



CHRIST CHURCH URC

Chase Side, Enfield

Minister Rev'd David Atkinson



11th July
Coffee Morning
10 to 12

9th August
Coffee Morning
10 to 12

July & August 2009

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

6.30pm -

Anchor Boys (5-8 years)

8.00pm

Junior Section (8-11 years)

7.00pm — 9.00pm

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)

MINISTERS LETTER

Dear Friends,

In a resolution at our February 2008 Church Meeting we agreed to focus on evangelism, growth and bringing people into regular worship at Christ Church for a year and then build on any noticeable growth or in the absence of growth review our position as an independent congregation. We specifically sought five additional regular worshippers during the year.

At our June 2009 Church Meeting we reviewed the situation and voted on the future of Christ Church. It was suggested that Christ Church could become more community orientated and we should explore how we could do this. Maybe Christ Church could provide a Christian Bookshop and sell fair trade goods. Maybe Christ Church could be a centre for Christian healing or be used to help the elderly or help immigrants and refugees. With these thoughts in our minds the Church Meeting voted to remain an independent congregation. In a secret ballot of church members 12 voted that Christ Church should remain an independent congregation and 4 voted against. So there was a 75% majority in favour of remaining an independent congregation.

I now want to share with you some personal reflections on the decision of the Church Meeting. In February 2008 we were challenged to work for growth and especially we looked for five additional regular worshippers over the next year. I looked at our Church Attendance Book for all Sunday Services from May 2007 for the next year and found the average congregation was 34 and then looked at attendances from May 2008 for the next year and found the average congregation was 29.

So there has been a drop of 5 worshippers on average each week. The questions this poses me are: are we listening to God and does God want us to remain an independent congregation?

It seemed to me that the idea of community service and activity at Christ Church influenced people to vote for Christ Church remaining an independent congregation. We can serve God through a Christian Bookshop and a Fair Trade shop and by offering Christian healing and help to the elderly or to immigrants and refugees. Such ideas are very laudable but we need to know what our local needs are and if we can finance, staff and manage such projects. I suspect that the practicalities of what was suggested are immense and would take a lot of time, thought, work and money. But maybe all this is possible. God can radically change situations and bring new purpose and life to people and churches. At the Church Meeting several people volunteered to explore the ideas and we agreed to a further Church Meeting on Sunday, 5th July at 12:30pm in the Primary Room specifically to discuss what progress has been made.

Meanwhile we still have the challenges of maintaining large buildings, a small congregation and similar churches nearby trying to attract the same people. The Church Meeting did indicate that we need to set a date to review the situation but no date was agreed. Above all we need to pray about the future of Christ Church and what part we should be playing in the future Christian worship, witness and service of God in Enfield. So let us listen to God and seek to do his will.

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

The Friendship Club

The Friendship Club continues to meet in the church Hall is at 2.15pm on alternate Wednesdays. We warmly welcome old and new friends to join with us. We are a happy group.

July 1st Mr. Harold Noble will be showing interesting slides taken on his travels.

July 15th is our last meeting (Before the holidays) and we will be joined by Christ Church Cockfosters choir. giving us a varied programme of music, readings and hymns, followed by a Summer tea.

We do invite friends to join with us and enjoy the time together.

We wish all our friends a happy Summer holiday break and welcome all our friends to our opening meeting on September 9th at 2.15pm when our speaker will be Mrs Jean Kellaway.

Lily Smith

Be strong and of good courage, fear not, nor be afraid.... For the Lords is your God, He it is that goes with you; He will not fail you nor forsake you. Deut 31. v6

Vision group report

We have had 1 meeting so far to discuss the growth of God's Kingdom here in our local community in Enfield. We are looking to learn from other churches in our area and further afield. Various ideas were discussed—Regular Coffee mornings, Christian book shop, church open days and all possible ways to make the church more assessable for all ages of the community. We are looking to grow God's Kingdom with the 'Christianity explore courses'

For any ideas you have please contact one of the group or Pamela Fisher 07775505999 or Email pjf_40b@hotmail.com

The trouble tree

There was once a carpenter who was having a very bad day. Everything that he did seemed to go wrong. He had all kinds of problems at work and then his car broke down too. A kind friend gave him a lift home, but because the carpenter was so upset about the problems of the day he hardly spoke to his friend on the journey. When they reached the carpenter's house his friend noticed that just before they went in the carpenter paused and touched the branches of a large tree near the front door. To his friend's great surprise the carpenter greeted his family with smiles and hugs. He seemed a changed man once at home with his family. His friend was astonished at the transformation, and curious about the tree. Finally he asked the carpenter why he had touched the tree in that way. The carpenter explained that he did not want to take his troubles home with him. Every night he hung his troubles on the tree before he went in to see his family and he had noticed that when he went to collect them again on his way out the next morning there never seemed to be so many as there had been the day before!

(A story shared by Terry Silvey in the service on 27th June)

Forthcoming events

Saturday 11th July 10 to 12
Coffee Morning in Church and grounds

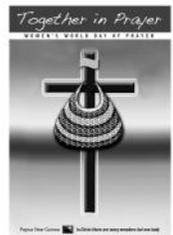
Sunday 12th July 11am
'Songs of Praise' All Age Service
Join us to sing some favourite hymns

Saturday 8th August 10 to 12
Coffee Morning in Church and grounds
Sunday 9th August 10.30am
Breakfast Service
Join us for breakfast and a informal service

Saturday 18th September 10 to 4
Church open day
Sunday 19th September 11am
Harvest festival

The cross - our trouble tree

This year the World Day of Prayer service which is held annually, in March, was prepared by the women of Papua New Guinea. The symbol that the women suggested was that of a cross with a 'bilim' hanging on it. It was set up in St Andrew's Church for the service. The bilim is a woven bag with a strap which goes round the wearer's head and hangs down their backs. All kinds of heavy load can be carried in this way; the most common being food such as sweet potato, sticks of firewood or babies. The symbol of a bilim hanging on the cross gives a powerful picture of God who because of His love for us invites us to leave our heavy loads for Him to carry for us. Jesus has provided a very special 'trouble tree' for His followers!



Letters from friends who receive the newsletter by post

'It means a lot to hear news of the Church Family at Christ Church and will remember you all in prayer as you plan for the future.

All Gods wishes

Yvonne Hibbert

Just a note to say thank you for sending the news letter each month. I wonder if I can get it on line?

I still continue to enjoy my flat and the retirement complex living. I have joined the 'Amici Choir' with another resident. Next weekend we have a concert booked at St Marys Church, Baldock parish Church

I have travelled with the choir to France and the USA both exhilarating and exhausting events! Douglas Coombes our conductor is well known for his work with the BBC schools and the battle proms.

My daughter Jane has had medical problems for the past year, Her hop replacement has at last been done.

Her sons are all well and Jonathan passed his masters in engineering, Basi got his degree in Biology, Nic is in management in the food industry in Castlenuaudry (France). He did a science degree.

Marina King

people get ready!

ENFIELD COMMUNITY GOSPEL CHOIR

"uplifting, upbeat and right up there!"

7pm-8pm, every Wednesday during term time at
Christ Church URC Hall, Chase Side, Enfield EN2 6NJ

Professional coaching, beginners welcome, live backing.
Uplifting, educational and original gospel music workshop.
Come and join the party!



All-age sessions. Tell your friends. Bring the whole family. Great for children!

School-age children attend for £1.00 and for free when accompanied by an adult singer. Adults just £5.00 per week.

Let's put the heart back into our community.



telephone: 020 8366 0657
email: martyn@fourhillsltd.com

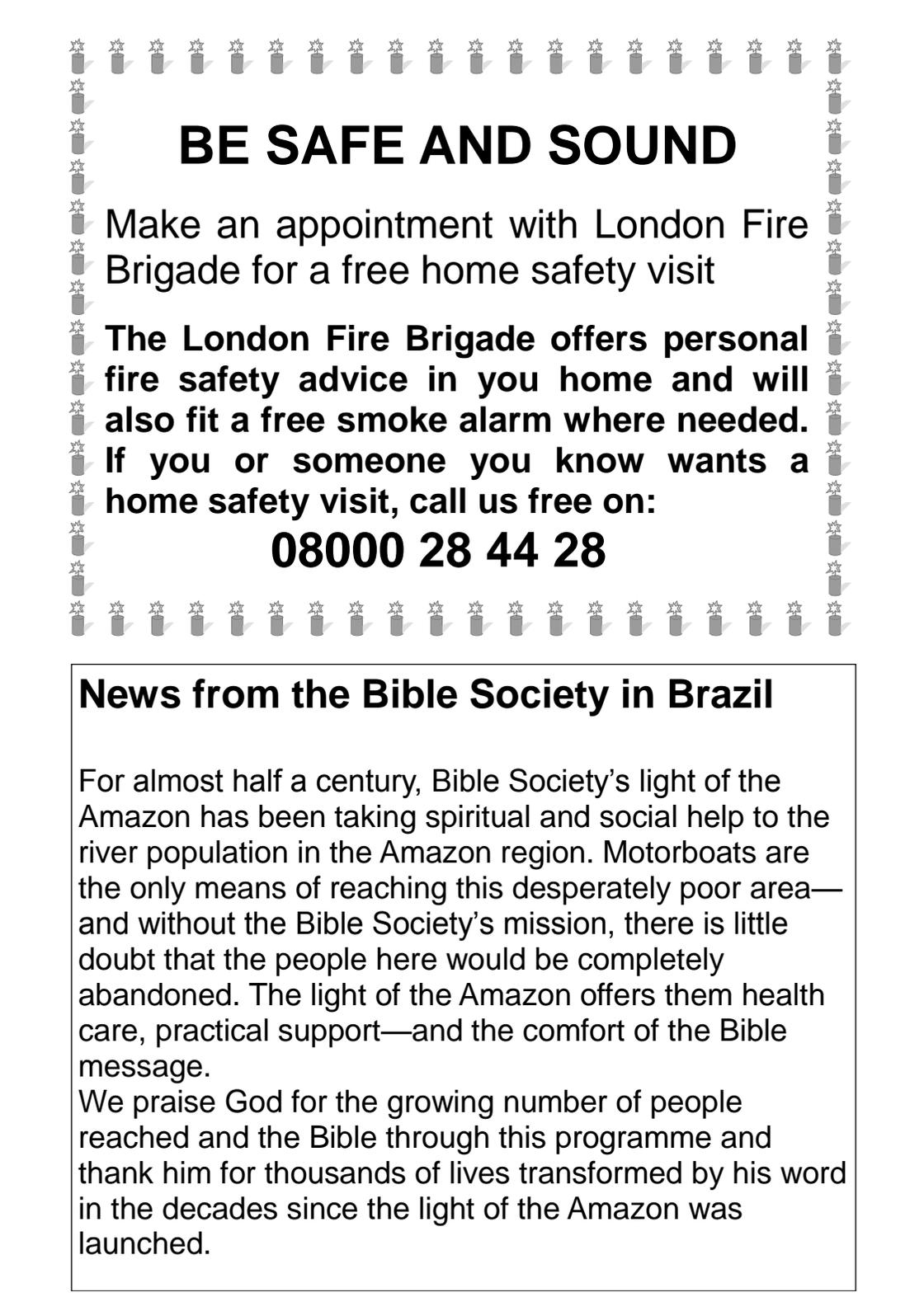


BBQ at Christ Church organised by Pure Word Healing Ministry



Lovely entertainment by Axeminster band





BE SAFE AND SOUND

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

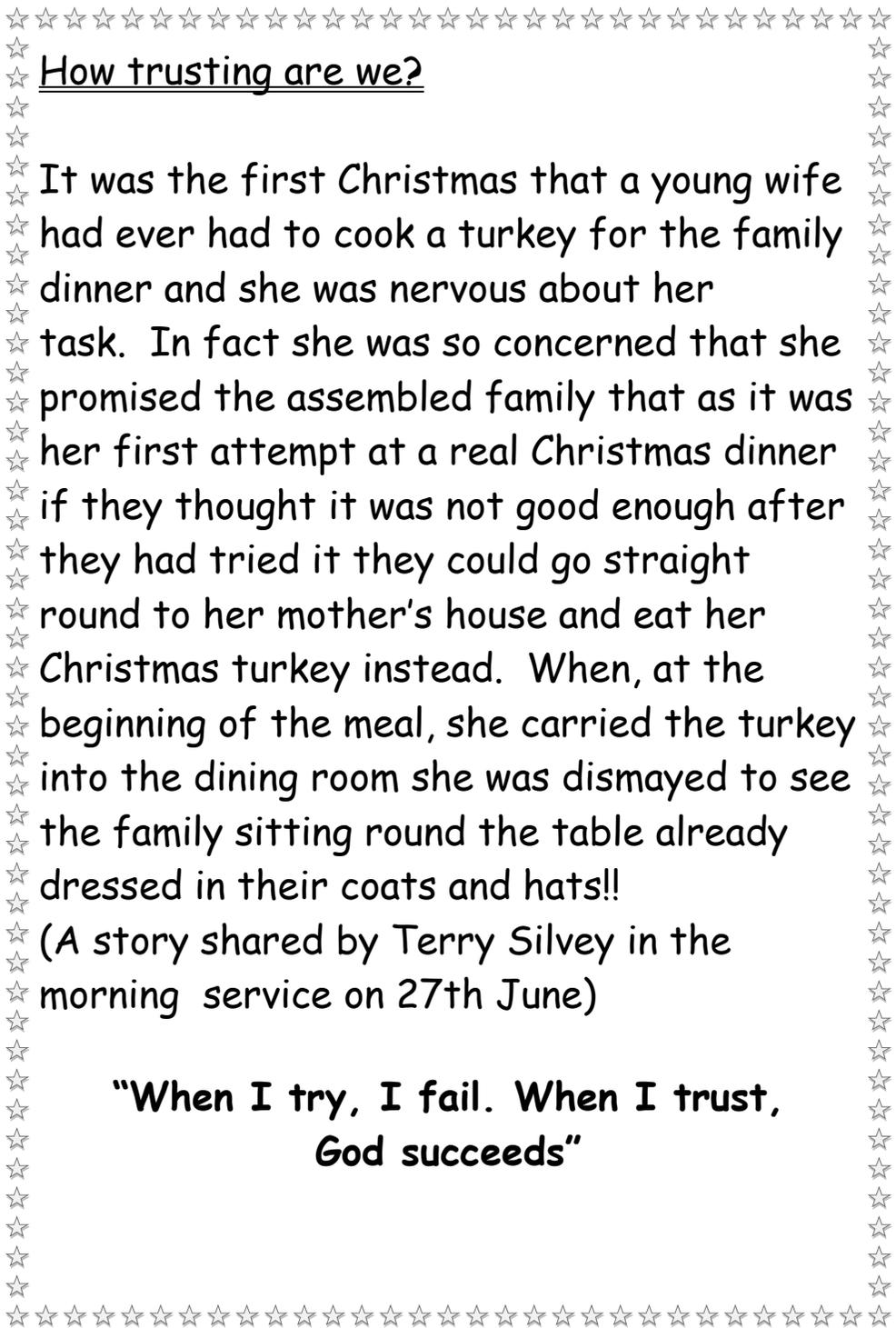
The London Fire Brigade offers personal fire safety advice in your home and will also fit a free smoke alarm where needed. If you or someone you know wants a home safety visit, call us free on:

08000 28 44 28

News from the Bible Society in Brazil

For almost half a century, Bible Society's light of the Amazon has been taking spiritual and social help to the river population in the Amazon region. Motorboats are the only means of reaching this desperately poor area—and without the Bible Society's mission, there is little doubt that the people here would be completely abandoned. The light of the Amazon offers them health care, practical support—and the comfort of the Bible message.

We praise God for the growing number of people reached and the Bible through this programme and thank him for thousands of lives transformed by his word in the decades since the light of the Amazon was launched.



How trusting are we?

It was the first Christmas that a young wife had ever had to cook a turkey for the family dinner and she was nervous about her task. In fact she was so concerned that she promised the assembled family that as it was her first attempt at a real Christmas dinner if they thought it was not good enough after they had tried it they could go straight round to her mother's house and eat her Christmas turkey instead. When, at the beginning of the meal, she carried the turkey into the dining room she was dismayed to see the family sitting round the table already dressed in their coats and hats!!
(A story shared by Terry Silvey in the morning service on 27th June)

**"When I try, I fail. When I trust,
God succeeds"**

Children in Church

One Sunday in a Midwest City ,
A young child was "acting up" during the morning worship hour.
The parents did their best to maintain some sense of order in the pew
But were losing the battle.

Finally, the father picked the little fellow up
And walked sternly up the aisle on his way out.
Just before reaching the safety of the foyer,
The little one called loudly to the congregation,
"Pray for me! Pray for me!"

.....

A little boy opened the big and old family Bible with fascination,
Looking at the old pages as he turned them.
Then something fell out of the Bible.
He picked it up and looked at it closely.
It was an old leaf from a tree that has been pressed in between the
pages.

"Mama, look what I found," the boy called out.
"What have you got there, dear?" his mother asked.
With astonishment in the young boy's voice he answered,
"It's Adam 's suit" ..

.....

The preacher was wired for sound with a lapel mike,
And as he preached, he moved briskly about the platform,
Jerking the mike cord as he went.
Then he moved to one side,
Getting wound up in the cord and nearly tripping before jerking it
again.

After several circles and jerks,
A little girl in the third pew leaned toward her mother and whispered,
"If he gets loose, will he hurt us?"

.....

A ten-year old, under the tutelage of her grandmother,
Was becoming quite knowledgeable about the Bible.
Then, one day, she floored her grandmother by asking,
"Which Virgin was the mother of Jesus ? The virgin Mary or the King
James Virgin ?"

Caring For the Environment

One of the most important current moral and social issues is the environment and this morning I want to explore what should be our Christian approach to the environment.

The Methodist minister, Rob Frost, in his book, *Doing the Right Thing*, begins his chapter on the environment with a **story of felling trees**. He says that one warm Sunday afternoon he was walking by the River Thames near Kingston when he saw dozens of eco-warriors hanging on to the branches of a beautiful line of trees overlooking the Thames. They were having great fun exchanging words of encouragement and passing crates of beer to each other by a system of ropes and pulleys. Meanwhile on the towpath co-campaigners were gaining signatures for a petition to save the trees.

The local council had sold the neighbouring land to a developer to build executive flats and agreed that the trees could be felled so that the inhabitants of the new luxury flats could have an unhindered view of the river. The day after Rob Frost's walk by the trees he saw a television news item with the police evicting the eco-warriors from the trees amidst a violent struggle followed by men with chainsaws felling the beautiful tall trees. On a later walk Rob Frost saw that the council had planted some scrawny young saplings to replace the beautiful mature trees. Rob Frost says he feels sadness about the fate of the trees and sympathy for the actions of the eco-warriors. I suspect I would have felt the same.

The Bible in the *Book of Genesis* tells us that God created the world and he made people to rule over it. Gen. 1²⁷⁻⁸. I suggest to you that this doesn't mean we are to selfishly exploit the Earth but rather we should be caring stewards of the Earth. In *Psalms* 24 we are told, "The Earth is the Lord's and all that is in it." Ps 24¹

The world belongs to God and not to us and so we should treat it with respect and love. In *Luke's Gospel* Jesus tells a story of a rich man whose land yields heavy crops and becomes very wealthy.

This man decides to take life easy, eat, drink and be merry. But Jesus cautions, "Beware! Be on your guard against greed of every kind." Lk 12¹⁵ I suggest we can apply these words to our greedy use of the environment. Here in the West many of us want too much, buy too much, possess too much, use too much, eat too much and travel too much.

When we look at what we know of Jesus, Jesus lived simply. Christian Aid had a slogan many years ago which went something like this: "Live more simply than others might simply live." If we have a simple lifestyle then we will help the sustainability of the planet and stand against the greedy current of consumerism.

As Christians we think of God "out there", the almighty Creator of the world. We also think of God "within us", in our hearts and minds influencing our daily lives. I suggest that we might also usefully think of God as present in the trees and flowers, in the animals and birds, and in the hills and valleys. If we can think of a God who is present in his creation and loves his creation then that should influence our treatment of the environment.

Some years ago the United Nations set up the **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)** and in 1995 it issued a report which asserted that "the balance of evidence suggests" that human activity is increasing the planet's temperature. In 2007 they issued another report in which they stated that there was a better than 90% chance that their theory that human beings are causing global warming is true.

The theory is that during the last 250 years the emissions from the burning of coal, oil and natural gas have sent carbon dioxide, methane and CFCs into the atmosphere. These have created a “greenhouse”, or exaggerated heating effect, in the Earth’s climate by preventing the sun’s rays returning into space. Just as the glass panes of a greenhouse traps the heat in the greenhouse and makes it warmer the carbon dioxide, methane and CFCs trap the sun’s heat in the earth’s atmosphere and warms up the Earth. Many scientists believe this process is beginning to have a catastrophic effect on the world’s climate. What is happening is that air and ocean temperatures are rising, snow and ice are melting and sea levels are rising. The rise in sea levels is especially worrying because 70% of the human population lives on coastal plains and a lot of prime farmland is near the coast. Also some countries that are already hot and dry are experiencing more draughts.

A recent Christian Aid leaflet said that in one part of Bangladesh rising seawater levels have taken away 30 hectares of land leaving many people landless, have made fresh water salty so that it cannot be used to drink and have killed the mango trees. The same leaflet says that in the last 35 years hurricanes and flooding have almost doubled in Honduras. Climate scientists say the most likely cause is the rise in sea temperatures.

So what can we do? It is very important that we start using far more renewable **energy** systems to provide our light, heat and power and other sources which do not release carbon dioxide into the atmosphere but do produce abundant energy.

Scientists have estimated that in most developed countries big industry and private households could make energy savings of 30% for little or no cost. If every vehicle owner in the UK drove just one kilometre less a day we would save 1,300 million litres of fuel a year. It is estimated that 95% of the power we use to charge up our mobile phones is wasted because we leave the charger plugged in when the phone is fully charged.

We can also save energy by switching off the TV and computer when we are not using them and not leave them on stand-by.

We can also help the environment by thinking about what **food** we eat. New Zealand kiwifruit travel 12,000 miles to reach us. By the time they have reached the supermarket they are responsible for five times their own weight in greenhouse gases being pumped into the atmosphere. In spite of the UK's cool climate being very suitable for growing apples nearly three quarters of the apples in the UK are imported and more than 60% of Britain's apple orchards were destroyed from 1973 to 2003. It is often better for the environment if we buy locally produced food. This isn't always the case. Buying Spanish tomatoes can be kinder to the environment than Swedish people buying Swedish tomatoes that have been grown in artificially heated greenhouses.

Another area we can act upon is **recycling**. In Jessica Williams's book, *50 Facts that should Change the World*, she says that every hour British households throw away enough rubbish to fill the Royal Albert Hall. There is an estimated 25 million tons of litter scattered along Britain's streets and grass verges. The mountains of waste are growing by 3% every year and 81% of it goes into landfill sites. Rob Frost writes that it is estimated that if every household recycled half its rubbish the UK's annual emissions of carbon dioxide would fall by up to six million tonnes.

There are many things we can do to care for the environment and it's often helpful to talk about ideas with family and friends.

The psalmist writes, "The Earth is the Lord's and all that is in it." The world belongs to God and not to us and so we should not exploit it selfishly but rather be caring stewards.

Church contacts

MINISTER	Rev 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	Tel 020 8351 8652 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

July Church Diary

- Wed 1st 12 Friendship Club
midday Travelling with my camera –slide show
Mr H Noble
- Sun 5th 11am The Revd David Atkinson**
Holy Communion offering for the
Communion Fund
Duty Elder— Ron Smith
12.30pm Church Meeting
- Wed 8th 9.45- Joint bible study with Lancaster Road at
11.15am Lancaster Road URC
- Sat 11th 10 to 12 **COFFEE @ CHRIST CHURCH****
IN THE CHURCH AND
GROUNDS
- Sun 12th 11am The Worship Group**
Songs of Praise Service
All age invitation Service
Duty Elder— Stephen Gilbert
- Wed 15th 2.15pm Friendship Club— Christ Church
Cockfosters choir.
Music, Readings and Hymns
- Sun 19th 11am Mr. Les Moody**
Duty Elder— Pamela Mansley
- Wed 9.45- Joint bible study with Lancaster Road at
22nd 11.15am Lancaster Road URC
- Sun 26th 11am Mr. Martin Wells**
Duty Elder— Pamela Fisher

August Church Diary

- Sun 2nd 11am The Revd David Atkinson
Holy Communion offering for the
Communion fund
Duty Elder— Stephen Gilbert**
- Wed 5th 9.45- 11.15am Joint bible study with Lancaster Road at
Lancaster Road URC
- Sat 8th 10 to 12 COFFEE @ CHRIST CHURCH
IN THE CHURCH AND
GROUNDS**
- Sun 9th 10.30am The Worship Group
BREAKFAST SERVICE
Duty Elder— Ron Smith**
- Sun 16th 11am The Revd David Atkinson
Duty Elder— Pamela Mansley**
- Sun 23rd 11am Mr. Terry Silvey
Duty Elder— Stephen Gilbert**
- Wed 19th 9.45- 11.15am Joint bible study with Lancaster Road at
Lancaster Road URC
- Sun 30th 11am Mrs. Jill Nugent
Duty Elder— Pamela Fisher**

September Church Diary

- Wed 2nd 9.45-11.15am Joint bible study with Lancaster Road at Lancaster Road URC
- Sun 6th 11am The Revd David Atkinson**
Holy Communion offering for the Communion Fund
Duty Elder— Ron Smith
- 12.30pm Church Meeting**
- Wed 9th 2.15pm Friendship Club
- Sun 13th 11am The Worship Group**
Duty Elder— Stephen Gilbert
- Sat 19th 10 to 4 CHURCH OPEN DAY**
- Sun 20th 11am Harvest Festival Service**

Advance dates for 2009

Church Meetings

12.30pm

6th September

1st November

Elders Meetings

8pm

6th July 8pm Elders Vestry

7th October 8pm Manse

2nd December 8pm Manse

Thames North Synod

10am—4pm

Saturday 12th September

Saturday 14th November

Venue TBC

** 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.

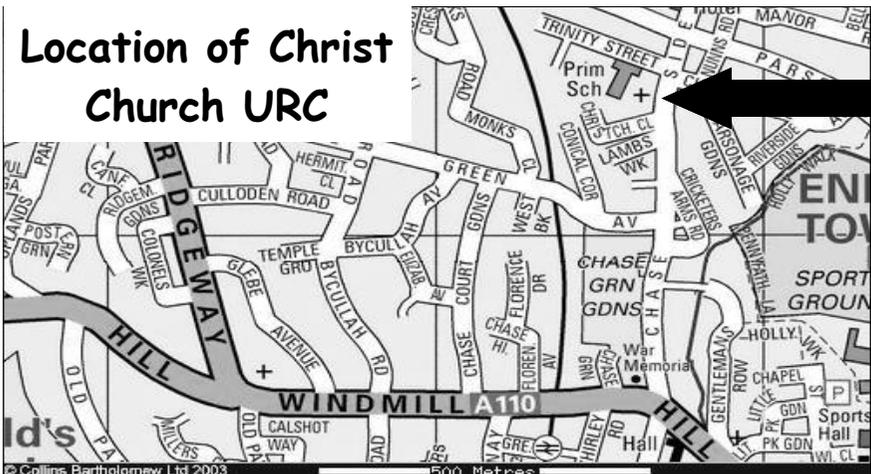
WHEN:
Sunday
mornings from
11am to 12 noon



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 **Sept 2009** issue should reach the Editor by **2nd Sunday of August**.

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