

Christ Church United Reformed Church
NEWSLETTER

2021

January 2021

Getting in contact

Minister

Revd Mark Meatcher minister@ccurc.org.uk 020 8374 0509

Secretary

Rosemary Milns secretary@ccurc.org.uk 020 8363 6571

Treasurer & Property Committee

David Fisher treasurer@ccurc.org.uk 020 8482 4610

Bookings Secretary

Pamela Mansley bookings@ccurc.org.uk 07936 798 722

Newsletter & website

Tom Boorman newsletter@ccurc.org.uk 07903 605 545

Serving Elders

Pamela Fisher 07775 505 999

Rosemary Milns 020 8363 6571

Philip Taylor 07714 325 902

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 January 2021

Vision 2020

Twelve months ago we wrote in our church magazines about Vision 2020, the programme launched by the United Reformed Church about ten years ago now, designed to help us all look at our mission purpose.

None of us, we are sure, would have expected that the way in which we “do” church would have changed in the last twelve months as much as it has done.

Transferring what we do online, distributing paper copies of services and engaging with others when we have not been able to be physically present with them has been a challenge for all of us.

But as we re-consider those statements that Vision 2020 urged us to consider has something happened to us in our churches these past twelve months? Are we standing still as Christian communities or has there been growth of any kind?

The ten statements of Vision 2020 urged us to look at one or more of the following:

Spirituality and Prayer, Identity, Christian Ecumenical Partnerships, Community partnerships, Hospitality and Diversity, Evangelism, Church Growth, Global Partnerships, Justice and Peace and the integrity of creation.

Think for a moment or two about each of those headings and ask yourself whether those have changed, developed or been affected by what has actually gone on in 2020.

Please don't simply read this page and ignore it - take some time out to think and pray through these things.

For us this past year has been an immense challenge and our ministry has changed. We are also very conscious that in all likelihood our ministry will keep on changing in the weeks and months ahead.

We hope that we will be able to encourage growth in all the churches in the Enfield and the East Hertfordshire Local Area Group in some of these areas in the months ahead but nothing will happen unless all of us together set our hearts and minds to follow in Christ's footsteps and obey whatever the Holy Spirit guides us all to do.

So, as we prepare for a New Year, and what we hope will be a healthier and happier one for all of us, let us open our hearts to God's word to us today and *"press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus"* (Philippians 3:14).

May God be with you all at the start of the New Year.

Peace and Love

Your ministers,

Mark and Melanie

Zoom Bible Study Group

The Zoom Bible Study Group will continue to meet this month, on 2nd, 16th and 30th January at 10:30am.

If you would like to take part then please contact Mark for the Zoom joining instructions - remember you can join the group online (using a laptop, tablet etc.) or by telephone.

Election of elders

We are pleased to report that Pamela Fisher, Rosemary Milns and Philip Taylor were all elected to serve as elders for 2021 at our first ever virtual Church Meeting on Sunday 29th November. Details of the induction service will follow in due course.

Philip is returning to the eldership, having previously served between 2014 and 2018. We congratulate and pray for Pamela, Rosemary and Philip as they serve Christ Church in this way.

We also thank those who stood down at the end of 2020 - Tom Boorman after 3 years' service, and Stephen Gilbert, who upon becoming a new elder at the beginning of 1977 was wished "many happy years of service" in this newsletter - we're sure that came to pass!

We are grateful for Stephen's 44 years as an elder and the many other ways in which he has served and continues to serve God through the life of Christ Church.

News of the fellowship

We are very sorry to have recently learned that Geoff Bailey passed away earlier this year.

As a member of Christ Church, Geoff served in a number of capacities including as an elder and as Junior Church Warden.

Our thoughts and prayers are with his widow Evelyn and their daughters Sally, Jill and Katie at this time.

Enfield Churches Debt Centre

Dear friends,

We were so pleased that so many of you were able to join us at our **Promotional Evening on Zoom on Monday 16th November**. We hope that the evening proved useful in terms of helping people understand what we are trying to achieve in setting up a **Debt Centre** working with **Christians Against Poverty**.

Further progress has been made since our Promotional Evening - we now have a bank account set up that any donations to support the cost of the work can be paid in. The account is held in the name of Enfield Churches Debt Centre (or "ECDC") with the Co-operative Bank. The Sort Code is 08-92-99 and account number is 67187610. Please do pass on these details to anyone you know who wishes to support us. We hope to also be able to circulate forms that will enable any donations from individuals to be gift-aided shortly.

Since we are now able to start receiving funds one of our urgent needs is for somebody to act as Treasurer to the Debt Centre. So again, if you know of anyone who has the skills, gifts and calling to support us in this way we would be delighted to hear from them. We do not expect this to be too demanding a role.

We are also actively trying to recruit someone to take on the position of Debt Centre Leader/Manager - there is information available about what this involves so please do pass the word around. Let us know if you need more details.

Most importantly, as we recognise that what we're trying to do is what we believe to be God's work and God's desire for our churches to work together to help people in debt in Enfield, Mandy James from Enfield Baptist Church is beginning to put

together a list of those who wish to pray specifically for the work - if you would like to receive a regular email update about our prayer requests then please do email her at mandbaptist@btinternet.com

In the New Year we will update you further on progress made in developing the Debt Centre, but for now may we wish you a Merry Christmas and ask for your prayers for all those who will find themselves in even more debt because of what has happened this year.

With every blessing from the Steering Group working on this project.

In Christ Jesus,

Revd Mark Meatcher
Chair of Enfield Churches Debt Centre

Job opportunity - Enfield Churches Debt Centre Leader

This is an exciting opportunity to join a rapidly growing movement of people who are working together to tackle one of the biggest social problems facing us today.

The Enfield Debt Centre Leader is a paid part time role (16 hours per week) on the frontline of meeting with those locally who are struggling with financial debt.

The role will be to work with them (assisted by 'Christians Against Poverty') to move them towards being debt free and to partner with local churches to give them opportunities to discover the saving love of the Lord Jesus.

The main requirements for applying for this role are that you be a passionate follower of Jesus with a heart for the poor and the lost. To find out more about the role and request the job description email enfieldchurchesdebtcentre@gmail.com

KSN Hospital update

We received the following message about the hospital in India that we have been supporting just before Christmas:

Thank you very much for your mail and special greetings and love from all of us. We are fine here and the pandemic situation is much better in our area. Now for a few weeks we do not have any reported positive cases in our area. The government has provided us with rapid antigen test kits for conducting tests on every suspected case. Except the maternity ward, patient strengths in other departments have gone down drastically.

You may have heard about certain developments in the hospital which took us a few years back in last few months. We are still struggling to find a replacement doctor, which I am sure is not going to be easy. The present Bishop is trying hard to find doctors suitable in mission field. At one point I almost gave up when I could not see any light. It will have a devastating effect on the people of Sarenga and personally on me if this place goes down. Trust me everyday I experience God's providence for the place and I am sure he is listening to the cry of so many of his children. Thank you very much for your special heart for this place and your continued prayer. I am still clueless about how to go about but I am sure God will see us through if we are sincere and true to our commitment to this place.

I have got a positive response from our Bishop when I requested him to help us in conducting at least a half day retreat for all the staff every month. Somehow I feel we lost our goal and this crisis may help all of us to once again examine and recommit ourselves. And it is now up to us if we are ready to do that or not.

I cannot stop thanking all those who donated lots of sanitiser,

gloves, PPE kit, masks and whatnot to protect ourselves from infection. We still have lots of them to cover the next three months. I request you to convey our gratitude to all the kind donors. I cannot explain how much these gifts meant to us during the pandemic situation.

We are in a process of renovating the female medicine ward the way we did for the maternity ward. With making arrangements for separating male and female patients, we may accommodate all the medicine patients in one ward with a common Nursing Station. This will help us to manage the ward with limited trained Nursing Staff.

May God bless you and have a blessed Christmas. Thanks for being great support.

With lots of love,

Pradip Kumar Baux
Khristiya Seva Niketan

Start A Home

Can you help?

Based at St Paul's Centre in Church Street, Enfield, Start A Home is a small charity that is looking for one more volunteer to join the team.

The charity receives new, or nearly new, bedding, towels, cutlery, crockery, pots & pans etc., and hands them out to Enfield residents in need.

For more information, in the first instance, please feel free to contact Nigel Hands on 020 8363 5070 or by email to pnhands@gmail.com

From Zion Chapel to Christ Church

The following is the first of a series of articles written by Stephen Gilbert entitled "From Zion Chapel to Christ Church - A Story of Congregationalists in Enfield".

Part 1: Zion Chapel 1780-91 Worship in the 17th and 18th centuries in Enfield

In the late 18th century the only purpose-built places of worship in the Enfield Town area were the medieval parish church of St Andrew and a nonconformist chapel constructed in 1697 from a former barn in Meeting House Yard in Baker Street. The minister there was the Baptist Obadiah Hughes, who had been displaced by the 1662 Act of Uniformity. Members of the Society of Friends (Quakers) are recorded as meeting in members' houses in Enfield from 1676. A Congregational Chapel was built in Ponders End in 1757.



Zion Chapel 1780-91

In 1778 Matthias Peter Dupont, formerly an innkeeper at the Castle and Falcon in Aldersgate Street in the City of London, retired to Enfield and opened his home in Chase Side for worship.

On 7th January 1780 Zion Chapel was opened with seating for 210



people opposite Matthias Dupont's house. The cost of £362, plus £30 for the freehold of the land, was met from various donations and collections. The morning service was opened with prayers by Mr Woodgate and Mr Medley and according to the Gentleman's Magazine an "extempore sermon lasting an hour and a half from Revd Samuel Brewer" on the text "Thou shalt arise and have mercy upon Zion for the time to favour her, yea the set time is come. For Thy servants take pleasure in her stones and favour the dust thereof". After this the congregation adjourned for lunch at the George Inn. I am not sure what the evening congregation made of Revd Samuel Medley's sermon of a similar length on a text which referred to "a great multitude of impotent folk, of blind, halt, withered waiting for the waters"!

Among the expenses of the opening services were a Bible, Isaac Watts' book of Psalms and Hymns and £3 for a coach and £4.12shillings for lodgings for the preachers at the George Inn in Enfield Town. The most frequent entries in the early account books were expenses of rum, brandy and wine "for vestry use" - perhaps the preachers needed alcohol to sustain them through the long sermons! Other expenses included a tinder box and extinguishers for the candles and lodgings for visiting ministers.

Those who wanted to become members were requested to relate to the church the dealings of God with their souls, which proving satisfactory they were admitted. Faults and lapses of members were discussed and dealt with at church meetings.

In the days before cars many people walked long distances to church, although the more wealthy would come by carriage, and a horse-drawn chaise was provided for the minister. The first minister at Zion Chapel, W. Whitefoot, was ordained in 1781. His successor Dr John Ryland, a great preacher, was appointed in 1788. He also ran a nonconformist school on a site where Enfield Town station is now. Dr Ryland had difficulty walking and one Sunday, when his coach failed to

appear and his servant was unable to catch the pony that was in a field, Dr Ryland said “Bring the wheelbarrow then, the devil is in the coachman and the pony too but I’ll dodge him [the devil] today.” So the minister was pushed through Enfield Town in a wheelbarrow to the chapel. The theme for his sermon on that day was “For we are not ignorant of his (the devil’s) devices”. As a result a notorious man was converted and became a church member (H. Storer Toms, 1873).



Anglican opposition to John Ryland’s Calvinist belief in predestination, whereby only the chosen would be saved, is reflected in John Sherwen’s poem which includes the following lines:



“Though in no licensed house he deals the word,
 The meanest hut will do to serve the Lord
 To the poor cottage * on the Chase repair
 By John, weak instrument, Grace triumphs there.
 These all demure, all orderly, devout,
 The chosen few keep all the wicked out,
 The pre-ordained are all secure within,
 And yet this preacher is to extirpate sin!
 Ope then your doors, let not the gracious word,
 Meant for the sinner’s good, be kept unheard.
 The candle of your zeal should burn in day
 Not skulk in coach loft, nor be scared away...”

* Zion Chapel

Image 1: Meeting House Yard, Baker Street

Image 2: Ponders End Congregational Chapel

Image 3: Zion Chapel

Image 4: John Ryland

Image 5: John Ryland’s School

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Girlguiding update

My name is Savannah and I am a proud member of 9th Enfield Guides. I would like to share with you what we did on our Zoom camp and the final evening before the Christmas holidays began.

To the Zoom camp we go. Camp started on the Saturday with all the leaders setting us challenges and quizzes which were worth points. We had to dress up in Christmas outfits, design backgrounds and also create our own elf names. My name was Peppermint Jingle Toes.

Here is what my Guiding friends had to say about the camp:

“The Zoom camp was so much fun and the activities/games gave me stuff to do” - thank you Sophie for that comment.

“Zoom camp was fun, I loved all the activities and the fun that we had” - thank you Claire for that comment.

We had a task separate from the challenges to make chocolate bar cookies. To the right are the ones that Claire and I made, we can all say they are so tasty and would definitely make them again

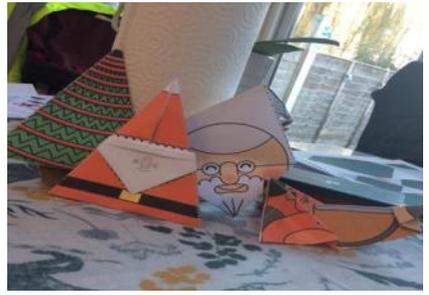


We did Christmas napkin folding as an extra task x10 this was challenging at times to complete (see the picture).



We made origami baubles as an extra challenge - these were fun to make - and also we made other

origami decorations as a task. I sent one to Eileen because I was very proud of it.



We also made a Nutella pastry which Jen helped all of us to make. To the right is Claire's one which she was very proud of.



The final evening of Guides was a massive surprise. The message to us all was to wrap up warm, bring a drink and to have fun. We arrived and queued outside to see lots of lights and headphone sets for us. We were going to have a silent disco! Here is what one of the Guides thought about the evening: "We enjoyed the inflatables and the glow sticks, toasting marshmallows and having a hot chocolate, but most of all seeing all our friends and having a laugh together for the first time in ages. It was such fun!"

It must have seemed strange to any person passing to see these girls standing outside and me and Sophie shouting "Merry Christmas". It was certainly a lovely way to end the year for our Girlguiding community.

Many thanks to all of our leaders - you have made our year bright again with all your fun activities every Friday and I'm sure no Guide would ever want to stop coming - it is all thanks to you. I have been there since Rainbows and never want to stop being known as a 9th Enfield member.

Finally may we wish everyone a merry and safe Christmas from the Guides community to you.

Savannah, 9th Enfield Guides

Photos by Savannah, 9th Enfield Guides

Boys' Brigade update

As you will have read in last month's newsletter, we celebrated our 130th birthday on 3rd December! Although we couldn't celebrate in the way we had expected, we'd still like to say a big thank you to everyone who has been a part of our journey.



Following the November lockdown we were able to meet face-to-face once again on Monday 7th December, which was also our final meeting of 2020. There was a Christmas



flavour - our Anchors and Juniors got involved in the BBUK Christmas Art Competition and played some Christmas-themed games, and the Company Section and Seniors enjoyed a games evening with Xbox, pool, table tennis and more.

During December BB Headquarters ran two competitions which were open to groups across the country - the Christmas Art Competition as well as a Christmas Family Quiz. Well done to Josef (one of our Seniors) and his family who won the Over 11's version of the quiz!

With face-to-face youth work activities such as BB being unable to take place in Tier 4 areas we are currently unsure when we will next be able to meet, but we look forward to doing so once it is safe and possible again.

Our best wishes for very happy Christmas and New Year.

Tom Boorman

Photos by Tom Boorman

Prayer diary January 2021

1st - Pray for God's blessing over this coming year.

2nd - Pray for this morning's Zoom Bible Study Group meeting.

3rd - Pray for those who have prepared our online worship this morning.

4th - Pray for children and young people who are beginning a new school term.

5th - Pray for the work of KSN Hospital in India.

6th - Pray for key workers.

7th - Pray for our elders as they serve God in this way during 2021.

8th - Pray for those for whom the Coronavirus pandemic has caused mental health difficulties.

9th - Pray for missionaries who work to spread the word of God.

10th - Pray for those who have prepared our online worship this morning.

11th - Pray for the members of our Boys' Brigade Company.

12th - Pray for friends and family.

13th - Pray for the government.

14th - Give thanks to God for his word to us through the Bible.

15th - Pray that we may always be kind to one another.

16th - Pray for this morning's Zoom Bible Study Group meeting.

17th - Pray for our time of worship this morning, whether it be face-to-face or online.

18th - Pray for the work of the North Enfield Foodbank.

19th - Pray for Mark and Melanie.

20th - Pray for the USA as their presidential inauguration takes place today.

21st - Pray for all those who have worked to ensure that our church buildings are safe and ready to use.

22nd - Pray for the members of our Girlguiding groups.

23rd - Pray for the local community around Christ Church.

24th - Pray for our time of worship this morning.

25th - Pray for Feryal Clark MP, our local Member of Parliament.

26th - Pray for those who are working to roll out Coronavirus vaccines.

27th - Pray for peace in areas of the world where there is conflict.

28th - Pray for the work of the Enfield Churches Debt Centre.

29th - Pray for all those who work at Chase Farm Hospital.

30th - Pray for this morning's Zoom Bible Study Group meeting.

31st - Pray for our friends from the other URCs in our Local Area Group.

February 2021 newsletter

The **February 2021** newsletter will be published on **Sunday 31st January**. Items intended for inclusion in this issue should be with the Editor, Tom Boorman, by Sunday 24th January. Any late submissions may be held over to the following issue.

Please contact Tom with any items to be included in future issues. Items can be received either in paper form at Sunday worship, by email to **newsletter@ccurc.org.uk** or by phone on **07903 605 545**.

The newsletter is published monthly (except for combined issues in July & August and December & January). Back issues dating back to 2007 can be found on our website. Please note that views expressed are not necessarily the views of the whole fellowship, nor are they representative of church policy.

Church diary January 2021

Due to the current circumstances, it has been decided that there will be no face-to-face services at least up to and including Sunday 10th January.

Please be aware that it is possible that the suspension may be extended - we will resume face-to-face services when we believe it is safe and right to do so. Further details will be communicated nearer the time.

Weekly services will continue to be provided online and through mail distribution - you can sign up to receive details at <http://eepurl.com/dHm8TH> or by contacting Mark.

Our regular face-to-face services are streamed on Zoom and can be accessed online or by telephone - please contact Mark or one of the elders for joining instructions.

Saturday 2nd January 10:30am to 11:30am
Zoom Bible Study Group
Please contact Mark for joining instructions

Sunday 3rd January
Enfield URCs online worship
Sign up to receive details at <http://eepurl.com/dHm8TH>
or contact Mark for a printed copy
There will be no face-to-face service on this date

Sunday 10th January
Enfield URCs online worship
Sign up to receive details at <http://eepurl.com/dHm8TH>
or contact Mark for a printed copy
There will be no face-to-face service on this date

Saturday 16th January 10:30am to 11:30am
Zoom Bible Study Group
Please contact Mark for joining instructions

Sunday 17th January 11:15am
Revd Mark Meatcher
Family Service
Duty Elder - TBC
Please keep an eye out for further announcements about whether this service will take place

Saturday 23rd January 7:00pm for 7:30pm
Zoom Quiz in support of 3rd Enfield Boys' Brigade
Please contact Tom for joining instructions

Sunday 24th January 11:15am
Terry Silvey
Duty Elder - TBC
Please keep an eye out for further announcements about whether this service will take place

Saturday 30th January 10:30am to 11:30am
Zoom Bible Study Group
Please contact Mark for joining instructions

Sunday 31st January 11:15am
Revd Mark Meatcher
Duty Elder - TBC
Please keep an eye out for further announcements about whether this service will take place

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