

Christ Church United Reformed Church
NEWSLETTER



Sunday 8th November at 10:45am
Remembrance Sunday service with Revd Mark Meatcher

Wednesday 11th November from 10:00am to 12:00pm
Church open for private prayer for Remembrance Day

November 2020

Getting in contact

Minister

Revd Mark Meatcher

020 8374 0509

Secretary

Rosemary Milns

020 8363 6571

Treasurer & Property Committee

David Fisher

020 8482 4610

Bookings Secretary

Pamela Mansley

07936 798 722

Newsletter & website

Tom Boorman

07903 605 545

Serving Elders

Tom Boorman

07903 605 545

Pamela Fisher

07775 505 999

Stephen Gilbert

020 8363 0031

Rosemary Milns

020 8363 6571

Youth organisations**Boys' Brigade - Anchors**

Sue Bullock

07961 504 123

Boys' Brigade - Juniors, Company Section & Seniors

Tom Boorman

07903 605 545

Girlguiding - Rainbows, Brownies, Guides & Rangers

Vicki Stratton-Stubbs

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

[@ccurcenfield](https://www.facebook.com/ccurcenfield)

Twitter

[@ccurc](https://twitter.com/ccurc)

Pastoral Letter November 2020

Memories of War

"I am not allowed to say how many planes joined the raid, but I counted them all out and I counted them all back. Their pilots were unhurt, cheerful and jubilant, giving thumbs-up signs." (Brian Hanrahan, BBC reporter)

As the generations come and go, our collective memories change.

The numbers of people who actually were physically alive at the time of the First World War is now fast diminishing, whilst those who were older than children, and could genuinely say they fought or worked during the Second World War is also declining (you would really have to be 95 or older to fit into that category).

My (Mark's) own understanding of warfare is probably best defined by the quote above, as, in the early 1980s, Britain went to war with Argentina over the Falkland Islands, and the memory of hearing Brian Hanrahan speak those words, and the palpable anxiety that there was in the population at large listening to, and watching, the reports coming back from a place that most people probably didn't even know existed, let alone that it was British, surrounded us in those days.

And yet, now, today, in 2020, I am growing ever more conscious that the population around me, particularly anyone under the age of 40, has no recollection of the events that shaped my life growing up. They are confined to their history lessons.

So how do we pass on the lessons that we have learnt to the young people growing up behind us, how do we teach them that war, in general, doesn't really help, that we probably need

to work harder to get on with other people, and understand cultural practices that are different to our own, if we are to have any serious hope of peace in our world? We probably need to invest more time in religious education - and history lessons - to help us with this.

Films, we find, often assist us to get a better focus on what may be really important, and music, too, helps us re-align our values so that we can re-gain a perspective that calls us to follow in Christ's footsteps:

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God" (Matthew 5:9)

Who cannot fail to be moved when they hear John Williams' "Hymn to the Fallen" from the film "Saving Private Ryan"...but then are we not also equally moved by the haunting soundtrack to "Schindler's List" (another John Williams piece) which shows a different side to the impact of war.

As we think about war and peace we find more questions emerging as we consider some of the accounts within the biblical record.

Take a look for a moment or two at Exodus 15 - a song of celebration that God has destroyed the enemies of the Israelites.

Whilst we appreciate that the Israelites needed to be set free, to begin their journey to their Promised Land, did God really have to kill so many people to achieve that goal? Were there no "innocents" among them?

We are convinced that God does not actually take pleasure in the death of any person, no matter how wicked they may be, or what evils they have done, and therefore find it difficult to sing, or join in a song of celebration over the defeat of our enemies.

Which brings us back to where we started - the idea of thumbs up because a mission has been successful, that planes have dropped bombs on their target and "our side" has not suffered any casualties, but without knowing how many lives on "their side" have been taken - how can we celebrate that?

War poses many questions.

How do we genuinely work for peace, and how do we enable the true peace that every person is searching for, to be known.

We know that this peace is only found through faith in Jesus Christ - so how do we explain that as well to the generation that is following after us? How do we make sure that for them the story of Jesus is not simply a history lesson, but is something that really means something?

Your ministers,

Mark and Melanie

Bible Study

Our Zoom Bible Study continues to meet in November on Saturday 7th, 14th and 28th at 10:30am. The topic we are currently looking at is "Parables" and we hope to finish the Cover to Cover book that we are basing our study on in November so that we can then follow an Advent Bible study in December.

If you would like to join the Bible Study Group then please contact Mark for the Zoom sign up instructions - you can join the group by phone if you wish to (we have one member who already does this regularly and finds it very rewarding!).

Remembrance at Christ Church

Remembrance Sunday - Sunday 8th November

Please note that morning worship at Christ Church on Remembrance Sunday will be at 10:45am, and not at our usual time of 11:15am. This is to allow a two minute silence

to be observed at 11:00am. The service will be led by our minister, Revd Mark Meatcher



Remembrance Day - Wednesday 11th November

On Remembrance Day, Christ Church will be open for private prayer from 10:00am to 12:00pm.

At 10:55am we will prepare to observe the two minutes silence at 11:00am and Revd Mark Meatcher will lead in a time of prayer after the silence has been observed.

Picture above Copyright Sharon Drummond
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/21882319@N07/4598878639/>
Used by Creative Commons Licence

Events in November

LAG Meeting

The next meeting of the Local Area Group is due to be held on Monday 9th November at 7:30 pm - please contact Jim Gascoigne for details.

North Enfield Group Joint Elders Meeting

This will take place via Zoom on Thursday 12th November at 7:30pm - please contact Mark or Clare Locke for details about how to join the meeting.

Church Meeting

On Sunday 15th November at approximately 12:30pm we will be having a Church Meeting at Christ Church.

At the meeting we will need to elect church members to serve Christ Church as elders for 2021. Nominations are invited for these positions and forms for nominations may be obtained from the back of the church or from the Church Secretary, Rosemary Milns, and should be returned signed to her no later than Sunday 8th November.

In addition, as we have not had an Annual General Meeting yet this year we will also need to appoint the Church Secretary, Church Treasurer, Property Committee, representatives to Thames North Synod and the Enfield and East Herts Local Area Group. It is not proposed that we need to have a representative to the North West Enfield Group of Churches as this group has not met since 2018.

It is proposed that reports from various groups will be received at the next Annual General Meeting in April 2021.

Enfield Churches Debt Centre

Below and overleaf is a reproduction of a letter from Revd Mark Meatcher, Chair of the Enfield Churches Debt Centre.

Dear friends,

Earlier in the year I wrote to many leaders of churches in Enfield, and others who are involved with the local church network, to update you on progress made in setting up an Enfield Churches Debt Centre in the borough.

I am pleased to confirm that we have now gained charitable status and will be holding a **Promotional Evening** on **Zoom** on **Monday 16th November at 7:30pm**. The event is expected to last one hour and will be an opportunity for you to find out more about what is planned and when.

If you, or any of your church would like to join us to find out more then please do contact me on the email address below and I will forward the Zoom joining instructions.

We are working with Christians Against Poverty (CAP) on this project and hope to be up and running fully in the Spring of 2021 subject to training provision being available early in the new year from CAP.

13 churches in the Borough have so far committed to making a regular financial contribution to the Enfield Churches Debt Centre and these are now able to be made at <https://www.give.net/ecdc>

We will provide an update on other ways that gifts can be made at the Promotional Evening.

We will also be looking for people, seeking prayer support and encouraging you and your churches to get involved in this project in whatever way they may feel able to over the coming months and I look forward to meeting you either in person or virtually at our Promotional evening.

In Christ Jesus,

Revd Mark Meatcher
Chair of Enfield Churches Debt Centre
Minister of North Enfield Group of the United Reformed Church
Phone: 0208 374 0509 Email: revd.meatcher@gmail.com

Enfield Churches Debt Centre - Registered Charity No. 1191279



The
United
Reformed
Church

Enfield and East Hertfordshire
Local Area Group

Elders' Training

Saturday 31st October 2020

10.00am - 1.00pm

*"Discipleship and our
Personal Spirituality"*



Facilitator: Rev Sam White, Principal
Westminster College
A Resource Centre for Learning
Serving the United Reformed Church



Stop Press: To be held on Zoom

North Enfield Foodbank report

I joined an online meeting on 30th September arranged by North Enfield Foodbank. About 40 people joined the meeting for this "Referral Agency Update". This was run by Kerry assisted by Phoebe.



The notes that were viewed will be available at some point so when they are either me or Mark will let you know but in the meantime I thought that I would pass on some of the main points that will be of interest.

Since the beginning of April this year the foodbank has seen 10,740 people. Of the families supported 53% include children.

The clients have been referred by 158 different agencies. If you are not currently able to issue vouchers for people in need and would like to do so then please contact either Mark, Melanie or myself and we will sort something out for you.

We are asked to only refer the client to one foodbank, as this allows a relationship to be formed and facilitates follow up support. This can include referral to other community and statutory services.

The guidance for the number of referrals is 3 times in 6 months. If the client/family requires another voucher after this they ask that the referral agency would call and speak to the foodbank admin to discuss the situation and see how they could help.

The foodbank is able to provide access to a money advice service and the debt centre phone number is 07596 735 789.

The client can self-refer to this service.

The foodbank has social media presence in all the usual places. You can find out on the sites what is going on including what shortages they may be experiencing.

Sadly, the workers, including volunteers have noticed a rise in aggressive behaviour recently.

Please pray for all who provide such vital support and for those who receive the help they need in difficult times.

Janice Lockett
Lancaster Road URC

Eco-Comment

Reflection on Climate Change

Scripture: Numbers 27:1-8

Coming from Kiribati, a country that is boom throughout the world as suffering the worst effects of climate change, I am always concerned for the future of my people and my country.

My land is my identity, my dignity and my wellbeing So, if my land is washed away, my nation is at the same time wiped out. My nation cannot survive without the land I stand on.

We are the victims of injustice and ignorance inflicted by the rich and powerful nations; our lives represent the profits that they are reaping. As I look into my future, I fear that one day we will lose the right to live as indigenous citizens on our own lands. If you have no land, what kind of person are you in society?

The reading is also about a land issue argument 'it involves a loss of land. Four sisters were ignored by their cultural norm to cram the land of their father due to their gender. Who can challenge the injustice of the cultural norm of the society?

But the four sisters took action and challenged Moses for their right to hold their father's land, and Moses yielded to their challenge. They gained an identity in their society because they did not fear to stand against what is not right.

The worst impact of climate change is taking the right of the poor and vulnerable to live as indigenous citizens in their home country. It is forcing millions to become refugees and slaves somewhere in the future. Who will stand in solidarity with the poor?

The scenario that the world is facing is a challenge to all God's people to take action to uproot injustice and selfishness which makes the poor and the vulnerable suffer oppression and marginalisation. Our identity is in our land; we have the right to keep it.

Tioti Timon, Kiribati Uniting Church
(From Sundays with CWM 2020 - Permission sought to re-publish)

Enfield Women's Centre

A big thank you to all those who donated food to the Enfield Women's Centre following the recent appeal, with enough food being donated to fill the collection box and then some! Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Unwanted clothing, shoes, handbags etc

SATURDAY 31 OCTOBER 2020

If you have any of the following items:

**GOOD QUALITY, CLEAN SECOND-HAND
OR NEW LADIES' AND MENS' CLOTHING,
ALL CHILDRENS' CLOTHING – BABIES to TEENAGERS,
SOFT TOYS, SHOES, BELTS AND HANDBAGS,
BED SHEETS**

and you are happy to donate them to raise funds for

Bridge of Hope Children's Ministry

Please put them in strong plastic bags and drive through the car park of Enfield Baptist Church, Cecil Road, EN2 6TG between **10am-11.30am**.

Due to COVID-19 we have arranged to have your bags taken from your car so that you do not need to park.

We select items that are suitable for us to take to Uganda while other articles will be sold to raise funds.

All proceeds will go direct to our charity to support orphaned & abandoned children in Uganda.

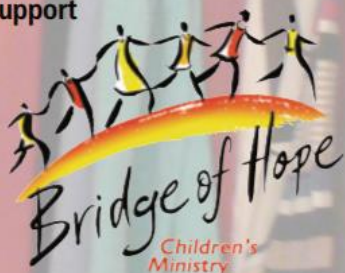
Please do **NOT** include:

- Torn clothing
- Mats or carpets
- Pillows, blankets, duvets or curtains
- Single shoes
- Offcuts of material

For more information please speak to

Joan Young: 01707 872857

Geoff & Barbara Skerratt: 01992 712427
info@bohcm.org



www.bohcm.org

info@bohcm.org

Charity Registration No. 1126408

CARING FOR CHILDREN IN JESUS' NAME

Boys' Brigade update

It has been great to get back to face-to-face meetings at Boys' Brigade over the last few weeks, with all groups across the country following the Brigade's 'Stronger, Safer, Together' Framework to support a safe return to activities.

At present our primary school groups (Anchors and Juniors) and secondary school groups (Company Section and Seniors) are meeting on alternate weeks, making use of the church and outdoor spaces and using a variety of programme resources which have been developed by BB Headquarters to allow social distancing to be maintained and to help keep everyone safe whilst having fun.

Our younger members have been able to get creative in a variety of ways, including by making catapults out of lollipop sticks and elastic bands, and by designing and making spinning tops.

Most recently the boys took part in a Fitness & Health themed session. They explored how much sugar is in some of our favourite snacks/treats, made fitness wheels and had the opportunity to get active!

Those in Company Section and Seniors have



taken part in a Sports themed session, with a sporting quiz amongst other activities, as well as an 'I'm a survivor' activity where they thought about which equipment they might prioritise from a selection if they were stranded at sea.



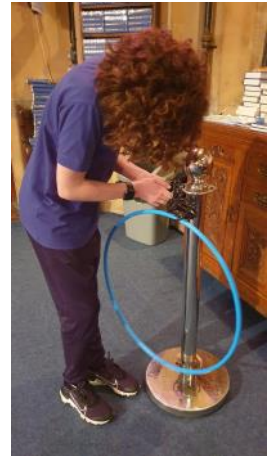
The boys have also taken part in an 'escape room' style challenge, working in teams to solve puzzles which gave them a four digit code to unlock a combination lock, with the first one to do so winning a prize. It was very close with the red team winning by just over two minutes!



At the time of writing we are entering a week off for half term, and look forward to getting involved in more activities over the coming weeks!

Tom Boorman

Photos by Tom Boorman



Forest Church

A couple of dates for your diary: Depending on weather and any restrictions at the time, it is planned that there will be an Advent Forest Church on Sunday 29th November and a Christingle Forest Church on Sunday 20th December at 3:30pm at the Scout Field, Ford's Grove, Winchmore Hill.

Prayer diary November 2020

- 1st** - Pray for this morning's service and for our friend Terry Silvey who is leading it.
- 2nd** - Pray for the Boys' Brigade groups that are meeting this evening.
- 3rd** - Pray for the USA as their presidential election takes place today.
- 4th** - Pray that Jesus may come into the life of someone you know who doesn't yet know him personally.
- 5th** - Pray for our friends from the other URCs in Enfield.
- 6th** - Pray for the Girlguiding groups that are meeting this evening.
- 7th** - Pray for this morning's Zoom Bible Study Group meeting.
- 8th** - Pray for Remembrance Sunday events that are taking place today under unusual circumstances.
- 9th** - Pray for the Boys' Brigade groups that are meeting this evening.
- 10th** - Pray for peace in areas of the world where there is ongoing conflict.
- 11th** - Remembrance Day: Pray for all those who have lost their lives as a result of conflict.
- 12th** - Pray for this evening's North Enfield Group Joint Elders Meeting.
- 13th** - Pray for the Girlguiding groups that are meeting this evening.
- 14th** - Pray for this morning's Zoom Bible Study Group.
- 15th** - Pray for Christ Church as we hold our Church Anniversary service this morning and a Church Meeting afterwards.
- 16th** - Pray for the Boys' Brigade groups that are meeting this evening.
- 17th** - Pray for Mark and Melanie.
- 18th** - Pray for those who are new to the Christian faith.
- 19th** - Pray for Enfield Council.
- 20th** - Pray for the Girlguiding groups that are meeting this evening.

- 21st** - Pray for the local community around Christ Church.
22nd - Pray for The Worship Group as they lead our service this morning.
23rd - Pray for the Boys' Brigade groups that are meeting this evening.
24th - Pray for the Property Committee.
25th - Pray for the work of our emergency services.
26th - Pray for those who are mourning the loss of loved ones.
27th - Pray for the Girlguiding groups that are meeting this evening.
28th - Pray for this morning's Zoom Bible Study Group meeting.
29th - Advent Sunday: Pray for preparations in the run up to Christmas.
30th - St Andrew's Day: Pray for Scottish friends.

December 2020 & January 2021 newsletter

The **December 2020 & January 2021** newsletter will be published on **Sunday 29th November**. Items intended for inclusion in this issue should be with the Editor, Tom Boorman, by Sunday 22nd November. 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 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 November 2020

Please note that current circumstances mean that events may be changed or cancelled at short notice. Please follow instructions and signage at face-to-face events and remember that face coverings should be worn.

All of our regular services will be streamed on Zoom and can be accessed online or by telephone - please contact Mark or one of the elders for joining instructions.

Services will also continue to be provided online and through mail distribution - sign up to receive details at <http://eepurl.com/dHm8TH> or contact Mark.

Sunday 1st November **11:15am**
Terry Silvey
Holy Communion (offering for Mission Aviation Fellowship)
Duty Elder - TBC

Saturday 7th November 10:30am to 11:30am
Zoom Bible Study Group
Please contact Mark for joining instructions

Sunday 8th November **10:45am**
Revd Mark Meatcher
Remembrance Sunday
Duty Elder - Pamela Fisher
Please note the earlier start time for this service to allow a two minute silence to be observed at 11:00am

Wednesday 11th November 10:00am to 12:00pm
Church open for private prayer for Remembrance Day
A two minute silence will be observed at 11:00am

Saturday 14th November 10:30am to 11:30am
Zoom Bible Study Group
Please contact Mark for joining instructions

Sunday 15th November 11:15am
Revd Mark Meatcher
Family Service (Church Anniversary)
Duty Elder - Rosemary Milns

Sunday 15th November 12:30pm
Church Meeting

Sunday 22nd November 11:15am
The Worship Group
Duty Elder - Pamela Fisher

Saturday 28th November 10:30am to 11:30am
Zoom Bible Study Group
Please contact Mark for joining instructions

Sunday 29th November 11:15am
Revd Mark Meatcher
Advent Sunday
Duty Elder - TBC

Sunday 29th November 3:30pm
Advent Forest Church (Enfield URCs event - at the Scout Field,
Ford's Grove, Winchmore Hill)

Church diary December 2020

Sunday 6th December 11:15am
The Worship Group
Holy Communion (offering for the Bible Society)
Duty Elder - Tom Boorman

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

Cover image by Andy Falconer on Unsplash