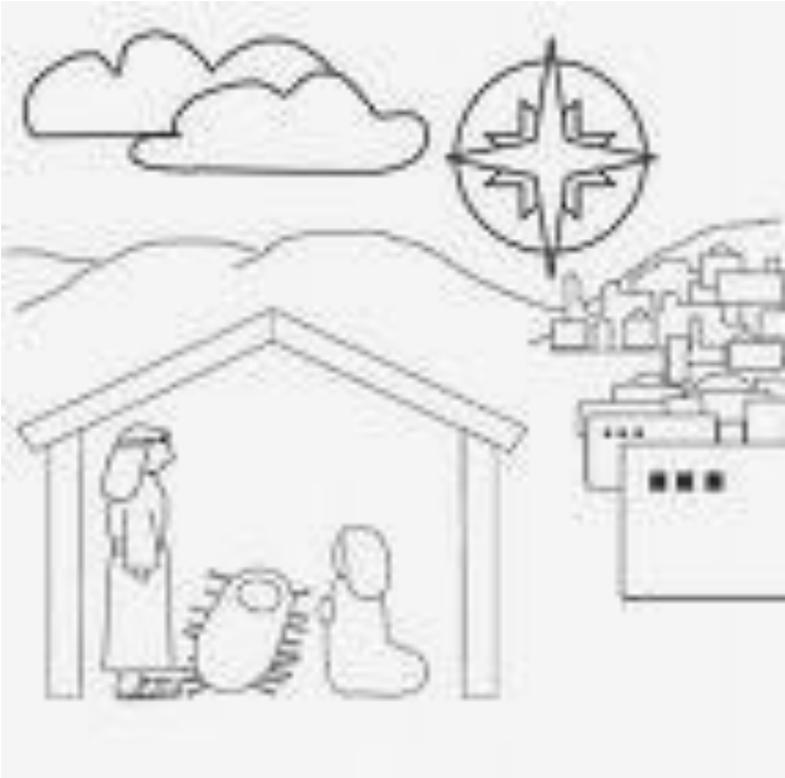




# **CHRIST CHURCH URC**

**Chase Side, Enfield**

**Minister Rev'd David Atkinson**



**December 2007 -  
January 2008**

# 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*

## MONDAY

- 6.30 pm Boys' Brigade Anchor Boys (5-8 years)  
6.30 pm Junior Section (8-11 years)  
7.30 pm Company Senior Section  
(11-18 years) (including band practice)

## 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,

On Sunday, 6<sup>th</sup> May 2007 we held our first Every Person Challenge which is called, "Going for Growth". The Challenge is meant to last for one year and so I want to let you know how we are progressing after the first six months.

One Challenge was to raise £850 to buy a power loom for a silk weaver in India. The response has been excellent and our target of £850 was met on 4<sup>th</sup> November. We are only a small fellowship with about 33 members and several valuable friends so to raise so much money in only six months is a great effort. Thank you very much. Please remember that a poorly paid silk weaver and his family in India will benefit greatly.

Another Challenge was to have a Church Day. This took place on Saturday, 20<sup>th</sup> October. I thoroughly enjoyed the Day and feel we had some good fellowship alongside the spiritual teaching. A total of thirteen people attended the Day. Thank you to everyone who organised, led and supported the Day.

Another Challenge centres around personal spiritual growth and in particular prayer and bible reading. On Tuesday, 18<sup>th</sup> September I held a meeting about developing our bible reading skills. I also gave out daily bible reading notes by Scripture Union called "Daily Bread", and copies of "The 100-Minute Bible" to everyone who had ticked the challenge that they want to develop their bible reading skills and to all those who came to the meeting.

I was very pleased that eleven people offered to lead prayer in worship and so far eight people have done this. I welcome

members of the congregation both reading the bible and leading prayer in our services.

This is just a brief progress report and I am sure that other Challenges will have already been fulfilled.

At the same time as we gave out the Challenge forms we also gave out a Prayer Card. Please do continue to use this Prayer Card which reads:

Ephesians 4 v. 15: "Let us speak the truth in love; so shall we fully grow into Christ."

"Lord, we pray for growth. Help us to grow in our active support for the needy and disadvantaged both at home and overseas. Help us to grow in our caring for one another at Christ Church. Help us to grow in our personal faith by giving more time to prayer and bible study. Above all help us to grow in Christ. Amen.

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

## **NEWS OF THE FELLOWSHIP**

Marion Wiley had an operation to remove a cataract on 8<sup>th</sup> November at the North Middlesex Hospital.

Congratulations to Sarah Hislop and Sean Harry on their engagement on 21<sup>st</sup> October.

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

## **T L S Lite**

I will be leading the T L S Lite Introductory Course which consists of three units with meetings on Wednesday, 16<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> January and 13<sup>th</sup> February at 7:45pm for 8p.m. at the manse. If all goes well I hope to lead the whole course which has twenty-eight units.

T L S (Training for Learning and Serving) Lite is for anyone who wishes to know more about Christianity and is helpful to those who want to lead worship. If you wish to attend this course please contact me as soon as possible. The Introductory Course material costs £2:50p and you will need this two weeks before the first meeting.

David.

## **Church Bazaar**

A big thank you to everyone who helped to make our bazaar such a happy occasion. Special thanks are due to our friends from Pure Word Ministries for again providing their delicious lunches. It was good that some of our friends from Lancaster Road Church were able to come and support us. Altogether we raised just over £500.00

# FRIENDSHIP CLUB

The club will not be meeting in December, but the **SPRING SESSION** will commence on

**JANUARY 9TH 2008 AT 2.15PM**

Meeting in the church hall as usual

Our minister the Revd David Atkinson will be telling us of THE LOOM PROJECT and showing slides of his recent visit to India, and of the poverty in that country, in which this project hopes to collect funds for purchasing a loom. There may also be Indian scarves to purchase

**ON JANUARY 23rd** friends from **Fair Trade** will talk to us and we hope to have fair trade goods for sale.

*"We wish all our members and friends a very Happy Christmas and we pray they will experience the truth and joy of this wonderful season, when our saviour was born to show us how to live, and to share Gods wonderful love for each one of us"*

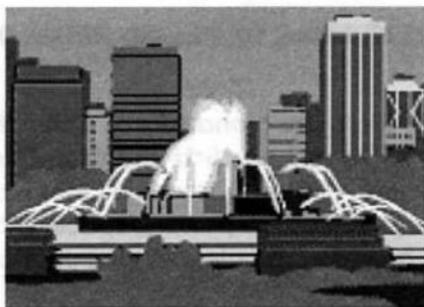
**We warmly invite our friends to join us in the hall on alternate Wednesdays afternoons.**

Lily Smith

**Thames North Synod  
QUIET DAY for ADVENT**

# **Finding Oases in Urban Places**

Liz Watson,  
from The World Community for Christian Meditation will  
help us focus our thoughts during the day.



**Thursday 6th December 2007, 10.00—15.00**  
**at the Benedictine Centre for Spirituality**  
**29 Bramley Road, Cockfosters**  
**LONDON, N14 4HE**  
*(near Cockfosters Underground Station)*

**Hot drinks will be provided but you are asked to  
bring a packed lunch**



**The  
United  
Reformed  
Church**

*for more information or to book a place  
contact Sue Russell in the Synod office  
(tel 020 7799 5000, email  
development@urcthamesnorth.ora.uk)*

# Christ Church, Church Day 20.10.07

## Prayer – What’s it all about?

### 1. Why should we pray?

The most basic question about prayer is: why should we pray? Here are my answers:

**Jesus prayed.** On one occasion after a busy day of teaching in the synagogue and healing many sick people we are told Jesus got up very early next morning, went away to a lonely place and remained there in prayer. On another occasion Jesus went into the hills and spent the night in prayer to God. The next day he called and chose the twelve apostles. **Mark 1 35, Luke 6 12-13**

**Jesus taught his followers to pray.** Jesus told his followers to pray what we now call the Lord’s Prayer. Mathew 6 9-13

**The apostle Paul urges the Christians he wrote to pray,** He tells the Christians at Colossae, “Persevere in prayer”. He tells the Christians at Thessaloniki, “Pray continually”. **Colossians 4 2, 1 Thessalonians 5 17.**

**Christians throughout the centuries and across the world have prayed.** Prayer is central to the Christian life.

### 2. How do we pray?

The next question is: How do we pray? I am no expert at prayer and I do find prayer difficult. Sometimes I don’t want to spend the time praying – I would rather watch television, read a book, phone a friend or do something else. Sometimes when I am praying my mind wanders off God and onto something or someone Else. I lose concentration. And sometimes I’ve just dozed off! But despite these personal difficulties and weaknesses I still persist in prayer and find prayer helpful.

So here are a few practical suggestions:

a) **Praying about anxieties and problems.** Firstly, make a written list of your problems. They will probably come into three categories: i) health, ii) family and personal relationships, iii)

work and money. You may well find that by writing your problems down there aren't as many as you thought. Secondly, write a list of the things you can do to resolve your problems. You might come up with solution A and solution B. Of course, you might not be able to do anything to resolve your problems. Do all you can and then leave the rest to God.

In your prayers begin by being thankful to God for all the blessings in your life e.g. family and friends, food and water, home and shelter. You could even make a written list and find that this list of blessings far outnumbers the list of your problems. Then take your list of problems and solutions to God in prayer. As you pray listen for the need to say sorry when you have caused the problem and listen for God's guidance.

b) **Praying about our needs and relationships.** One of the great difficulties about praying for our needs is that we may not know what to pray for. For example. We may be going to meet someone we don't particularly like so we pray for strength to deal with the person. However, what we really need may not be such strength but rather love for the person. So when we pray to God for our own needs we should try to pray with an open mind, willing to listen to God and willing to receive God's guidance. Maybe instead of praying, "Lord, help me to do this"; let us pray, "Lord, show me what I must do".

c) **Confession.** When we confess our sins we need to be honest about ourselves. For example, we may think we are speaking modestly about our achievements but other people may think we are being boastful. Again for example, we may think we try our utmost to get things right and are a bit of a perfectionist, but others may find us impatient. One way to be honest about ourselves is to ask what Jesus would do? Examine our thoughts, words and actions in the light of Jesus's goodness and love. This may well reveal our weaknesses and inadequacies.

So our first step is to confess our sins. We need to be truly sorry for them. The next step is to receive God's forgiveness. John writes in his first letter, "If we confess our sins, God is just, and may be trusted to forgive our sins and cleanse us from every kind of wrong." Receive God's forgiveness and know his peace. Finally, try to stop doing whatever is wrong. Seek God's guidance and strength to refrain from sin and to do what is

right. This is far from easy but God can help us.

## 1John 1 9

d) **Being thankful.** Whenever you pray find something to praise and thank God for. I always begin my prayers with praise and thanksgiving. Consider what we can be thankful for:

- i) The world around us – day and night; the seasons of the year; trees and flowers; animals, birds, fish and insects. Praise and be thankful for the wonder, beauty, variety and order of creation.
- ii) Food and water.
- iii) Health and strength.
- iv) Homes, shelter and warmth.
- v) Family and friends.
- vi) God's love in Jesus Christ.

One suggestion, if you don't already do it, is to say grace before your meals. Thank God for your food and water.

Make thankfulness a way of life – be thankful to God and to other people. If you thank God for someone maybe that will prompt you to say thank you to the person by word of mouth, card, letter or e-mail.

e) **Praying for others and the world.** This can be daunting. You may know of many people you feel you should pray for: family, friends, church people, the sick, those with problems, difficult world situations. So how can you pray for all these people and situations?

My suggestion is that you make a prayer list. I do this on sheets of A4 paper, but you could use a booklet. If your list is very long, pray for particular people on certain days e.g. Monday your family, Tuesday your friends, Wednesday church people and activities and so on... Of course, you may want to pray for certain people who are ill or have serious problems every day for several days or weeks. You can find ideas for praying about the wider world from the radio or television news or your newspaper.

When you write a name or situation you could add a few words of explanation e.g. Mary who has cancer, John – Thanks for him gaining his degree, Bill – applying for a job, Church Meeting – God's guidance, Iraq – God's mercy and

peace for those who died.

I usually limit how many people and situations I pray for. I would rather pray for 3 or 4 in some depth rather than a lot of people and situations without giving much thought to them.

Also be ready for God speaking to you – He may ask you to help someone, visit someone, send someone a card and so on...

f) **Short prayers at any time.** One way of praying is deliberately to go into a room to kneel and pray. But another way is to do a short prayer related to your circumstances. For example, before I chair a church meeting or an Elders' meeting I usually have a short prayer in which I ask God to give me guidance in what I say and love for everyone present regardless of what they say. Another example is if you go for a walk in the countryside, stop and look around you at the beauty of the sky, trees and fields and thank God for the loveliness of nature. Another example is before you telephone someone, whoever that person may be, ask for God's love and blessing with the person.

If you do a lot of these short prayers prayer becomes more and more a way of life.

g) **Prayer of stillness.** My final thought is a prayer of stillness. Some people lead very busy lives with work, family, leisure activities, travelling, time-tables, telephone and so on... This means it is very easy for the spiritual dimension to get squeezed out of our lives. There is always something else to do. So why not do the prayer of stillness.

It works like this. Sit down, uncross your legs, open your hands and relax them, relax your shoulders and put everything you need to do out of your mind. Then close your eyes, take a deep breath, let it out and relax. Then say quietly, "Lord, here I am in your presence and nothing else matters but this moment of peace." You may wish to repeat this exercise. Try it during the day.

What you are doing is being aware of the presence of God and having God's peace. This will give you at least several moments of peace during a busy day. The psalmist wrote, "Be still, and know that I am God". Psalm 46 10 (A.V)

Revd David Atkinson

# Christmas Bible Quiz

1	Who told Mary that she would give birth to the baby Jesus?
2	Why did Joseph marry Mary after he learned she was going to have a child?
3	Who was king of Judea when Jesus was born?
4	Before whom did a multitude of angels appear, praising God?
5	Where did Jesus grow up?
6	Which prophetess served in the temple day and night and spoke of Jesus to all who looked for redemption?
7	What baby leaped in his mother's womb when he heard the sound of Mary's voice?
8	Where was Jesus born?
9	Who was the Roman emperor at the time of His birth?
10	After the wise men left, where did an angel tell Joseph and Mary to take the child?
11	Who did God promise that he would not die until he saw the Christ?
12	What is the meaning of Immanuel?

Answers at back of newsletter

If you thought that fair trade  
was just about coffee and tea,  
think again...

# the fair trade fair

> > > think fair : be fair : buy fair

With an amazing array of the world's  
finest crafts and a huge variety of  
georgeous gifts, all fairly traded, this is  
truly the largest Fair Trade Fair in the  
UK, and it's right on your doorstep.

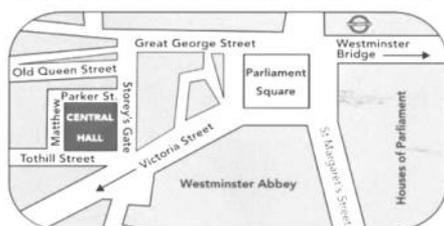
## **Westminster Central Hall Parliament Square**

**Sat 1st Dec** 12pm to 6pm

**Sun 2nd Dec** 12pm to 5pm

**Nearest Tube:** Westminster

**Admission £3** (conc. £1)



# CHURCH DAY –SATURDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2007

## THE BIBLE – EXPLORING GOD’S WORD

This is a summary of what was covered by the session.

### **1. What versions of the Bible are available? Which is the best one to use?**

There were different versions of the Bible on display in the Hall. People were also asked to name as many versions of the Bible as they could. We came up with 21 without too much difficulty!

### **2. Why do we need to read the Bible?**

In the URC Statement of Faith it says that “The highest authority for what we believe and do is God’s word in the Bible, alive for his people today through the help of the Holy Spirit”.

When you go on an unfamiliar journey it is so much easier to find your way if you are given a map or list of instructions. The Bible contains instructions for our Christian journey of faith.

The Bible has been compared to many things such as:-

Food – 1 Peter 2:2; Matthew 4:4

A cleanser – John 15:3; Psalm 119:9

A seed – the Parable of the Sower, Luke 8:11

A sword – Hebrews 4:12; Ephesians 6:17

A lamp – Psalm 119:105

We should read the Bible to, amongst other things:-

Deepen our relationship with God – he does not want us to remain spiritual babies for ever.

Withstand temptation and wrong doing.

Be able to proclaim the Good News.

### **3. How do you choose which version of the Bible to read?**

There is no right or wrong version of the Bible. Which is appropriate depends upon the individual and the circumstances in which they are using it.

The King James version has some beautiful language, but can be difficult to understand.

The Good News may not be as precise a translation as the New Revised Standard version, but it is easy to understand.

The Message and The Street Bible are modern paraphrases,

which may be useful when working with young people, or people new to Christianity.

Be ready to try different versions and decide which is the most suitable for you.

#### **4. Understanding the Bible**

Sometimes the meaning of a Bible passage is not obvious. If it is not the following may be of help in understanding it and applying it today.

**Stage 1 – Understand** – what does the passage actually say?

Setting – When and where was the book or passage written?

Purpose – Why was it written?

Form – How or in what form was it written?

Context - What is the book as a whole about?

Words – What is the meaning of individual words?

**Stage 2 – Explain** – what does the passage mean?

What did the passage mean to its original readers?

What is the main point or teaching of the passage?

How does it compare with other, perhaps clearer, Bible passages?

If it was written to meet particular needs at the time, is there a general principle which still applies?

**Stage 3 – Apply** – what does the passage mean today?

What is an equivalent situation today to that of the original readers?

Does the passage have some specific teaching about God, man, the world, the Church.....?

Is there an example to follow, or a warning or a promise?

Is there any action to be taken in the light of the passage?

Does it lead to prayer or praise? Can we make the writer's words or expressions of feeling our own?

#### **5. How to approach reading the Bible**

There are many different types of Bible Reading notes, which can be used. (If you would like to see some examples of these, please speak to Rosemary Milns).

Some notes plan to cover the Bible in one year, or perhaps two years. (Please see Pamela Mansley for example plans).

It is important to set aside a specific time for reading the Bible.

This needn't necessarily be the same time each day, but it should be a point when you can have an uninterrupted period of

time to pray, read a Bible passage and then consider the meaning and application of the passage to your life.

Another useful thing to try is memorising Bible verses. This helps us to:-

Enrich our fellowship with others;

Tell others about Christ;

Defend ourselves against temptation and wrongdoing;

Live in faith;

Claim the promises of God.

Rosemary Milns

## **CRISIS AT CHRISTMAS**

On Sunday December 16th at the Christmas Nativity service, gifts of tinned food etc will be welcome, to support CRISIS in their work of giving homeless people a happy Christmas.

### **The following gifts will be welcomed at the service.**

Tinned food e.g. Tomatoes + baked beans, Chocolate Bars, Sweet + Savoury biscuits, Tea bags, Instant coffee, Sauces + Spreads. Ketchup, Jam, Honey + Marmite. Crisps and Savoury snacks.

Tin foil, cling film and greaseproof paper.

Cleaning materials and Stationery items

Also larger items Fridges and freezers.

### **NO WOMENS CLOTHING**

If you are unable to attend on December 16th, these gifts can be brought on previous Sundays and given to Lily and Ron Smith at the after- service refreshment table

# CHILDREN'S INTERNATIONAL VOICES OF ENFIELD

THREE OUTSTANDING CHOIRS for BOYS & GIRLS

Ages 4-8 ~ 8-18 & 14-18 (4 Part Chorale)

Patron Dr John Rutter C.B.E.

President Professor Stephen Wilder G.R.S.M A.R.C.M.

Director Dr June Keyte M.B.E. A.R.A.M.



All Welcome Tickets Available at the Door  
£5 Adults - Children FREE  
or from the Box Office Tel : 020-8882 7404

# Definitions

## 'spotted' by Ena Little

"Father" said the minister's son, "My teacher says that 'collect' and 'congregate' mean the same thing. Do they?" "Perhaps, my son they do" said the minister, and then added reflectively "But there is a vast difference between 'a congregation' and a 'collection'."



Answers to quiz		
1	The angel Gabriel	7
2	An angel told him to marry her	8
3	Herod	9
4	Shepherds	10
5	Nazareth	11
6	Anna	12
	God with us	



# December Church Diary 2008

29th Nov 7.30pm

Elders meeting

1st Dec 10am-  
4pm

**Multicultural Celebration Day**

All age event

Further information is found at the back of the church and is available from 020 7916 8655



**Sun 2nd 11am**

**The Revd David Atkinson  
Holy Communion offering for Bible Society  
Duty Elder— Ron Smith**

Wed 5th 9.45am  
-11.15

Joint bible study with Lancaster Road at Lancaster Road URC

Thurs 6th 10am—  
3pm

Finding Oases in Urban Places—  
see Advert in newsletter

Sat 8th 10.30—  
12md

Practice for Nativity in Christ Church

**Sun 9th 11 am**

**Mr Terry Silvey  
Duty Elder — Ron Smith**

Sat 15th 10.30—  
12md

Practice for Nativity in Christ Church

- Sun 16th 11am** **The Revd David Atkinson and the Worship Group.**  
**Christmas Nativity and Family Parade Service. Loose offering for the Royal National Institute for Deaf people**  
**Gifts of food for CRISIS**  
**Duty Elder— Stephen Gilbert**
- Wed 19th 9.45am -11.15** **Joint bible study with Lancaster Road at Lancaster Road URC**
- Thurs 20th 6.30pm** **Christdingle Service.** Children to arrive at 6pm to make their Christdingles, Service at 6.30pm  
**All welcome**
- 7.45-9.15** **Bible study at Christ Church in the hall—beginners room**
- Sun 23rd 11am** **Service of Lessons and Carols**  
**Duty Elder— Pamela Mansley**
- Tues 25th 10am** **Christmas Day joint service with Enfield Evangelical Free Church and Christ Church URC**
- Sun 30th 10.30** **Breakfast Service**  
**The Worship Group**  
**Duty Elder- Pamela Fisher**

# January Church Diary 2008

- Wed 9.45am Joint bible study with Lancaster  
2nd -11.15 Road at Lancaster Road URC
- Thurs 7.30pm Elders meeting  
3rd
- Sun 4th 11am The Revd David Atkinson  
Elders induction  
Holy Communion offering for the  
communion fund  
Duty Elder— Pamela Mansley**
- Wed 9th 2.15pm Friendship club  
Our minister the **Revd David Atkinson** will be telling us of THE LOOM PROJECT and showing slides of his recent visit to India
- Sun 13th 11am Mr Les Moody  
Duty Elder — Pamela Fisher**
- Wed 16th 9.45am- Joint bible study with Lancaster  
11.15 Road at Lancaster Road URC
- Sun 20th 11am The Revd David Atkinson and King  
Jehoshaphat's Camels  
Family Parade Service  
Duty Elder— Ron Smith**

- Wed 2.15pm Friendship club  
23rd Friends from **Fair Trade** will talk to us and we hope to have fair trade goods for sale.
- Thurs 7.45- Bible study at Christ Church in the  
24th 9.15 hall—beginners room
- Sun 11am Mr Terry Silvey**  
27th **Duty Elder— Stephen Gilbert**
- Wed 9.45am Joint bible study with Lancaster  
30th -11.15 Road at Lancaster Road URC

## February Church diary 2008

- Sun 3rd 11am The Revd David Atkinson  
Holy Communion offering for  
Shanthigramam  
Duty Elder— Pamela Mansley
- 12.30pm Church meeting
- Sun 11am The Worship Group  
10th Duty Elder - Ron Smith

## Advance dates for 2008

### Elders Meetings

- 29th December  
3rd January  
6th March

### Church Meetings

- 3rd February  
**AGM 30th March**

# \*\* 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.

## Pilots day organised for May 2008

### WHERE:

Pilots meet in  
the church hall

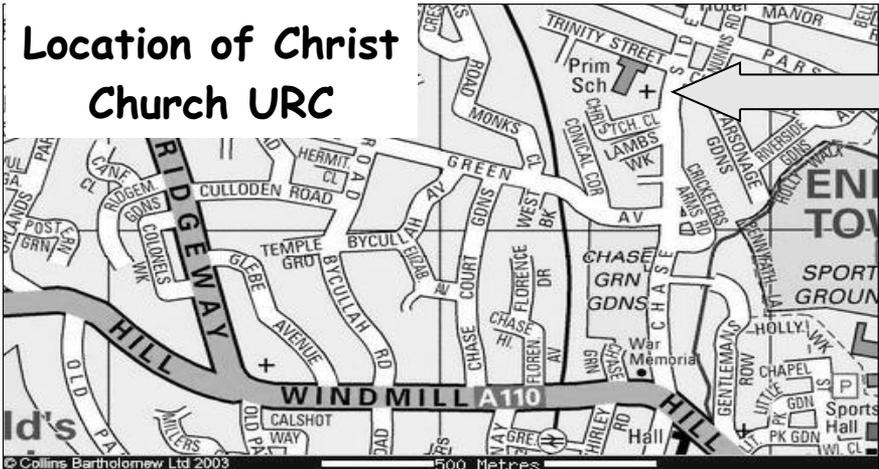


### WHEN:

Sunday  
mornings from  
11am to 12 noon

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 **February 08** issue should reach the Editor by **2nd Sunday in January 08**.

Items can be either handed to or sent to:-

Pamela Fisher

40b Chase Green Avenue, Enfield EN2 8EB

020 8482 4610 email ; pjf\_40b@hotmail.com