rosemary Milns 8363-6571

**Location of Christ  
Church URC**



Articles intended for inclusion in the **May 2009**  
issue should reach the Editor by **2nd Sunday of April**.

Please contact me, Pamela Fisher, with any items to be included in future issues. I can receive them either in paper copy at Sunday worship or by email.

020 8482 4610 A/M please leave me a message