



Christ Church United Reformed Church
NEWSLETTER

June 2020

Getting in contact

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Youth organisations**Boys' Brigade - Anchors**

Sue Bullock

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Boys' Brigade - Juniors, Company Section & Seniors

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Girlguiding - Rainbows, Brownies, Guides & Rangers

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Rosemary Milns

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Other activities**Friendship Club**

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Pastoral Letter June 2020

It's a mystery - how do we respond?

Pentecost was when the church began.

There was a sound from heaven like the rush of a violent wind which filled the whole house, and tongues, as of fire, appeared among them and rested on them.

Luke records that *"all of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability."* (Acts 2:4)

Something happened that day.

We can't escape the fact.

The disciples' lives were changed... and many people in churches all over the world have wondered and asked questions about what happened that day down through the centuries. Some have pleaded that God would send the Holy Spirit again in the same way. Others have wanted to shy away from whatever it was that happened for fear of one kind or another.

But I don't think anyone can deny that something happened that day, something that changed the disciples in a powerful way, something that gave them the courage to preach the message of the good news about Jesus Christ in a new, powerful and vibrant way.

A few years later the apostle Paul arrived at Ephesus and found a group of believers.

The story, re-told by Luke in Acts 19, is one that continues to challenge the 21st century church.

Paul notices that these believers seem to be missing something, so he asks them a simple question:-

“Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?”

We're not quite sure what it was that caused Paul to ask this question, or what exactly seemed to be absent from these disciples, but it is something we were reminded of recently when reading “Unleashed” by Gavin and Anne Calver, who write:

*“What we do not see here in Acts is a church operating out of duty, but **out of joy**. They are powerfully moved by the love of God in their hearts to share with their brothers and sisters. There is an overflow of generosity, of kindness, and selflessness that spills forth in the early church.” (p57)*

Might it be the joy that those disciples at Ephesus were missing - and is that something that in our own worship as a church is missing oftentimes today?

After Paul baptises these believers he lays his hands on them and *“the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied”*.

Is it the gifts of the Holy Spirit that we are missing in our churches today, gifts that according to 1 Corinthians 12 vary, but which *“God... activates ...in everyone... for the common good” (1 Corinthians 12:4 - 7)*

Do we realise and recognise that it is God's intention that we all have something to offer to build up the church of God, the body of Christ - each of us has a part to play, and the current situation we are facing as a community dealing with coronavirus means that we need to think more about our response. Can we help by calling another member of the church and having a chat with them? Can we help by praying for another person in need? Is God speaking to us about a

different way we could respond? Do we need to ask God to fill us with the Holy Spirit, or give us the joy that is promised to us?

Graham Tomlin, in his book "The Provocative Church" writes about our calling as Christians:

"Christians are not meant just to try to do good, be nice and help the world work a little bit better. They are instead to act as signposts to another order, another way of life, another kingdom, which can be glimpsed in this world, but has not yet arrived completely." (p22)

We are called **together** to be the light of Christ to the world around us.

Can we pray that we might see how God might want to do that through us, as individuals, and as a church, at this strange time - and might we also pray that the Holy Spirit would lead and guide each and every one of us from day to day.

Mark and Melanie

Donating to Christ Church

If you would like to support Christ Church while we are not able to meet together, the easiest way is to use online banking, either for a one-off donation or by setting up a standing order.

Please contact our treasurer, David Fisher on 07973 305 298 for details of the church's bank account. If you prefer, you can send a cheque, made out to 'Christ Church Enfield URC' to David Fisher, 40b Chase Green Avenue, Enfield, EN2 8EB. Donations will be very much appreciated!

Coronavirus update

At the time of writing, all church services and activities remain suspended until further notice.

The Enfield URCs have been collectively providing opportunities to join in worship and fellowship online whilst at home. If you haven't already, do sign up for the NewsShare emails at <http://eepurl.com/dHm8TH> to receive updates about what's coming up.

If you can't get online, Mark and Melanie are recording a short phone message each week which you can listen to at any time by phoning 020 3389 6021. The call is charged at the standard local call rate, which is free in most phone packages.

Christ Church has a WhatsApp group to give an additional way of keeping in touch with each other. If you would like to be added please speak to Mark or Rosemary.

As ever, if you need any help or support at this time, please do not hesitate to get in touch with Mark or one of the elders.

Quiz Evening

We will be holding a 'virtual' Quiz Evening on Friday 26th June from 7:30pm in support of the Enfield URCs India Appeal.

The quiz will be held using Zoom so you can join using a computer, tablet, smartphone or dial in by using any phone.

If you would like to take part, please contact Revd Mark Meatcher or Pamela Fisher so they can provide you with details of how to join the Zoom call.

Bible Study

Working through our regular Bible Study we have been looking at Moses. Last month I posed the next few questions - and Sylvia came back to me with her answers which I share below:

1. **Which adjectives would you use to describe Moses?**

Obedient (to God); brave - going face to face with God alone on behalf of all the Israelites; patient with the people he was called to lead, even when they continued to be difficult and critical; holy - set apart and able to reflect God's radiance (with a shining face), loving and caring for his people (Exodus 34:9).

2. **How do you react when people criticise what you are doing?**

Very often not so well! Either by telling those who criticise, or thinking, that if they feel they can do a whole lot better they should get on and prove it.

A better example of dealing with criticism was something that I witnessed watching a previous minister responding to a member of the congregation who came into the vestry to tell the minister that he thought that all the hymns he had chosen for the service that morning were very 'tired' he should have chosen more modern, better music. The minister smiled at him and said "Thank you" and that was all. It completely took the wind out of his sails and finished the matter politely and nicely.

3. **Moses was both teacher and leader - what qualities do you expect from your teachers and leaders?**

'To lead is to serve'. The Goldie College motto says a lot about good leadership, I think. Leaders need wisdom, courage to deal decisively with those who are wrong or mistaken when necessary, respect for those they lead

(who in turn need respect for their leaders), to be encouragers and, above all, to love (in the agape sense) those that they lead. To teach and lead is not easy. Those of us who do need James' reminder that we will be judged more severely! (James 3:1).

4. **Have you ever had an experience when you have felt God's presence in nature, for example, in the rays of sun behind a cloud, seeing a rainbow, etc? Could you share this experience with the rest of us?**

The most moving experience I have had when looking at nature still has to be one that happened at Girl Guide camp in the Solomons. This is what happened:

At one particular camp, during the service, a group of girls sang a favourite action song. I was sitting on the beach looking and listening and when they sang the line 'For His (God's) love surrounds me like the sea' there was the sea right behind them and all around us. The water stretched away right to the horizon, light blue and turquoise near the beach and dark blue further out where the sea was deep with white waves breaking on the edge of the reef in the far distance. Everywhere you looked there was sea! You could see no end to it, it just went on and on until it met the sky on the horizon. It was a beautiful reminder of the vastness of God's love for each of us, so much greater than we could understand or imagine, and vast enough to include people not just on our tiny island but in every part of the world.

5. **In view of their hand-to-mouth nomadic existence, the creation of the ark and the tabernacle showed extraordinary extravagance on the part of the Israelites. Where do we find parallels today?**

Maybe it's not quite the same, but a time when I felt that someone's giving was very extravagant was in Zimbabwe last year when churches in Harare were doing an amazing job of collecting all kinds of aid for those who had lost

everything in cyclone Idai which had just struck the eastern side of the country with devastating effect. Almost all of those organising this huge effort were from English speaking congregations (i.e. white and relatively well off). They were very moved by one elderly, clearly poor, black woman who gave them her cooking pots to send. She said that this was obviously something that people would need. When asked what she would use herself she told them that she did not have other pots but she would manage somehow. You can't get much more extravagant than that. (It reminded me of the story of the widow's mite which we read in the reading books which I took this year of course.)

In June we are going to try and continue the Bible Studies on the first and third Saturday morning at 10:30am using Zoom. If you would like to join us then please let me know and I will send you the details you will need to join us.

In the meantime, perhaps you'd like to ponder the next few questions about Moses:

6. Sometimes we meet people with a 'radiant' faith. Discuss 'radiance'.
7. Moses taught obedience to the Law and contemporary issues of law and order receive much publicity. In what ways is breaking secular law also disobeying God's Law?
8. In the light of sacrifice in the time of Moses, explain the New Testament term: 'the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!'.
9. There were obviously several tribes, traders and 'aliens' living, working or passing through the wilderness. Imagine what life was like.
10. The people met God at the entrance to the Tent of the Meeting. Where do you feel you meet with God?

Mark

Boys' Brigade update

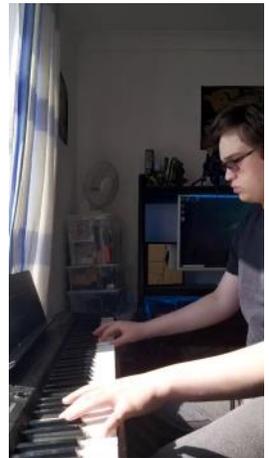
It has recently been announced that Boys' Brigade activities will remain suspended across the country until at least September. It is of course a shame to not be meeting face-to-face for at least 3 more months, and whilst undoubtedly the right decision it means we will not be able to hold activities such as our annual Summer Camp this year.

We have continued to send out weekly activities for the boys to try at home through the #BBatHOME programme being produced by BBHQ and it has been great to see them getting involved in activities such as a VE Day Party, outdoor cooking, car washing, gardening, craft activities, camping out and more.



We have also recently started to run virtual sessions on Zoom, initially with our Company Section and Seniors along with 1st Enfield. It has been great for everyone to be able to check in with each other and take part in some BB-style activities.

As part of #BBatHOME there have been competitions running that are open to members of all age groups across the country, including BB's Got Talent, The Great BB Bake Off and an Art Competition. A big well done to James from our Seniors who has been getting involved, with a fantastic performance as part of BB's Got Talent which you can see on our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/3rdenfieldbb



Tom Boorman

Photos provided by parents/carers to show #BBatHOME engagement

Thank you

We celebrated our Silver Wedding Anniversary on Wednesday 20th May. It was lovely to receive the flowers, card and all the good wishes from our friends at Christ Church.

We enjoyed our day although not really as we had expected to spend it.

We treated ourselves to a special meal in the evening, toasted the event with champagne with our daughter Katherine and shared a lovely cake made by friends which was delivered on the day.



We enjoyed reminiscing about the ceremony at Palmers Green URC, being driven around in my uncle's car, wedding breakfast at West Lodge, an evening reception at my parents' home with a marquee in the garden and an amazing honeymoon in the Maldives. Here's to the next 25 years!

Pamela & David Fisher

Congratulations!

Congratulations to our Christian Aid Quiz winners! The winning team consisted of Tom Boorman, Margaret Hume, Clare & Tony Locke and Chris, Laura & Emily Marlow.



Our special prizes were hand delivered, hopefully taking pride of place in the winners' bathrooms.

Mark and Melanie hosted the online quiz on Zoom on Thursday 14th May. 27 quiz participants were put into 5 breakout rooms which created virtual teams so answers could be discussed within the teams without giving anything away.

The quiz had rounds of varying topics including history, law, Enfield and food & drink, all light hearted but the odd challenging questions.

The quiz raised an amazing £490 for the work of Christian Aid. Thank you to everyone who took part and for your generosity. We hope to see more people joining us for the next quiz on Friday 26th June which promises to be another fun evening.

Pamela Fisher

Photos by Pamela Fisher



Charity Quiz Nights

In the absence of face-to-face rehearsals at the current time, Enfield Community Orchestra (which usually rehearses at Christ Church) is running weekly Charity Quiz Nights which are open to all.

The quizzes take place every Tuesday evening at 7:30pm, bringing a fun-filled evening of quizzing straight to your homes in order to raise money for charities that are in need of extra support during this difficult time.

You can play along on your own, gather your household or create some virtual teams with your friends and family to help raise money for a good cause.

To take part, you simply need to register for a free ticket each time at www.enfieldcommunityorchestra.co.uk - you will then be sent a confirmation email containing a link to YouTube where the quiz will be live streamed from 7:30pm on that Tuesday. So, all you need is an email address to register and a device that can access YouTube - you will be able to see and hear the quiz hosts but they won't see and hear you.

The confirmation email will also contain a link to donate to that week's charity if you are able; the suggested donation amount is just £2.

At the time of writing the quizzes have supported Age UK Enfield, the North Enfield Foodbank and Citizens Advice Enfield, with the focus being on supporting a different local charity each week.



India Appeal

Out of India? (Part Two)

On Friday evening, after having spent most of the day with the Principal of Bishops College we met up with our good friends, Prakash Thankachan and Margaret Ali. Margaret is one of the few ordained female ministers in the Diocese of Calcutta and Prakash is a deacon who works with the Mennonites. We spent time with them and their families, especially enjoying some time playing with their daughter, Irene.

On the Saturday we were guests at a workshop on human trafficking. It was incredibly moving to hear stories from women who had been trafficked and others who were having to work as sex-workers in order to ensure that their children did not end up in the same profession. Our hearts were touched deeply, both by these incredibly amazing people and by the vision of the church to try and act to make a difference.

Sunday morning we split up! Melanie went off with Rig David from Cathedral Relief Services to preach at CNI Wesleyan Church and Mark headed to St Paul's Cathedral in Kolkata where Bishop Paritosh Canning led the eucharist and Mark spoke as the cathedral celebrated Mothering Sunday (a week early!).

Mark then attended the blessing of the Cathedral Gift Shop, and a refurbished play area for young people (although he did manage to get in a quick game of badminton on the newly built court!) before a quick snack with the Friends of the Cathedral.

In the afternoon we joined a



contingent from the diocese and headed out for the re-dedication of a church. The Bishop was greeted in traditional Indian way and the afternoon was a great celebration with much joy present. It looked like being a great new start for a church in the middle of an area that struggles to make ends meet.



On the Monday we were able to say a few goodbyes as we headed off with Pradip, the Administrator at Khristiya Seva Niketan Hospital, to go to Sarenga - the second part of our trip was just about to begin.

Mark and Melanie

Photos by Revd Melanie Smith

Eco Tip

According to a leading green energy supplier, all of us relying on food delivery services at the moment are helping the environment!

Home delivery is like the public transport of groceries. Instead of having 20 odd cars make their way to the supermarket - one van drives around delivering to everyone in the area. Additionally, it means you're less likely to impulse buy which can help to reduce any waste food.

Remember, if you can, to ask for no plastic bags. It is safe to buy unpackaged fruit and veg if you wash it thoroughly. A study published in the New England Journal of Medicine revealed plastic is the surface the coronavirus remains viable on for the longest - up to 72 hours; for cardboard/paper it was 24. So perhaps, if you had not been in the habit of doing so, stick with deliveries after the lockdown and help slow down climate chaos.

Transgender. Christian. Human.

Alex Clare-Young recently appeared on Songs of Praise and spoke about their life-journey to the point at which they have become the first out transgender minister in the United Reformed Church.

Their book, the title of which is above, has recently been published by wild goose publications (2019).

I have a copy if anyone is interested in borrowing it (always happy to lend books!).

Alex's book is a good, easy-to-read account of Alex's journey to date which, I think, will prove a good introductory book for people who are struggling to understand the experiences that many like Alex have been through, and still go through.

There is a good section on "Defining Terms" which helps the reader understand some of the words that are used when referencing transgender people and some useful worship resources (prayers and songs) that could be adapted and used in many different situations.

If you personally have no experience of transgender people then I would commend the book to you - it doesn't take too long to read and is written in a way that means you can take it as slowly or as quickly as you would wish to. There is space provided through the book for you to reflect on what has been written.

Mark

Prayer diary June 2020

- 1st** - Pray for children who are returning to school today.
2nd - Pray for an end to the Coronavirus pandemic.
3rd - Pray for your own personal faith.
4th - Pray for our friends and families.
5th - Pray for the local community around Christ Church.
6th - Pray for today's virtual Bible Study Group meeting.
7th - Pray for our online worship today.
8th - Pray for this evening's virtual Boys' Brigade meeting.
9th - Pray for our elders.
10th - Pray for anyone you know who is suffering from sickness or ill health.
11th - Pray for key workers.
12th - Pray for the India appeal and for the projects being supported by it.
13th - Pray for those for whom the current circumstances have meant a long period of isolation.
14th - Pray for our online worship today.
15th - Pray for the government.
16th - Pray for Mark and Melanie.
17th - Give thanks to God for his word that he gave to us through the Bible.
18th - Pray for today's Joint Elders Meeting with others from Bush Hill Park and Lancaster Road URCs.
19th - Pray for those who have suffered from the loss of loved ones as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic.
20th - Pray for today's virtual Bible Study Group meeting.
21st - Father's Day: Pray for fathers.
22nd - Pray for those who are suffering from mental health struggles.
23rd - Pray for the work of Christian charities around the world.
24th - Give thanks to God for the Holy Spirit, a free gift given to us all.
25th - Pray for those who face losing their job as a result of the current situation.

26th - Pray for our Quiz Evening in support of the Enfield URCS India Appeal.

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

28th - Pray for our online worship today.

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

30th - Pray for the children and young people in our church fellowship.

July 2020 newsletter

Given the current circumstances, we have decided to publish separate **July** and **August** newsletters to help us continue to keep in touch.

The **July 2020** newsletter will be published on **Sunday 28th June**. Items intended for inclusion in this issue should be with the Editor, Tom Boorman, by Sunday 21st June. 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 **mail@ccurc.org.uk** or by phone on **07903 605 545**.

The newsletter is usually 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 June 2020

Saturday 6th June 10:30am
Bible Study Group
'Virtual' session using Zoom - contact Mark for details

Sunday 7th June
Enfield URCs online worship
Sign up to receive details at <http://eepurl.com/dHm8TH>
or contact Mark for a printed copy

Sunday 14th June
Enfield URCs online worship
Sign up to receive details at <http://eepurl.com/dHm8TH>
or contact Mark for a printed copy

Saturday 20th June 10:30am
Bible Study Group
'Virtual' session using Zoom - contact Mark for details

Sunday 21st June
Enfield URCs online worship
Sign up to receive details at <http://eepurl.com/dHm8TH>
or contact Mark for a printed copy

Friday 26th June 7:30pm
Quiz Evening in support of the Enfield URCs India Appeal
'Virtual' quiz using Zoom - contact Mark or Pamela for details
(see page 6)

Sunday 28th June
Enfield URCs online worship
Sign up to receive details at <http://eepurl.com/dHm8TH>
or contact Mark for a printed copy

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 be aware
that all church
services and
activities are
currently
suspended until
further notice.**

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

Cover image by Rahul Bhogal on Unsplash