

CHRIST CHURCH URC

Chase Side, Enfield

Minister Rev'd David Atkinson



A valentine card from Jesus

February 2010

www.christchurcurenfield.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

6.00pm -7.30pm

Anchor Boys (5-8 years)

6.00pm - 7.30pm

Junior Section (8-11 years)

7.30pm— 9.30pm

Company Section (11-15 years)

7.30pm — 9.30pm

Senior Section (15-18 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)

MINISTERS LETTER

Dear Friends,

One of the privileges of my ministry has been that occasionally I have been able to visit other countries and get to know a little about their life-styles and history. In 1998 I did a pastoral exchange with Pastor Bill Moser who came to my church in Ipswich, England and I went to his church in Ipswich, South Dakota, U.S.A. Whilst there I spent a little time visiting museums, reading books and travelling to learn more about South Dakota.

One of the books I read was called, "The Land They Possessed" which is a novel by Mary Worthy Breneman in which she tells the story of the first white settlers in South Dakota in 1885-1894. In one incident the town doctor, Doctor Gotthelf, is visiting young Katie who has just had a son, Joshua. There has been a terrible tragedy leading up to Josh's birth. Joshua's father, who is also called Joshua, has married Katie secretly against his mother's will. When his mother finds out she is furious with Joshua and orders him to return home. Joshua is a weak man who has always been under his mother's thumb and he meekly submits leaving Katie. But Joshua is so ashamed of himself that he hangs himself. A little later Katie gives birth to their son, Josh.

Katie says to the doctor, "I don't know how to stop crying since little Josh came."

The doctor replied, "You'll have these times, you know; when they come, think about the baby and your parents. Think like this: If I cry my baby cries, so I must smile. If I weep my mother weeps; I will not cause her more tears. I will keep my mind on them both."

Katie said, “But I can’t...”

The doctor continued, “As long as you think of yourself first, Katie, you won’t. Remember, it was your mother-in-law thinking of herself first who brought about this trouble. Are you going to start out the same way?”

Katie said, “Oh, no.”

The doctor went on, “Then try my plan. Babies can sense unhappiness as easily as older folks.”

Katie’s best friend, Michal, is present and says seriously, “That’s what Christ meant, then when he said to love others as ourselves.”

I leave this extract for you to ponder over. May the love and peace of God be with you all. David.

SERMONS ON SOCIAL ISSUES

In 2008 in my reading week I read Rob Frost’s book, “Doing the Right Thing: 10 issues on which Christians have to take a stand”. This has prompted me to write sermons on some of these issues and I propose to continue this in 2010.

Sunday, 31st January 11a.m. at Lancaster Road and

Sunday, 7th February 11a.m. at Christ Church:

“What should the Christian approach be to abortion?”

Sunday, 28th February 11a.m. at Lancaster Road and

Sunday, 7th March 11a.m. at Christ Church:

“What should the Christian approach be to euthanasia?”

David.

NEWS OF THE FELLOWSHIP

Marion Wiley has had an operation in Barnet Hospital.

Mary Smart was in University College Hospital over Christmas.

Silvretta Simmons has left Chase Farm Hospital and is now living in a home in Bush Hill Park.

Let us remember all our church fellowship in our thoughts and prayers. David.

Absent friends

Christmas greetings have been received from a number of former members at Christ Church.

Roy and Joy Martin live in retirement in Milton Keynes. Roy was minister at Christ Church in the 1980's.

Rob and Chris Willis have now both retired. Chris was associate minister at Christ Church from 1991-3 before ministries at Edmonton, Cheshunt, Hertford and Melbourne in Derbyshire. They have now become members of the 600 strong Frinton Free Church and live at 6 South House, 2 Queens Road, Frinton-on-Sea, Essex CO13 9BJ, Telephone 01255 678948. Both Mark and Dawn's families are growing up and Dawn now sings with the Ely Choral Society.

Norman and Jean Griggs live in Duxford in Cambridgeshire and have joined Emmanuel URC Cambridge where they take Vivian and Mary Buddle. (Vivian was minister at Christ Church from 1960 to 1965 before becoming a religious education teacher). Both Tim and Andrew Griggs now have a daughter.

Geoff and Evelyn Bailey live in Haddenham in Cambridgeshire. Sally and Jill are both married with families and Katy is now deputy head teacher at a school in Dubai. She plans to get married in April in St Pauls Cathedral Chapel.

Stephen Gilbert

CHRISTIANITY EXPLORED

Have
Faith
in
GOD

We are holding a
'Christianity Explored' course in
February and March 2010.

Over 7 weeks we will explore three questions that are
right at the heart of Christianity:

Who was Jesus?

Why did he come?

What is involved in following him?

To help us answer these question we will use the
Gospel of Mark. Each week we will have the opportunity
to explore part of Mark's Gospel using videos and
discussion questions.

This is a course which will be interesting, exciting and
challenging for everyone:

For people with little or no knowledge about Christianity
it gives the opportunity to ask questions and search for
answers.

For people relatively new to the Christian faith it gives
the opportunity to learn and grow.

For those already committed to following Jesus Christ
it gives the opportunity to deepen faith and be better
equipped to share faith with others.

The sessions will be held at the manse, 50, Churchbury Lane, each Thursday evening for 7 weeks starting on 11th February from 8.00pm to 9.30pm and people are invited to arrive about 7.45pm to start with a cup of tea or coffee.

So, who was Jesus? Why did he come? And what does it mean to follow him?

Join with us to explore these questions which are basic to our Christian faith.

For more information contact the minister Revd David Atkinson 020 8363 4571,
Sylvia Coombs - 020 8363 3543,
Rosemary Milns - 0208 363 6571

Special Collection and Communion Offerings 2009

Shanthigramam	£187
Lancaster Road URC	
Suppers for the homeless	£86
Friends of Cheviots	£15
Sight Savers International	£118
Mission Aviation Fellowship	£57
Goldie College	£57
Bible Society	£15
Communion Offering	£423

Christmas Bazaar

Saturday 12th December

The Christmas bazaar was thoroughly enjoyed by all, lots of last minute presents were brought.



Special guest.....



Music performed by Pure Word Healing Ministry and Martyn Stogdon and friends.....



Many varied stalls.....

Lots of support from the youth organisations....



Making it an fun event.



Nativity Service

20th December



All enjoyed our traditional telling of the Christmas story with a few new faces in the cast, with lots of effort from all to make the story as bright and fresh as the first Christmas

Jazz Lunch @ Christ Church

On the 16th January we all enjoyed a wonderful Jazz performance from Four Hills Music's Studio Jazz Band and a lovely lunch together.



www.fourhillsmusic.co.uk



Check out our Website at Christ Church

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

www.christchurchurcenfield.org.uk

A decorative border surrounds the text, consisting of a row of small star icons at the top and bottom, and a vertical column of small candle icons on the left and right sides.

BE SAFE AND SOUND

Make an appointment with London Fire Brigade for a free home safety visit

The London Fire Brigade offers personal fire safety advice in you home and will also fit a free smoke alarm where needed. If you or someone you know wants a home safety visit, call us free on:

08000 28 44 28

Getting real on migration

By Vaughan Jones United Reformed Church minister

Lord Carey, who has joined forces with a group of lobbyists wanting to shoehorn their anti-immigration views into the forthcoming election campaign, is living in an unreal world.

Church offices and local clergy do indeed face daily frustration around immigration issues. But the problem is about restrictions on the life-chances of vulnerable people, not how to get people anxious about abstract population numbers or how to portray those of different background, culture and religion as a 'threat'.

For members of churches, for international theological students and for visiting church officials – among many others – harsh immigration controls championed by the main political parties (David Cameron has just joined the bandwagon, it seems) are biting hard. They create many pastoral problems, including the forced separation of families and the incarceration of children. Esoteric debates about supposed 'Christian culture' and British society are far removed from the coal-face. What we desperately need is for more church leaders to devote time and love to our brothers and sisters, many of whom are Christian, languishing in Britain's deportation centres.

In this context, Lord Carey's latest intervention (echoing views expressed in *The Times* back in November 2008 and the *News of the World* last year, it should be noted) let down hard working clergy and volunteers engaged in pastoral work with desperate people.

The relationship between migration and social, cultural and economic development is extremely complex. Crude, populist and simplistic comments like those of the former Archbishop add nothing new or helpful to the debate.

The migrant is not a stranger to the church to be accepted or rejected at our convenience. We are siblings within a transnational and interdependent global community that transcends narrow and outdated nationalism. Indeed it points forward, towards the kind of global community we so desperately need.

The narrative from which Christians derive wisdom is a story of a Diaspora community, an exiled community and an enslaved community. In order for the wisdom of our faith to flourish in our present day context, we need to identify those who share the experience of our community – whatever labels they wear, religious and otherwise.

Then we need to extend and expand with them the conception of the promised “abundant life” spoken of in the Gospel of St John.

Harsh immigration controls contravene the wisdom of the narrative of “good” Samaritans, of a new community, of missionary journeys, of imprisoned and tortured apostles, of persecuted minorities and of martyrs for truth and justice standing up to those with might and power.

It seems to me that it is impossible to commit yourself to the narrative of the faith of, and in, Jesus the Christ, and not see the perversity of separating human beings along ethnic lines, or of drawing lines across the map of God's creation and calling them borders.

Lord Carey's recent remarks also reveal the delusion of some in the Church of England around its anachronistic Established status. England's state church does not speak for all in the nation. It represents only one (and increasingly a minority) Christian tradition.

So as the Rev Aled Edwards has pointed out, Lord Carey's narrow sense of the ‘DNA of our nation’ will not be shared by many good citizens of different faiths and of none.

He adds: “The UK now also has three devolved Governments containing parties with a sense of national identity that isn't primarily British. This reality impacts increasingly on faith communities. The notion that migrants to Wales should be made to believe that they live in a country with an Established church is as quaint as it is erroneous. Wales has no Established church.”

Moreover, the church overall is growing in the UK through migration. Other faiths are also increasing through people movements, adding an important dimension and excitement to the re-emergence and diversification of faith in the UK.

The demand for an optimum population is fundamentally at odds with traditional Christian teaching. Christians believe in the protection of life and a just stewardship and sharing of the earth's resources. Without immigration we would need to take some very drastic decisions about who could and who could not survive. It is a matter of life and death.

The reality is that we are faced with a changing demography that will either require the UK to have a smaller population with fewer elderly people or a larger one which has a sufficient base of people who are economically active to support the larger number of people who are not.

Numbers are not the issue. In place of vacuous statements and sterile debates, we need a broader vision and the action needed to create international agreements on the movement and exchange of labour, peace-building, ecological responsibility and respect between people of all faiths and beliefs.

By Vaughan Jones
11 Jan 2010

Published on Ekklesia (<http://www.ekklesia.co.uk>)

© Vaughan Jones is a United Reformed Church minister in East London and director of Praxis, which has worked with displaced people in London since 1983. He is an Ekklesia associate.

See also: 'Are immigration controls moral?', by Vaughan Jones - <http://ekklesia.co.uk/research/280405immigration> [1]

Church contacts

www.christchurchurcenfield.org.uk

MINISTER	Rev'd David Atkinson	Tel 020 8363 4571
SECRETARY	Mr Stephen Gilburt	Tel 020 8363 0031
TREASURER	Mr David Fisher	Tel 020 8482 4610
PILOTS	Miss Rosemary Milns	Tel 020 8363 6571
BOYS' BRIGADE	Mr Adrian Bullock	Mob 07951 223 634
http://www.3rdenfieldbb.co.uk		
RAINBOWS/ GUIDES/ RANGERS	Mrs Tracey Rainbow	Tel 01992 307450 Mob. 07971 171511
BROWNIES	Kathleen Brown	Mob .07958153066
FRIENDSHIP CLUB	Mrs Lily Smith	Tel 020 8363 3788
HALL BOOKINGS SEC.	Mrs Pamela Mansley	Mob 07936 798722
NEWSLETTER	Mrs Pamela Fisher	Tel 020 8482 4610 Mob. 07775505999 pjf_40b@hotmail.com

February Church Diary

Wed 3rd 9.45- 11.15am Joint bible study with Lancaster Road at Lancaster Road URC

**Sun 7th 11am The Revd David Atkinson
Ordination and Induction of Elders
Holy Communion offering for
Shanthigramam (A home for leprosy
patients)
Duty Elder— Ron Smith
12.30pm Church Meeting**

Wed 10th 2.15pm Friendship Club
The Old Enfield Charitable Trust.

**Sun 14th 11am The Worship group
Duty Elder—Pamela Mansley**

Wed 17th 9.45- 11.15am Joint bible study with Lancaster Road at Lancaster Road URC

**Sun 21st 11am The Revd David Atkinson
Family Parade Service
Guides Thinking day
Duty Elder—Pamela Fisher**

Wed 10th 2.15pm Friendship Club
AGM. Followed by slides of Bruges.

**Sun 28th 11am Mr Terry Silvey
Duty Elder-Pamela Fisher**

March Church Diary

Sun 7th **11am** **The Revd David Atkinson**
Holy Communion offering for the
communion fund
Duty Elder— Sylvia Coombs

Wed 3rd **9.45-** **Joint bible study with Lancaster**
11.15am **Road at Lancaster Road URC**

Sun **11am** **The Worship group**
14th **Family Parade Service**
Mothering Sunday
Duty Elder—Pamela Mansley

Advance dates for 2010

Church Meetings

12.30pm

7th Feb

28th March AGM TBC

6th June

Elders Meetings

8pm

24th Feb

28th May

28th June

17th April 11am—2pm
Historic churches
guided tours

Saturday 20th March
Bible Quiz
Lancaster Road URC

Friday 5th March
Women's World
Day of Prayer

10.30am service at
St Michaels Church
7.30pm Bush Hill Park URC



** 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

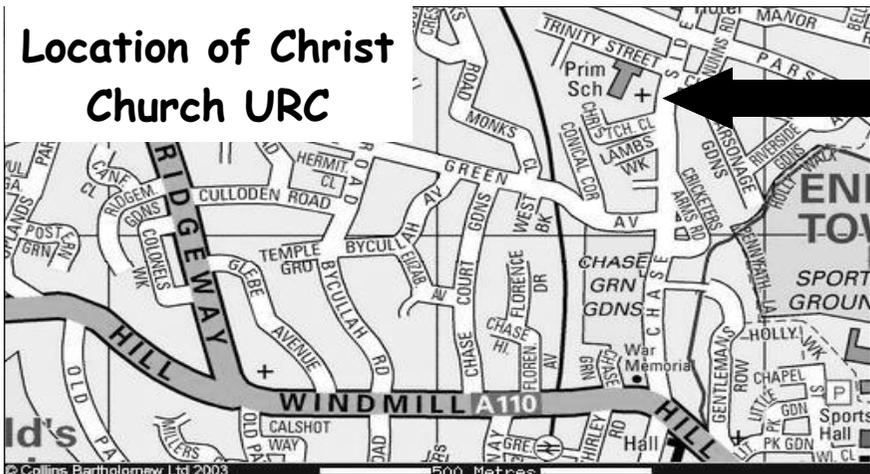


WHERE:

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 **March** issue should reach the Editor by **2nd Sunday of February**

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