

Christ Church United Reformed Church
NEWSLETTER



April 2021

Getting in contact

Minister

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Youth organisations

Boys' Brigade - Anchors

Sue Bullock info@3rdenfieldbb.co.uk 07961 504 123

Boys' Brigade - Juniors, Company Section & Seniors

Tom Boorman info@3rdenfieldbb.co.uk 07903 605 545

Girlguiding - Rainbows, Brownies, Guides & Rangers

Vicki Stratton-Stubbs 9thenfield@gmail.com 07968 483 609

Adventurers (Junior Church)

Rosemary Milns 020 8363 6571

Other activities

Friendship Club

Sylvia Coombs 020 8363 3543

Worship Group

Rosemary Milns 020 8363 6571

Website

www.ccurc.org.uk

Email

mail@ccurc.org.uk

Facebook

[@ccurc](https://www.facebook.com/ccurc)

Twitter

[@ccurc](https://twitter.com/ccurc)

Pastoral Letter April 2021

"let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God." (Hebrews 12:1, 2)

We come again to another Easter when we are unsure as to how exactly we are going to remember what happened that very first Easter.

How will we, this year, think again of Palm Sunday, the crowds shouting and celebrating, cheering Jesus on in this procession through the streets of the city of Jerusalem:

*"Hosanna! (Save us)
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!
Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!
Hosanna in the highest heaven!" (Mark 11:9-10)*

Will we receive a palm cross in memory of that day, or will we be reconsidering some of the re-enactments of Palm Sunday that we may have seen or been part of in years gone by? Will a donkey appear anywhere?

And then, as we journey through Holy Week what will capture our imaginations?

If we follow Mark's gospel, as we have been doing through the lectionary this year, what will we make of Jesus turning the tables over in the temple, challenging those who were exploiting the people? Will it give us the encouragement to protest against and about those who are exploiting others in our society and in other places around the world today?

Will we wonder again at the fig tree, withering away after

being cursed by Jesus - what is that all about? Is it a symbol to say that Israel's time has come, or is it a story about having faith?

There were still the questions being raised, about paying taxes, about resurrection.

Jesus keeps going, heading onwards to a fate of death, death on the cross.

And, for us, there is always those few words we find in Mark 14 that keep challenging us, not just at Easter but every day; words recorded when Jesus was in the garden of Gethsemane:

"going a little farther..." (Mark 14:35)

Jesus always seems to go a little farther.

That's what we always notice - do you?

Wherever we seem to get to, Jesus always seems to go that little bit farther.

We work hard, we spend time trying to listen to God and we begin to feel that perhaps we are getting there, are making it in our Christian journey and then, suddenly, we find that Jesus has gone on a little farther than we had been able to go.

Jesus stretches us. Jesus nudges us, sometimes gently, sometimes with a great big shove, but Jesus comes and wills us to move forward, to move ahead, to change our minds again, to change our approach, our attitude, what we are doing, what we are saying.

Jesus walks on farther than any of them - he goes to the cross, he goes to his death and he goes to a place where he is separated from them all, a place where none of those who followed him could go **at that time.**

Then we find ourselves perhaps standing with his friends and followers at the foot of the cross or maybe watching from some distance... and we don't know quite how it is all going to work out.

Mark's gospel ends suddenly, abruptly, like much of the story he gives, fast-moving, at pace and then... **it's over to us!**

"So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid." (Mark 16:8)

So what is the story that we have to tell? How might we re-tell it this Easter, when the world is still struggling to cope with a pandemic, when we ourselves are perhaps struggling to cope with what has happened in our own lives, in our families over this past year?

The apostle, Paul, was later, after Easter happened, able to make the declaration that we still today need to make:

"in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died..." (1 Corinthians 15:20)

Christ died so that we have no need to fear death. Christ lives so that we can live with Christ Jesus. Christ was raised from the dead so that we might know the hope of the fulness of life both now and in our own future.

So we, together with many from the past, can declare aloud the Easter anthem:

Christ the Lord is risen today! Alleluia!

Happy Easter!

Mark and Melanie

News of the fellowship

We are sorry to have learned of the death of Albert Waite on 1st February. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends at this sad time.

Bible Study Group

After our Lent Bible Study we will return to look at Mark's gospel. After Easter our Saturday morning group will move to an earlier slot of **9:30am** and we will meet on Saturdays 10th April, 1st May, 15th May, 29th May. These studies will stay on Zoom at present - please contact Mark for joining instructions.



QuizZoom

India Appeal 2021
Church of North India, West Bengal

7.30pm Saturday 1st May
Please contact revd.meatcher@gmail.com for link

Entry Donations
give.net/IndiaAppeal2021



Cathedral Relief Service
Kolkata, India



Lead us on our journey

God, our God,
you have called us to be a people
on the move;
travelling light,
dying to live,
ready to lose ourselves for the sake of the world.

You have called us to be a people
with a purpose;
travelling without a map,
travelling to where we are led,
sustained by your Spirit,
committed to the gospel for the hope of the world.

You have called us, your people,
to be the church.
But we are a church with problems:
too strong for the weak,
too staid for the young,
too respectable for the poor,
too divided for mission,
too obsessed with our own lives to think of the lives of others,
too unsure of our message to speak to the world.

Move us on our journey
from where we are to where you want us to go.
Open our eyes on the way
to the people of different cultures, continents and countries,
who can bring colour to our lives.

Take us on our journey
from where we are to what you want us to be;
so that we become a community
where all are welcomed and no one is excluded,
all are valued and no one is made to feel inadequate,

all are forgiven and no one is ashamed to belong,
all are encouraged and no one is too hurt to come among us.

Lead us on our journey
from who we are to who you want us to be;
so that patience is built into us,
kindness is assumed in us,
gentleness is part of us,
compassion flows from us,
truth is second nature to us,
and the commitment of love is part of us.

Let us go gladly on the journey towards Easter -
the journey towards death and resurrection.
Let us journey in the peace and power of the Spirit.

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Prayer of Franciscan conservation

Living God,
where there is waste, let us bring recycling;
where there is recycling, let us bring reuse;
where there is reuse, let us bring sustainability;
where there is sustainability, let us bring justice;
where there is justice, let us bring love.

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In the beginning...

From plagues of frogs to manna from heaven, the Bible can be a baffling read for a youngster, as Deirdre Barrie recalls...

"Is the Garden of Eden still there, miss?"

As a nine-year-old at Sunday school, I imagined it to be like the huge circular hothouse in Glasgow, the quaintly named Kibble Palace.

But the Garden of Eden would be much bigger, sunnier and hotter even than Rothesay in July!

It would be full of figs and oranges to eat with neat gravel pathways, perfect lawns, clear streams and maybe a rustic seat or two.

Then of course, if you were quiet and hid reverently behind some of the palm trees, you might peep out to see God strolling there, as the Book of Genesis said he did in the cool of the day.

My Sunday school teacher doubled as the children's librarian, and she did her best for us, but there were many curious details in the Old Testament we did not understand, and her answers were not always satisfying.

I was also fascinated by the idea of manna, the food which fell from the sky for the children of Israel to gather and eat. What did it taste like? What did it even look like? Teacher, disappointingly, did not know.

"I suppose it was some sort of edible fungus," she commented feebly.

I closed my eyes and imagined it as silvery ice-cream wafers

floating silently down from the sky while the children of Israel were sleeping in their tents.

If you had risen early, you would have seen breakfast drifting slowly down in the dawn light. Of course, the wafers would not have Wall's stamped on the, and would have been like very nearly transparent drop scones. Fancy getting up in the morning and finding breakfast lying all over the nice clean sand!

We children were all morbidly interested in the Seven Plagues of Egypt inflicted on the Egyptians.

For a time our local minister filled in as the Religious Education teacher - he had actually been out East. Yes, he said, he had been out there when there was a plague of frogs - they had been everywhere, tiny ones, hopping about his house.

When he thought he had got rid of them all, he had taken a picture down off the wall, and found little frogs snoozing on the back of it.

He had been really lucky, he explained in answer to our eager questions, and managed to avoid plagues of boils - nor had he seen the Nile turn red as blood.

He had heard about plagues of locusts, and believed that the locals cooked and ate them, and that they were quite tasty. No, he did not know if they tasted like chicken...

Why were the Israelites so unhappy at having to live in tents in the desert for all those years? We could not think of anything nicer than camping in a lovely warm climate.

It would have been much better than our own experiences when Dad's wobbly tent was washed away in the Scottish Highlands, and we were eaten alive by midges.

Fancy living in a warm, dry climate in vast stripy tents with carpet floors, surrounded by herds of goats and sheep and camels. It would be like having your own zoo!

And we would have visited oases, which we envisioned as being a bit like the local swimming pool, only with no chlorine and landscaped with palm trees.

I was delighted in my early teens to be given an American version of the Old Testament in modern English.

However, some of this was as gruesome as a Hammer horror film - Jael stealing into the sleeping enemy leader's tent so she could kill him with a tent peg; Queen Jezebel (a real besom if there ever was one) being killed by falling out of the window and then being eaten by dogs.

But there was the wonderful time when the sun stopped for Joshua in order for his side to win a battle.

And one story included the poetic sentence "The stars in their courses fought against Sisera." I rolled this silently round my mouth in delight.

The inspiration of the New Testament has lasted my whole life through. But those puzzles of the Old Testament still linger in my mind...

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From Zion Chapel to Christ Church

This series of articles by Stephen Gilbert is taking a brief pause, as lockdown measures in place at the time of writing have delayed access to images being provided by Enfield Local Studies & Archive. Keep an eye out for part 4 coming soon!

Easter Forest

*Gather in our local
'outdoor cathedral'*

Celebrating: CHURCH

COMMUNITY

Creativity

Creation

AND THE

Creator



12.00pm Saturday 3rd April

The Scout Field
The Paulin Ground
(Top of) Ford's Grove
Winchmore Hill N21 3ER

[what3words ///lands.mute.basis](http://what3words:///lands.mute.basis)

Car Park between Ford's Grove and Farm Road
Entrance to field opposite car park entrance

Further info: revd.melanie@gmail.com



Buck Hill Park - Forest Hill - Oak Church - Lancaster Road - Palmers Green - Winchmore Hill - Trinity Hamstead URC

Prayer diary April 2021

- 1st** - Maundy Thursday: Pray for the events of the Last Supper.
2nd - Good Friday: Reflect on Jesus' suffering and death on the cross.
3rd - Pray for today's Easter Forest Church event.
4th - Easter Sunday: Celebrate the risen King!
5th - Pray for your own personal faith.
6th - Pray for our elders.
7th - Give thanks to God for always being there beside us.
8th - Pray for healthcare workers.
9th - Give thanks to God for his word to us through the Bible.
10th - Pray for this morning's Zoom Bible Study.
11th - Pray for the members of The Worship Group as they lead our time of worship this morning.
12th - Pray for your friends and family.
13th - Pray for the work of Enfield Council.
14th - Pray for Mark and Melanie.
15th - Pray for the residents of Monks Road.
16th - Pray for those who are new to the Christian faith.
17th - Pray for our friends from the other URCs in our area.
18th - Pray for our friend Terry Silvey as he leads our time of worship today.
19th - Pray for all those beginning a new school term today.
20th - Pray for the government.
21st - Pray for the community around us.
22nd - Pray for the work of the North Enfield Foodbank.
23rd - St George's Day: Pray for England.
24th - Pray for the young people in our church fellowship.
25th - Pray for our friend Laura Marlow as she leads our time of worship today.
26th - Pray for the work of KSN Hospital in India.
27th - Pray for peace where there is conflict.
28th - Pray for all those who are facing mental health struggles at this time.
29th - Give thanks to God for the beauty of his creation.
30th - Pray for God's guidance in your life.

Church diary April 2021

We are pleased to confirm that face-to-face worship services at Christ Church will resume with effect from Easter Sunday.

Social distancing, hand cleansing and face covering requirements will remain in place, and Track and Trace records will be maintained in line with Government guidance. Please also follow any instructions as given by the elders. To begin with, people will be expected to leave as soon as the service has ended and refreshments will not be served.

Services at Christ Church will be streamed live via Zoom for those unable to attend in person. Please contact Mark for joining instructions.

Thursday 1st April **8:00pm**
Maundy Thursday Communion Service (via Zoom)
Please contact Mark for joining instructions

Friday 2nd April **2:30pm**
Good Friday Service (via Zoom)
Please contact Mark for joining instructions

On Good Friday there will also be short services at Bush Hill Park URC (10:00am) and Lancaster Road URC (12:00pm), both of which will be live streamed. Please contact Mark for joining instructions, or if you plan to attend one of the services in person.

Saturday 3rd April 12:00pm
Easter Forest Church (Enfield URCS event - at the Scout Field, Ford's Grove, Winchmore Hill - see page 12)

Sunday 4th April **11:15am**
Revd Mark Meatcher
Easter Sunday & Holy Communion (offering for the Communion Fund)

Saturday 10th April 9:30am to 10:30am
Zoom Bible Study Group
Please contact Mark for joining instructions

Sunday 11th April 11:15am
The Worship Group

Sunday 18th April 11:15am
Terry Silvey

Sunday 25th April 11:15am
Laura Marlow

Communion offerings

The elders would like to invite suggestions from the wider fellowship for any causes they would like to see supported at our monthly communion offerings.

If you have any thoughts please contact Rosemary Milns, Church Secretary, on secretary@ccurc.org.uk or 020 8363 6571 by the end of April.

May 2021 newsletter

The **May 2021** edition of the newsletter will be published on **Sunday 25th April**. Items intended for inclusion in this issue should be with the editor by Sunday 18th April. Any late submissions may be held over to the following issue.

Regular activities at Christ Church

SUNDAY

11:15am

Morning worship
(Holy Communion - first Sunday)
(Family Parade Service - third Sunday)
(regular service - other Sundays)

11:15am

Adventurers (children aged 3 upwards)

MONDAY

2:15pm

Friendship Club (once monthly - see diary)

6:00pm to 7:30pm

Boys' Brigade Anchors (boys aged 5 to 8)

6:00pm to 7:30pm

Boys' Brigade Juniors (boys aged 8 to 11)

7:30pm to 9:15pm

Boys' Brigade Company Section (boys aged 11 to 15)

7:30pm to 9:15pm

Boys' Brigade Seniors (boys aged 15 to 18)

FRIDAY

5:00pm to 6:15pm

Rainbows (girls aged 5 to 7)

6:00pm to 7:30pm

Brownies (girls aged 7 to 10)

7:30pm to 9:00pm

Guides (girls aged 10 to 14)

7:30pm to 9:00pm

Rangers (girls aged 14 to 20)

SATURDAY

9:00am to 10:30am

Breakfast Bible Study Group
(twice monthly - see diary)

Please note that current circumstances mean that regular activities may not be taking place as they normally would.

For details of other special events and activities please see the diary.



Christ Church

United Reformed Church



Christ Church URC is a part of the **North Enfield Group of URCS**
and the **North West Enfield Group of Churches.**

Motto: "Enter to worship, depart to serve."

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.

Address: Christ Church URC, Chase Side, Enfield, EN2 6NJ

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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