

CHRIST CHURCH URC

Chase Side, Enfield

Minister Rev'd David Atkinson



Lenten Offering envelope attached

Please return to our Treasurer David Fisher

March 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

7.00pm - Boys' Brigade Anchor Boys (5-8 years)

9.00pm Junior Section (8-11 years)

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,

In January an atheist group ran a national campaign against God and paid for an advert to go on about 800 buses across the country. The advert said, "There's probably no God. Now stop worrying and enjoy yourself". I imagine that most of us came across this advert on buses or on radio or television or in the newspapers. It certainly gained a lot of attention in the media.

The statement, "There's probably no God" doesn't surprise me, after all atheists are people who believe God does not exist. I obviously disagree with them but in a free country respect their right to publicise their belief. In the final analysis I cannot prove God exists and atheists cannot prove there is no God. It's a matter of personal belief.

However, I certainly don't agree with the clear implication of the second sentence of their advert. The atheists allege that belief in God causes worry and misery. This is demonstrably untrue.

Last year I celebrated my 60th birthday and two close friends, Neil and Marie, gave me a book called, "Younger Next Year: A guide to living like you're 50 until you're 80 and beyond" by Dr Henry S. Lodge and Chris Crowley. The main message of this book is that the older generation can enjoy a healthier and happier life if they do regular exercise and if they eat good food and don't overeat.

This book is not specifically a Christian book but also says that an active spiritual life will also help people to be healthier and happier. At one point the authors write, "Suffice it to say that a meaningful, spiritual life may be almost all you need".

They also urge those people with faith and have ceased to worship to “go back to church”. So for Dr Henry S. Lodge and Chris Crowley an active and meaningful spiritual life enhances people’s health and well-being.

As far as Jesus is concerned he says that faith in God is an antidote to worry. Our trust in God and his loving provision helps us not to worry and brings an inner assurance and peace. Read Matthew 6:25-34. Jesus also says that faith in God brings great joy. Read Matthew 13:44. The apostle Paul says that the fruit of God’s Spirit includes both peace and joy. Read Galatians 5:22.

Faith in God doesn’t mean our lives will be free from trouble and suffering but it does mean we have the love and strength of God to help us face and come through life’s sorrows. An active and meaningful spiritual life gives peace and joy. David.

SERMONS ON SOCIAL ISSUES

Last autumn I had a reading week and one of the two books I read was “Doing the Right Thing” by Rob Frost in which Rob Frost examines ten social and ethical issues from a Christian standpoint. I have decided to preach sermons on these issues to stimulate our thinking about them. The first two subjects are:

The Poor on 15th March 11a.m at Christ Church and 6:30p.m. at Lancaster Road

The Environment on 7th June 11a.m. at Christ Church and 21st June 6:30pm. at Lancaster Road.

I hope you will find these sermons interesting. David

NEWS OF THE FELLOWSHIP

Mary Smart is receiving treatment after her recent visit to UCH

Irene Baker is recuperating at home after her recent hip operation

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



Check out our Website
www.christchurchurcenfield.org.uk

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

Lenten Offering

Please use the attached envelope if you would like to make a Lenten gift. Place the envelope containing your gift in the collection bag (or return it to David Fisher).

The Friendship Club

The Friendship club continues to meet on alternate Wednesday afternoons at 2.15pm in the Church Hall.

On March 11th

Ms Frances Johnson will be talking about the work of **Sightsavers International**, the organisation which treats river blindness, and the removal of cataracts among African people, who otherwise could not afford surgery

Sunday March 15th

The annual Friendship Club Service will be held and our minister will be taking the service. We warmly welcome all our members and friends to join with us.

March 25th **Towards Easter**, a devotional meeting as we approach Easter. Led by Rev Amanda James

EASTER HOLIDAYS

The Summer Term commences on April 22nd

Lily Smith

NEWS OF FREINDSHIP CLUB MEMBERS

Mrs Irene Baker is not fully recovered from her recent hip operation but she is soon to have help at home.

Mrs Smart has returned home from the University College Hospital and is resting at home. She has commenced treatment and is feeling very positive

We send our love and our prayers to these members and pray that they will know the presence of Jesus with them through the coming days

Lancaster Road URC

Church Weekend

High Leigh Conference Centre, Hoddesden

Speaker—Rev Martin Camroux

Friday evening to Sunday afternoon

13th - 15th November

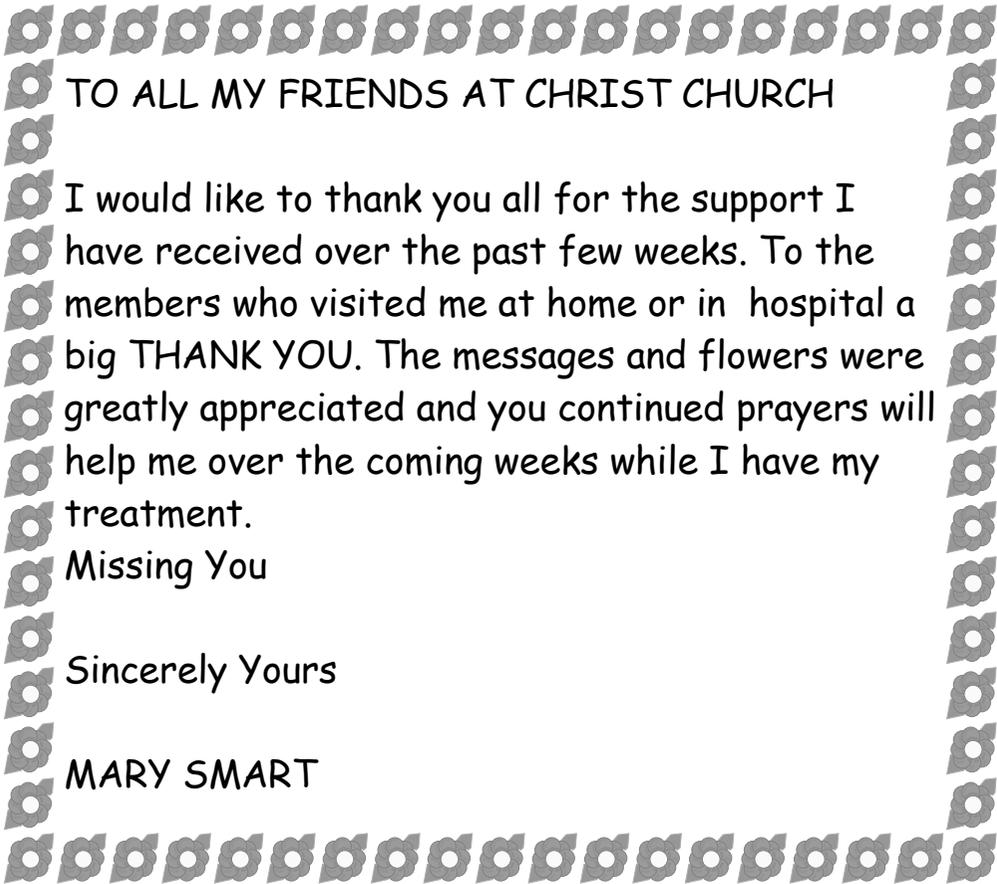
The Weekend will be a mixture of Christian Teaching & Worship and time to relax and socialise

Prices En-suite bedroom £123.02 PP Standard

Bedrooms £100.23 PP inclusive of all meals

Please contact Jim Holiday 020 8 245 1903

For further information prior to the end of March.



TO ALL MY FRIENDS AT CHRIST CHURCH

I would like to thank you all for the support I have received over the past few weeks. To the members who visited me at home or in hospital a big THANK YOU. The messages and flowers were greatly appreciated and your continued prayers will help me over the coming weeks while I have my treatment.

Missing You

Sincerely Yours

MARY SMART

ANNUAL REPORTS

All leaders of organisations are requested to let Stephen Gilburt have a copy of their annual report for 2008 as soon as possible so they can be presented at the Christ Church Annual General meeting on 29th March

URC Prayer for March

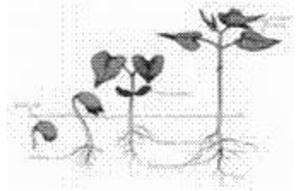
Many Waters - A Prayer of Thanksgiving

For safe, encircling waters
inside a mother's womb,
for fresh, renewing waters
to make a desert bloom;
for restful, quiet waters
to sit beside and dream;
for gurgling, laughing waters
in moorland brook or stream;
for high and mighty torrents
in mountain waterfalls;
for fierce, white-fanged sea waves
held back by harbour walls;
for gentle, cooling raindrops
in a summer shower;
for harnessed, channelled water
generating power;
for all creation's waters
to use in many ways,
to share, conserve and cherish,
we give God thanks and praise.

©Jean Mortimer

Every Person Challenge 2009

Going for Growth



PRAYER CALENDER FOR THE MONTH

Do all this in prayer, asking for Gods help. Pray on ever occasion, as the spirit leads for this reason keep alert and never give up; Pray always for all Gods people.

Ephesians 6:18

I commit myself to prayer for the following this week

Our own commitment to the promises we made on our Every Person Challenge form. Ask God to help remain committed to them.

The areas of conflict around the world that God will guide the political leaders to a peaceful resolution with justice.

All those affected by the current adverse economic conditions.

Victims of the Australian bush fires and other natural disasters.

Our family in Christ Church who are unwell including Mary Smart and Irene Baker

Our minister Revd David Atkinson and Elders in the leadership of our Church.

	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
6.00am							
7.00am							
8.00am							
9.00am							
10.00am							
11.00am							
12.00pm							
1.00pm							
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10.00pm							
11.00pm							



Why Should I Pray?

Prayer Develops Our Relationship with God.

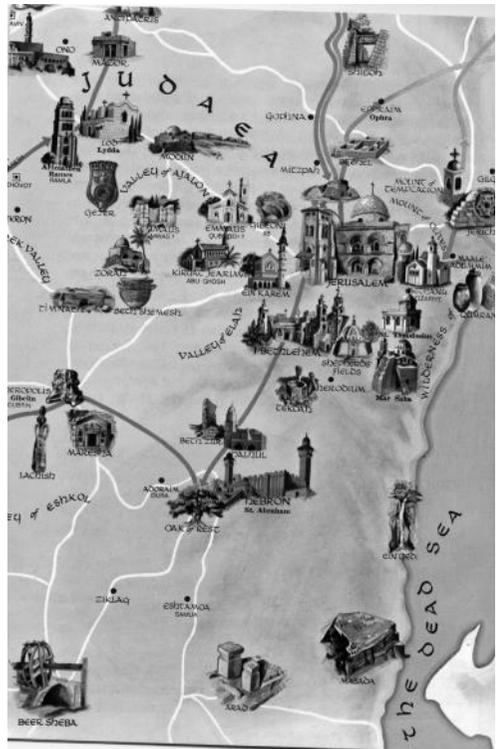
If we never speak to our spouse or never listen to anything our spouse might have to say to us, our marriage relationship will quickly deteriorate. It is the same way with God. Prayer - communicating with God - helps us grow closer and more intimately connected with God.

Ten minutes spent in prayer will make the whole day different

How true is the Bible?

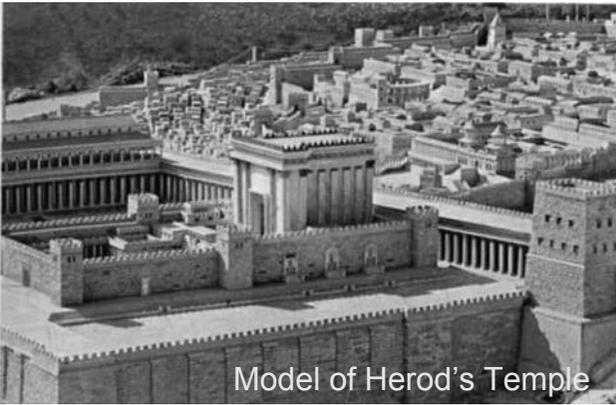
On Saturday 7th March elders from Bush Hill Park, Christ Church and Lancaster Road URCs will meet at Broxbourne URC under the leadership of Rev. David Atkinson to consider 'How true is the bible?'

The day will include a slide show presentation and display illustrating places recorded in the Bible in modern day Israel and Palestine, Egypt, Jordon, Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Iran, Turkey, Greece and Italy. Many of the buildings erected 2-3000 years ago have long since been demolished and synagogues, churches and mosques have been built on many sites traditionally associated with Biblical events. Archaeological discoveries of sculptures, paintings, mosaics and writings on clay tablets and papyrus can now be seen in museums around the world. Views will be shown of 1,400BC Egyptian wall paintings; the Sinai desert, which the people of Israel are recorded as having crossed to escape Egypt; Mount Nebo, from which Moses looked across



to the promised land; the river Jordan which Joshua crossed to reach Jericho and Jerusalem, captured by David about 1,000BC and extended by Solomon, who built the first temple. Events from the period of the Kingdoms of Israel and Judah will be illustrated with relief carvings (including scenes of attacks on the cities of Ashteroth and Lachish) from Assyrian palaces at Nimrud (825BC) and Nineveh (695BC) which are now in the British museum. In 587BC the kingdom of Judah came to an end with the conquest of Jerusalem and the destruction of Solomon's temple. The Jews were exiled to Babylon and not allowed to return until after the Persian King Cyrus's conquest of Babylon in 539BC. Fragments from books of the Jewish Bible, large parts of which took their final forms during and soon after the periods of exile, were discovered in the 1940's in caves at Qumran, near Jericho and are now displayed in Jerusalem.

The present Church of the Annunciation was built in 1960 at Nazareth over the traditional location where Mary was told she would have a son. The 4th century Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem preserves the traditional site of Jesus' birth. Jesus spent much of his ministry around the shores of the sea of Galilee and at Capernaum there is a 4th century synagogue built on the site of one Jesus would have known. Churches have been erected in a number of places associated with events from Jesus' ministry including the sermon on the mount and the feeding of the 5,000.



In Jerusalem a large outdoor model gives a good idea of what the city would have looked like 2,000 years ago, which is useful because much of it

was destroyed in AD70 by the Romans following a rebellion. Only the walls of the supporting platform of Herod's magnificent temple can still be seen today and on the site of the temple itself is the 7th century Muslim Arab Dome of the Rock. Across the Kidron Valley from the Temple Mount is the Garden of Gethsemane with its olive trees and the Mount of Olives, still largely undeveloped today. The 12th Century Church of the Holy Sepulchre is believed by many Christians to mark the site of Jesus's crucifixion and burial, although the Garden Tomb, discovered by General Gordon, gives a better impression of a 2,000 year old tomb.

Many places recorded in the Acts of the Apostles can still be seen today, including in Damascus the

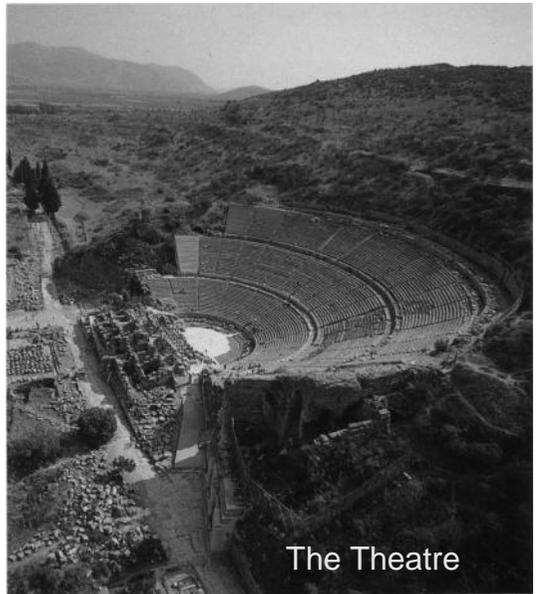


The Holy Sepulchre Church



The Garden Tomb

street called straight which still runs through the old city and a chapel dedicated to St Paul which commemorates the spot where he was lowered from the city walls to escape from the Jews. At Ephesus, in modern Turkey, there are extensive Roman remains of the city where the followers of Diana (Artemis to the Greeks) gathered in the theatre to denounce Paul. In Greece Paul preached in Athens without much success, but he stayed some time in Corinth while spreading the good news of Jesus to both Jews and Gentiles



The Theatre

Stephen Gilbert

April Church Diary

Wed 1st	9.45- 11.15am	Joint bible study with Lancaster Road at Lancaster Road URC
Sun 5th	11am	The Revd David Atkinson Holy Communion offering for Lancaster Road URC Special Supper Ministry Duty Elder— Pamela Fisher
Sun 12th	11am	The Revd David Atkinson EASTER SUNDAY Holy Communion offering for Shantigramam Duty Elder— Stephen Gilbert
Wed 15th	9.45- 11.15am	Joint bible study with Lancaster Road at Lancaster Road URC

Advance dates for 2009

Church Meetings

12.30pm

AGM 29th March

7th June

6th September

1st November

Elders Meetings 8pm

2nd March 8pm Manse

13th May 8pm Elders Vestry

6th July 8pm Elders Vestry

7th October 8pm Manse

2nd December 8pm Manse



3rd Enfield Boys Brigade

Annual Company Display

Monday 27th April

In the Church Hall — Time TBC

Thames North Synod

10am

March

September

November

** 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.

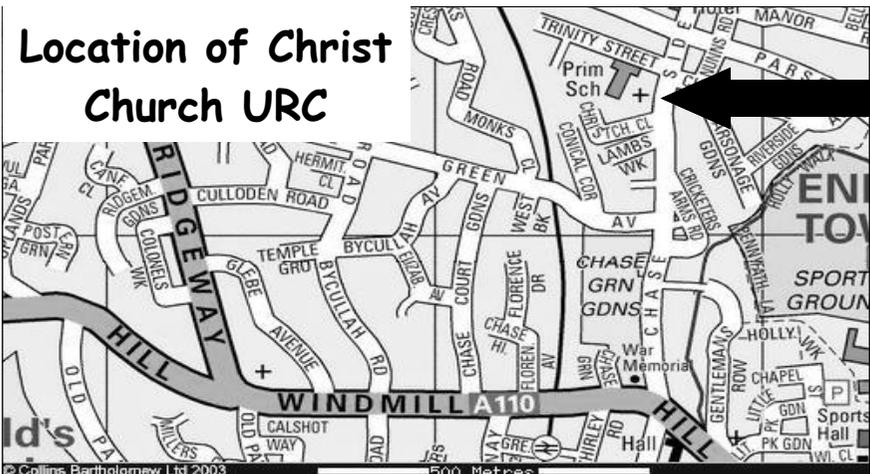
WHEN:
Sunday
mornings from
11am to 12 noon



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 **April 2009** issue should reach the Editor by **2nd Sunday of March.**

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