

# **CHRIST CHURCH URC**

**Chase Side, Enfield**

**Minister Rev'd David Atkinson**



## **June 2009**

**[www.christchurchurcenfield.org.uk](http://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)

# MINISTER'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

One of the main news headlines in recent weeks has been MP's expenses and especially the second home allowance of up to £24,000 annually. In the Borough of Enfield two out of the three MPs have been claiming over £20,000 annually for a second home. This has upset and angered many people including myself. I have wondered why these two MPs haven't been able to commute from their constituency homes like thousands of other people who live in Enfield and work in the centre of London? Surely they could use public transport like everyone else or if they finish very late at Parliament use a taxi and have an arrangement with a taxi firm. Even paying for occasional bed and breakfast in the centre of London would surely be cheaper than a second home allowance of over £20,000!

How can anyone serving a constituency in Greater London justify a second home allowance? I have heard MPs argue that it is within their rules for expenses and so perfectly legal. But although it is legal it is surely morally questionable at best and many would say simply ripping off the taxpayer.

When we elect our MPs many of us like to think they are people whose main motives are to care for, serve and seek justice for their constituency, their country and the wider world. We hope they are not in their jobs chiefly for self-aggrandisement but rather to make our society a better place. So we hope our MPs are intelligent and thoughtful and have personal integrity. For many people the revelations over MP's expenses have probably brought into question our trust in our MPs.

As I write this I do not have the various newspaper articles I have read on the subject in front of me and so I realise I may not have all the facts and may be missing some important information. In defence of our MPs I wonder if we underpay them by several thousand pounds. I think their pay is significantly less than that of GPs and maybe it should be about the same. If we want top quality people as our MPs we should be willing to pay them a high salary which recognises their qualifications, abilities and responsibilities.

Another thought is that I wonder how many of us who object to the second home allowance for MPs who live in or near London would not have claimed it ourselves if we were in their position? How many of us would have argued that it is within the rules for expenses and so taken it? How many of us would have asked if it is a morally justifiable use of public money? If we were in the same position would we have acted more altruistically?

One of the issues that the subject of MP's expenses has raised is that of personal integrity. Many of us expect, or at least hope, that our MPs will have a high standard of personal integrity. We will probably feel the same way about doctors, teachers, police officers and other people who are in authority and serve the public. We also expect a high standard of personal integrity among Christian ministers and other church leaders.

But it is not always easy to be honest and upright. If we think we can keep something secret and not be found out we can be tempted to do what is wrong or questionable especially if we perceive it to be to our personal advantage. The apostle Paul wrote, "The good which I want to do, I fail to do; but what I do is the wrong which is against my will" (Romans 7:19). We can have sincerely held high ideals and principles and yet be tempted, fall short and do wrong.

Here is where faith can be crucial. We need to be guided and strengthened by God's Spirit to do what is right and loving and in accordance with God's will. The vital factor is being united with Christ and letting Christ control and lead us. Jesus said to his disciples, "I am the vine and you the branches. He who dwells in me, as I dwell in him, bears much fruit" (John 15:6). Jesus can help us with our personal integrity. If we are tempted let us ask ourselves, "What would Jesus do?"

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

# THE FUTURE OF CHRIST CHURCH

On Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup> June at 12:30pm in the church hall we will be having a Church Meeting to discuss and vote upon the future of Christ Church. Please do think and pray about this subject and do your best to attend the meeting. All members and friends are welcome but only church members can vote. If you are unable to come and want to share some thoughts please give a written submission to the minister or a serving elder before 10am on the day of the meeting.

I hope that we will have clarified our options at our special Church Meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> May. I think we have four main options which are to remain an independent congregation, to close, to unite with Trinity Methodist/ URC or to unite with Lancaster Road URC. But there may be other options I have not thought about. Which of these options do we want to pursue?

Please remember that our main aim is to do God's will and so please pray about this matter. How can we best serve Christ in Enfield?

David.

## NEWS OF THE FELLOWSHIP

Mrs Irene Baker passed away on the 18th April and the funeral was held on the 5th May

Mrs Mary Smart is still receiving regular treatment

Mrs Maureen Rye is still unwell

Mrs Pamela Mansley has got a new job

Mr Christ Sanders has moved into a new flat

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

## The Friendship Club

The Friendship Club continues to meet on alternate Wednesday afternoons at 2.15pm in the **Church Hall**.  
Except for June 3rd.

### **On June 3rd**

The club is planning a lunch and a cream Tea at Forty Hall Café.

### **June 17th**

Save the children fund

### **July 1st**

Travelling with my camera (Slides) Mr. H Noble.

### **July 15th**

Christ Church Cockfosters choir.

Music, Readings and Hymns

Lily Smith

God is my saviour, I will trust Him and not be  
afraid. Psalm 12. V 2

We welcome everyone to our friendly meetings

## Christian Aid week

May 10th to 16th

*The collection for Christian Aid, made on behalf of Christ Church has raised the sum of £519.29. This is a little short of last years collection but is a great contribution to aid people who are much worse off than us. Hearty thanks and congratulations to all who collected.*

*Don Hart*

## Newsletter contribution

Our treasurer would be very pleased to receive contributions towards the cost of the newsletter.

Please use the enclosed envelope and drop it in the collection or send it to our treasurer David Fisher.

Suggested contribution is £12.00 or £15.00 if you receive the newsletter by mail (To cover the additional costs of envelopes and stamps). Your contributions can be gift aided if you are a UK tax payer—just write your number from the freewill offering envelope or add your name and address to the back of the envelope.

David Fisher

40b Chase green ave

Enfield EN2 8Eb

## Mrs Irene Baker—an appreciation

Irene was born in 1918 in Rochdale.

During the 2nd World War she served in the W.A.A.F. , meeting a Scottish girl who became a lifelong friend. They met each year and Irene always looked forward to there meetings

She married Ted Baker and settled in Enfield and had one son, John, and later her widowed mother came to live with them. Sadly, her husband died at the age of 50years and her mother died 6 months later.

For many years Irene regularly attended Christ Church with her family, although she did not become a member until 1990, and the services helped her through her life, strengthened her trust in God. She joined the Friendship club in the 1960's, regularly attending and arranged a club outing to the House of Commons for club members.

She worked as a receptionist at White Lodge Surgery making many friends there. She also became a member of the Earning Townswomen's Guild.

Irene enjoyed music and loved singing hymns—she had a sweet singing voice, still singing in tune in her 90's! She attended London concerts in earlier years, with a friend.

She always encouraged her son John, through his years of study of cardiology, which took him to America. On Sunday evenings she eagerly awaited the telephone calls from America. She often visited them in past years, and was very proud of her son, his wife and their two children.

Irene had a resilient nature, when asked how she was keeping, she would reply, 'I'm Fine'.

Her faith in God helped her though her difficult life. She was always disappointed when not well enough to come to church.

We shall miss Irene at Church. We thank God for her life of trust in Him, and her example of a faithful life and service

# Spring Harvest 2009



Spring Harvest is an inter-denominational event which takes place over the Easter period every year at the Butlins resorts in Skegness and Minehead. Each year the event has a different teaching theme, which in 2009 was "Apprentice" - how we are all apprentices of Jesus and can learn from our teacher, and taken from Matthew 11:29 - Jesus said "Come to me, learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart".

This year the event was split up into three weeks, with a group from Christ Church and Lancaster Road URCs going to week 3 (14<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> April) at Skegness. For me personally it was my first time going to Spring Harvest, and while I had heard things about it from other people it was still a bit difficult to know what to expect! After arriving and finding the accommodation there is the chance to have a bit of a walk around, which is when the sheer scale of the place hits home - Spring Harvest takes over the entire Butlins site for the various venues and all of the accommodation, with an added Big Top which is where the main worship sessions in the morning and evening take place.

In the opening celebration one of the first things we got to do is take a quiz to find out which category of person we fit into and therefore which learning style we are best suited to. The four categories were activist, pragmatist, reflector and theorist. This allowed us to determine which study sessions we would be best suited to later in the week - all of the sessions covered the same material, just in different learning styles. For the record, apparently I am an activist!

A typical day at Spring Harvest would consist of an event called the Big Start immediately following breakfast, which was a lively early morning worship session designed to wake everyone up and get them going for the day. After that there were the various study sessions for the different learning styles, with a number of

seminars and other workshops during the day to choose from. Also on site were things such as arcade, fairground rides, a swimming pool, snooker hall and much more, meaning there was no shortage of things to do during the day! After dinner there was a choice of evening worship sessions to go to, with the main one taking place in the Big Top. In both the morning and evening there were a selection of very good speakers, sketches and music which was led by Graham Kendrick and his band, who played some of his new songs and well-known songs from other artists, and resisted the urge to play certain classics of his own!

Later in the evenings there was the after hours entertainment. Bands such as *dweeb* and 'thebandwithnoname' performed concerts, as well as a special concert on the final evening from Graham Kendrick - where he did bring out some of the classics! As well as music, some evenings also featured shows such as a performance from the Saltmine Theatre Company, who had provided some of the sketches in the main worship sessions and in their after hours slot did a dramatic performance of the book of *Genesis*, which was what you might call a different interpretation to how it is usually read in the Bible!

This article only really scratches the surface of what happens at Spring Harvest. To write about everything in detail would take a lot more space than is available here. Suffice to say, it is a fantastic event and I had a really enjoyable first time there. Plans are already underway for 2010, where the theme is "Different Eyes" - how we as apprentices of Jesus can see things through different eyes. If you are interested in going, information on how to get involved should either be out or about to come out by the time you read this article.

Tom Boorman

# **3<sup>rd</sup> Enfield Boys' Brigade Annual Display and Presentation Evening Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2009**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Enfield's Annual Display and Presentation Evening took place in the Church hall on 27<sup>th</sup> April. It is always a great opportunity for us to show the parents and friends of the Company some of the activities that we get up to during the session.

The Anchor Boys and Junior Section decided between them to do a games item together, with the Junior Section also putting on a figure marching performance – perhaps a bit rough around the edges but a very good performance considering the Boys only had a couple of weeks to practice. The Junior Section also took part in some team games against a selection of audience members and the Company/Senior Sections, who also decided on their own item, a game of Countdown against the audience. The Company/Senior Sections also put on a drill routine which was similar to one of the papers used in London District, with some audience members getting a chance to show that they hadn't lost it when it comes to drill by doing the same paper without any warning!

Towards the end of the evening we were also treated to a solo drum performance from Andrew Clarke, who won the London District Solo Drum competition in 2009. We finished the evening with the promotions between sections and the special Company awards and NCO promotions, which were as follows:

## **Promotion to the rank of Lance Corporal**

Owen Newport, Christian Collins-O'Connor

## **Promotion to the rank of Sergeant**

Jamie Newport

## **Promotion to the rank of Staff Sergeant**

Andrew Clarke

## **The R L Plowman Trophy**

Awarded to a Boy between 11 and 15 years old who the Company/Senior Sections believe has done the most for the Company (secret ballot by the Boys)

Owen Newport

### **The T R Plowman Trophy**

Awarded to a Boy between 15 and 18 years old who the Company/  
Senior Sections believe has done the most for the Company (secret  
ballot by the Boys)  
Jamie Newport

### **The Frank Head Trophy**

“For general efficiency in Company work and interests with a special  
emphasis on drill”  
Jamie Newport

### **The Cecil Brett Shield**

Awarded to the Boy who in the opinion of the Officers has done the  
most for the Church in the past year  
Christian Collins-O'Connor

### **The Plowman Bugle**

Awarded to the Senior Boy who has done the most for the band in  
the previous session  
Andrew Clarke

### **The Chris Bullock Memorial Trophy**

Awarded to a Boy in their final year who the Officers believe has  
done the most for the Company  
Andrew Clarke

### **The President's Badge**

The second highest award in The Boys' Brigade  
Jamie Newport

Special congratulations to Jamie Newport, who joins an elite list of 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Enfield members to have gained the President's Badge, and is the  
first person to gain the award since 2004. We would like to thank  
everyone who was able to come along to the display and support the  
Company in what was an enjoyable evening. The date for the display  
in 2010 will be announced soon, where next year we will look forward  
to another such evening!

Tom Boorman



# St Georges Day Parade—26th April

Our 9th Enfield Girl Guides proudly march through Enfield town with their leaders.



Rainbows





Brownies bottom left and top right  
Guides in picture below



# 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](mailto:martyn@fourhillsltd.com)





# June Church Diary

- Wed 3rd      12      Friendship Club Lunch and cream tea,  
midday      with walk around Forty hall gardens
- Sun 7th      11am      The Revd David Atkinson  
Holy Communion offering for the  
Cheviots Children's centre  
Duty Elder— Pamela Fisher**
- 12.30      Church Meeting**
- Wed            9.45-      Joint bible study with Lancaster Road at  
10th          11.15am      Lancaster Road URC
- Sun            11am      The Worship Group  
14th                                  Duty Elder— Pamela Mansley**
- Sun            11am      Mrs M Lawrence  
21st                                  Family Parade Service.  
    Fathers Day  
    Duty Elder— Ron Smith**
- Wed            2.15pm      Friendship Club— Save the Children  
17th                                  Fund
- Sun            11am      Mr. Terry Silvey  
28th                                  Duty Elder— Pamela Fisher**
- Wed            9.45-      Joint bible study with Lancaster Road at  
24th          11.15am      Lancaster Road URC

# July Church Diary

- Wed 1st 12 midday Friendship Club  
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**
- Wed 8th 9.45- Joint bible study with Lancaster  
11.15am Road at Lancaster Road URC
- Sun 12th 11am The Worship Group  
Duty Elder— Stephen Gilbert**

## Advance dates for 2009

### Church Meetings

**12.30pm**

7th June

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.

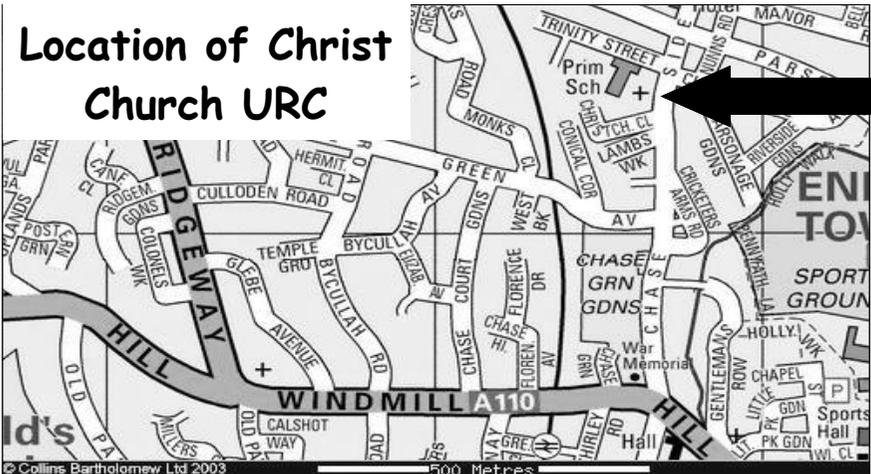
**WHEN:**  
Sunday  
mornings from  
11am to 12 noon



**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 **July 2009** issue should reach the Editor by **2nd Sunday of June**.

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