

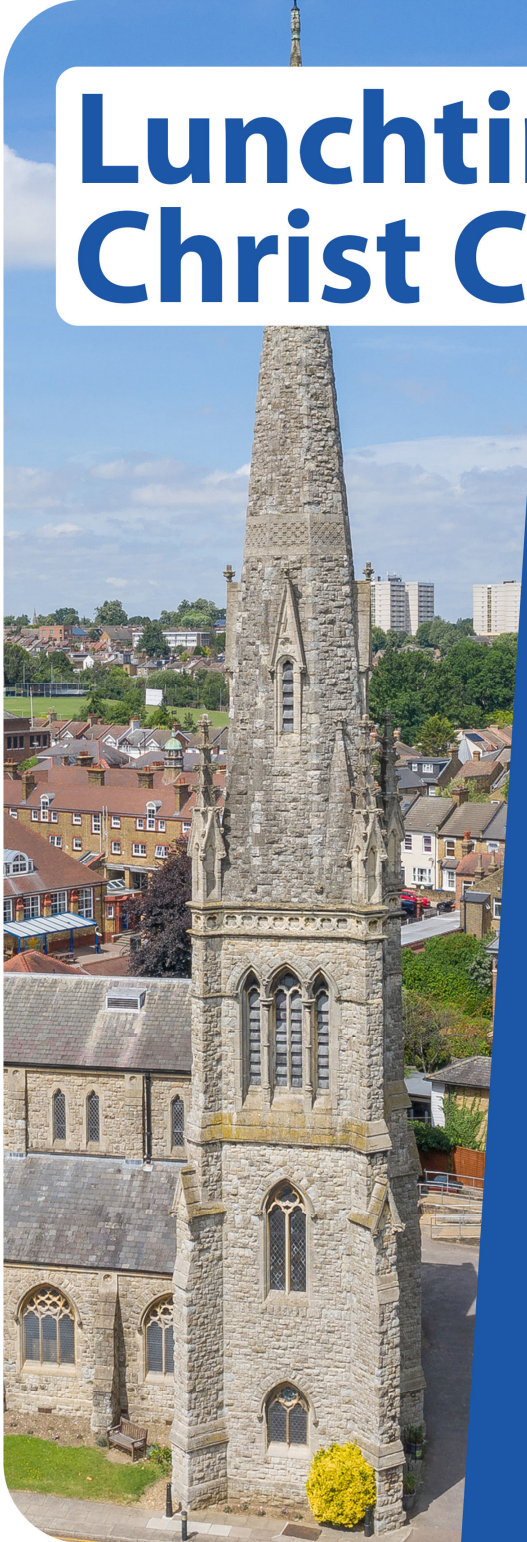
NEWSLETTER

October 2025 | No. 835



Christ Church
United
Reformed
Church

Lunchtime @ Christ Church



Saturday

11 October

12:00pm-2:00pm

Come and join us for a
time of food, drink and
fellowship together

Lunch and refreshments
will be available

No set charge -
donations accepted

Find us at **Christ Church URC**
Chase Side, Enfield, EN2 6NJ

Visit us online at **ccurc.org.uk**

Pastoral Letter October 2025

Hello everyone,

I pray this month's letter from me finds you well? It's my favourite time of year again with all the changing colours. I'm just amazed at how quickly this year is going. It really is true isn't it, the older you get the years pass quicker. Alternatively, I'm having so much fun time is flying by!

I've been thinking about harvest time and remembering harvest times gone by. One of my daughters used to love the harvest song:

"Cauliflowers fluffy and cabbages green
Strawberries are sweeter than any I've seen
Beetroots purple and onions white
All grow steadily day and night
The apples are ripe, the plums are red
The broadbeans are sleepin' in a blanket bed."

When I was at school we sang the more traditional hymns, the most frequent being:

"We plough the fields and scatter the good seed on the land,
But it is fed and watered by God's almighty hand."

In the times we find ourselves in, the seeds we need to be sowing (and are called to sow), are the seeds of the good news of salvation offered to us by Jesus, remembering what the hymn says: "But it is fed

and watered by God's almighty hand."

The Holy Spirit does the convicting of people's hearts but our stories of faith and how God has rescued us from our sinfulness are the seeds we must sow.

Now as the parable explains in Matthew 13:4-8:

"Some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain."

Let us pray that the seeds we sow fall on good soil so that we can encourage people to turn to Jesus and that they will have strong roots to hold them firm during life's trials.

It's not just the sowing we are called to do; we are also called to be harvest people. This harvest time let us think of the harvest that is out there. The harvest of people. In Luke, Jesus told them:

"The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field." (Luke 10:2)

May God guide us this Autumn to be strong and courageous with our

faith and that he sends people across our paths for us to share the wonderful story of Jesus' salvation with. May God also bless you this season and I pray we can all try to avoid colds, flu, or any other nasty viruses as we sow and harvest.

God bless,

Ruth

Zoom Bible Study Group

The Zoom Bible Study Group will be meeting on Saturdays 11 and 25 October at 9:30am (note second and fourth Saturdays this month). The group will be continuing a series of studies by Tom Wright based upon the Gospel of Luke. New members are always welcome. Please contact Rosemary Milns for joining details.

A message from Christine

Thank you very much for the lovely tea to celebrate my 80th birthday and all the cards and presents. It was a lovely time with reminiscing looking at old photos and talking about the old times. A special thank you to Rosemary and Sylvia for organising it. It was a lovely surprise.

Christine

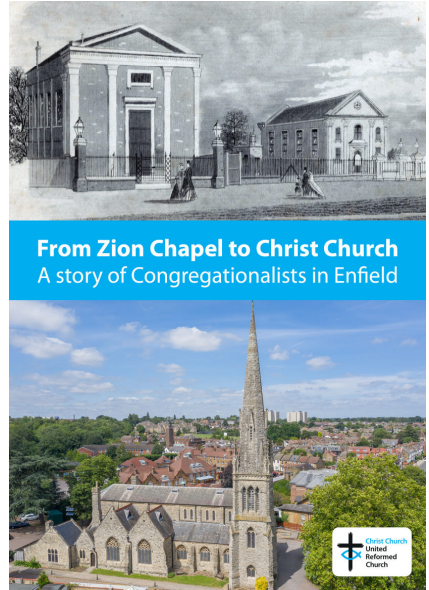
Christ Church 150th anniversary

A reminder of our remaining 150th anniversary celebratory events and dates:

- Lunchtime @ Christ Church - Saturday 11 October, 12:00pm-2:00pm. If you are able to help, please speak to an Elder.
- Enfield Choral Society Concert - Saturday 8 November, 7:30pm-9:30pm. Tickets cost £16 in advance or £17 on the door, £7 for under 25s in full time education, or free for accompanied under 16s. The performance will include 'Three Motets' (Bruckner), 'Psalm 46' (Elmer), 'I Was Glad' (Parry), 'Gaelic Blessing' (Rutter), 'The Lamb' (Tavener) and 'Gloria' (Vivaldi). To book please visit **enfieldchoralsociety.org.uk** or phone **07864 061 755**.
- Anniversary Service led by the Moderator of Thames North Synod, the Revd George Watt - Sunday 16 November, 10:45am. This will be a North Enfield Pastorate service at Christ Church.
- 'From Zion Chapel to Christ Church: A story of Congregationalists in Enfield' - Wednesday 19 November, 3:00pm at Jubilee Hall, 2 Parsonage Lane. This is an illustrated talk by Stephen Gilburt organised by the Edmonton Hundred Historical Society. All members and friends from Christ Church will be welcome.
- Christmas Tree Festival - Saturday 13 December. Further details to follow.

From Zion Chapel to Christ Church

From Zion Chapel to Christ Church: A story of Congregationalists in Enfield is a 48-page, A4-size book by Stephen Gilbert that recounts the history of the churches since 1780. It is illustrated with over 100 prints and photographs, many of them in colour, of Zion Chapel, Chase Side Chapel and the Grade II listed Victorian Gothic Christ Church which replaced them, together with pictures of ministers, members and activities.



A donation of £2.50 each is suggested for copies collected from the church, or £5 for those sent by post. Please email **newsletter@ccurc.org.uk** to order copies or for further information.

Art in worship

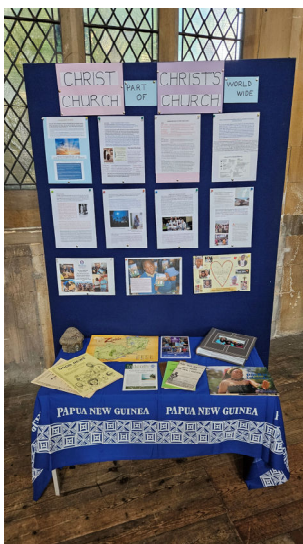
Our service on Sunday 24 August was led by Linda Clarke and the Revd Mandy James, with Linda creating another of her beautiful paintings during the service. Thank you to Linda for sharing this wonderful talent and to Mandy for the message she shared.



150th Anniversary Open Day and Concert

A big thank you to all those who assisted with setting up, providing cakes for, and helping with the Open Day and Concert on Saturday 13 September.

There was a steady flow of people for the Open Day and Stephen Gilbert was kept very busy showing groups around the Church on guided tours. People particularly enjoyed the exhibits, which included pictures and books about the church's history, an interesting display showing details of the missionaries who have been sent out from the church and a wedding corner showing pictures of weddings which have taken place over the years, plus one of the dresses worn.



In the evening we were pleased to welcome Pastor Rony Padilla and his friends from Union Church Totteridge, URC, who led a wonderful Praise and Worship concert. It was lovely to see so many friends from other churches across Enfield at this.



Christians Against Poverty

It was lovely to welcome Nicky Routledge, the Manager for CAP's Enfield Churches' Debt Centre, to speak at the service on Sunday 14 September, and Kate Bleasdale Barr, one of the Trustees.

Nicky told us of the work being carried out by the Centre in Enfield to support people to become debt free. They also run a job club, life skills groups and money coaching. More information about these activities and the areas in which help is needed, can be found in the CAP Enfield Newsletter for September, copies of which are at the back of the church, or speak to Rosemary.

Harvest Festival

The theme of our Harvest Festival this year (which took place on Sunday 21 September) was 'Sharing' and we heard the familiar story from the Bible of the little boy who was willing to share his small meal of five loaves and two fish, which enabled Jesus to feed at least 5,000 men plus women and children. Truly amazing!



We also thought about what we could share with others - not necessarily money or possessions, but our time, skills - or even a smile!

Many thanks to the Girlguiding groups who decorated the Communion table, including some cute potato and carrot people, which the younger girls had made.

Thank you also to everyone who brought gifts of food to donate to Lancaster Road's Food Hub (Wednesdays from 10:00am-12:00pm, in their church building). The loose collection amounted to £100 and is to go to Christian Aid's Harvest Appeal.



INVESTING IN CREATION: THE ROLE OF MONEY IN TACKLING THE CLIMATE CRISIS

Guest Speaker:
David Britton
Campaign Officer
Operation Noah

Friday 10th October 2025
WUC Chapel Halls AL4 8AH
Refreshments from 7.00pm
Talk will start at 7.30pm



OPERATION NOAH

Faith-motivated. Science-informed. Hope-inspired.

Three Choirs Festival

At the end of July I spent an interesting and enjoyable week at the Three Choirs Festival. This year it was held in Hereford and I was able to explore the city and see the treasures of the cathedral. These included an historic chained library and the *Mappa Mundi* - a remarkable medieval map of the then known world.

Many of the orchestral and choral works were performed in the cathedral. Concerts there included many British compositions from the 16th to the 21st centuries. There were also performances by chamber groups, pianists, organists and singers. Some of these were held in nearby churches in Herefordshire including Leominster Priory (coach transport was provided). Also in the festival were talks, outdoor performances of Shakespeare's *As You Like It* given by four men and presentations aimed at family groups.

The festival village on the green outside the cathedral had free performances on a bandstand by various local groups of singers, musicians and dancers. There was also a café, a bar and a display of local craft work for sale. The ticket office also sold publications and recordings associated with the concert performances.

The opening festival service was attended by various clerical and civic dignitaries in their ceremonial robes. They came from the three cathedral cities of Hereford, Worcester and Gloucester.

The highlight of the opening evening concert was William Mathias' 1974 cantata 'This Worlde's Joie'. The texts reflected the seasons and

the span of human life.

Richard Blackford's narrative cantata 'The Black Lake' was given its premiere at the festival. It told the moving story of a boy growing up in a remote North Wales village. The music was reminiscent of Welsh choral singing.

Anniversaries of composers are often remembered at the festival. 2025 marks 50 years since the death of Sir Arthur Bliss, who was Master of the Queen's Music. Several of his works were performed, including the 1963 sacred cantata 'Mary of Magdala', which included several stories about Mary Magdalene.

2025 also marked 150 years since the birth of the Anglo-African composer Samuel Coleridge-Taylor (sic), who is best known for his cantata 'Hiawatha's Wedding Feast'. 'The Atonement' of 1903 has lush sweeping melodies. The librettist Alice Parsons concentrated on the events around Jesus' death as seen by four women - his mother Mary, Pilate's wife, Mary the wife of Cleopas and Mary Magdalene.

For me the highlights of the 2025 festival were Fauré's glorious 1888 'Requiem', with its melodies suggesting a soul at peace and on the final night Mendelssohn's 1846 masterpiece the oratorio 'Elijah', which has been very popular in Britain since its first performance in Birmingham. The story is told of how Elijah defeats the prophets of Baal before ascending to Heaven in a fiery chariot. The closing chorus looks forward to the New Testament and is based on the final Amen of Handel's 'Messiah'.

Next year's festival in Gloucester will include Montiverdi's 'Vespers', Janáček's 'Glagolitic Mass' and Mozart's 'Requiem'.

Stephen

Communion offering

The Communion offering at the service on Sunday 5 October is for Goldie College in the Solomon Islands.

Christ Church's connection with Goldie College is that two of our members taught there: Sylvia Coombs for 18 years and Alison Gibbs for 8 years. The College is one of the oldest and most respected secondary schools in the Solomon Islands, situated on Vona Vona Lagoon in the Western Province. It has a proud history of academic excellence, moral guidance, and community leadership.

The College offers a comprehensive curriculum that combines academic subjects with spiritual development, life skills, and extracurricular activities. Its strong emphasis on Christian values underpins every aspect of school life. It is well-known for producing many prominent leaders, professionals, and community figures in Solomon Islands society.

Any donations will be gratefully received and sent to the College to put towards whatever project is in most need of funding at this time. A collection plate will be at the back of the church after this service.

Jesus in the House of Martha and Mary

Luke 10:38-42

Diego Rodrigues da Silva Velázquez (1599-1660), one of the greatest of Spanish painters, was born in Seville where he was trained. He moved to Madrid in 1623 where he worked for the king Philip IV. He later made two visits to Italy.

Velázquez painted *Kitchen Scene with Christ in the House of Martha and Mary* on canvas in 1618. This detail shows Jesus standing on the left facing Martha and Mary. While Mary had been sitting listening to Jesus' teaching, Martha was upset at having to do all the work and complained to Jesus. He told Martha that she was worried and troubled over so many things while Mary had chosen the right thing.

This painting may be seen in the National Gallery in London.

Stephen

You can see a full colour version of the detail from *Kitchen Scene with Christ in the House of Martha and Mary* by Velázquez, along with the whole painting, on page 23.

Boys' Brigade update

From Saturday 23 to Friday 29 August a group of our Company and Seniors lads joined with 10th Enfield and 4th Barnet for our annual Summer Camp in Beeston Regis, near Sheringham in North Norfolk.

Throughout the week the group had the opportunity to take part in a wide range of activities including trips to the beach, water activities with Glide Surf School, canoeing on the Norfolk Broads and a treasure hunt in Wroxham, a day at Pleasurewood Hills, go karting at Karttrak Cromer, a fun fair, putting, Beach Olympics and a trip to Hilltop Outdoor Centre to do AirJump, zip wire and the high ropes course.

There were also on site activities including football, inflatable gladiator duel, team challenges, a quiz, water games, a BBQ, a camp fire, devotions which explored how God is always with us throughout the changing seasons of life, and more.

This was our largest camp in terms of numbers for some years and everyone had a great week with fantastic weather throughout. A big thank you to all who organised it!





As you read this we are a couple of weeks into the new session, where it has been great to get back into our regular Monday meetings and also to welcome new members into the group.

We've also got a number of trips coming up over the next few weeks for all of our age groups to look forward to, which you'll be able to read more about in future newsletters!

Tom



Friendship Club programme

The Friendship Club meets in the church hall on the third Monday of each month at 2:15pm for friendship, fellowship and cups of tea! New members are very welcome at any of these meetings - for more details please speak to Sylvia Coombs.

Forthcoming meetings in the remainder of 2025 will take place as follows:

- **20 October:** Songs of Praise - The Revd Ruth Dewis
- **17 November:** Quiz time - The Revd Mandy James
- **15 December:** Christmas programme including a bring and share tea - The Revd Ruth Dewis

Prayer diary October 2025

- 1 Pray for God's guidance at the start of a new month.
- 2 Pray for the work of the Enfield & East Hertfordshire Local Area Group.
- 3 Pray for the Rainbows as they meet this evening.
- 4 Pray for the work of Goldie College in the Solomon Islands as we support them with our Communion offering tomorrow.
- 5 Pray for God's guidance at our Church Meeting today.
- 6 Pray for the Anchors and Juniors as they meet this evening.
- 7 Pray for lasting peace in areas of the world where there is conflict.

- 8 Pray for the pupils and staff of Enfield County School.
- 9 Pray for the leaders of our church organisations.
- 10 Pray for the Brownies as they meet this evening.
- 11 Pray for the Zoom Bible Study Group as they meet this morning,
as well as this afternoon's Lunchtime @ Christ Church.
- 12 Pray for this morning's Boys' Brigade Enrolment Celebration
Service.
- 13 Pray for the Company and Seniors as they meet this evening.
- 14 Pray for those who are unemployed at this time.
- 15 Give thanks to God for his word to us through the Bible.
- 16 Pray for friends and family.
- 17 Pray for the Guides and Rangers as they meet this evening.
- 18 Pray for those who are new to the Christian faith.
- 19 Pray for Evodian Fonyonga as she leads our service today.
- 20 Pray for the Friendship Club as they meet this afternoon.
- 21 Pray for the residents of Holtwhite Avenue.
- 22 Pray for missionaries who work to spread God's word around the
world.
- 23 Pray for the work of Enfield Council.
- 24 Pray for our Elders.
- 25 Pray for the Zoom Bible Study Group as they meet this morning.
- 26 Pray for the Adventurers as they meet during our service this
morning.
- 27 Pray for children and young people who are on half term this
week.
- 28 Pray for those who face struggles in their faith.
- 29 Pray for our local community and for Christ Church's place in it.
- 30 Pray for Ruth and Stuart.
- 31 Pray for the work of our emergency services.

Church diary October 2025

Sunday 5 October **10:45am**

The Revd Ruth Dewis

Holy Communion (offering for Goldie College)

Duty Elder - Rosemary Milns

Sunday 5 October 12:15pm

Church Meeting

Saturday 11 October 9:30am-10:30am

Zoom Bible Study Group (see page 5)

Saturday 11 October 12:00pm-2:00pm

Lunchtime @ Christ Church (see page 2)

Sunday 12 October **10:45am**

The Revd Ruth Dewis

Boys' Brigade Enrolment Celebration Service

Duty Elder - Sarah Harry

Sunday 19 October **10:45am**

Evodian Fonyonga

Duty Elder - Sarah Harry

Monday 20 October 2:15pm

Friendship Club

Songs of Praise - The Revd Ruth Dewis

Saturday 25 October9:30am-10:30am

Zoom Bible Study Group (see page 5)

Sunday 26 October10:45am

Janine Stolz

Duty Elder - Alison Gibbs

Church diary November 2025

Sunday 2 November10:45am

Anna Erikson

Holy Communion (offering for Mission Aviation Fellowship)

Duty Elder - Alison Gibbs

Saturday 8 November7:30pm-9:30pm

Enfield Choral Society Autumn Concert (see page 6)

November 2025 Newsletter

The **November 2025** edition of the Christ Church Newsletter will be published on **Sunday 26 October**. Items intended for inclusion in this issue should be with the Editor by Sunday 12 October. Any late submissions may be held over to the following issue.

Key information

Minister The Revd Ruth Dewis 07592 125 027 / minister@ccurc.org.uk

Secretary Rosemary Milns secretary@ccurc.org.uk

Serving Elders

Alison Gibbs, Sarah Harry & Rosemary Milns elders@ccurc.org.uk

Safeguarding Alison Gibbs safeguarding@ccurc.org.uk

Treasurer David Fisher treasurer@ccurc.org.uk

Property Committee property@ccurc.org.uk

Hall & Room Hire bookings@ccurc.org.uk

Newsletter & Website Tom Boorman newsletter@ccurc.org.uk

Activities for adults

Bible Study Group Rosemary Milns secretary@ccurc.org.uk

Friendship Club Sylvia Coombs 020 8363 3543 / mail@ccurc.org.uk

Activities for children and young people

Adventurers Rosemary Milns secretary@ccurc.org.uk

Boys' Brigade Tom Boorman info@3rdenfieldbb.co.uk

Girlguiding Vicki Stratton-Stubbs 9thenfield@gmail.com

If you are not able to email, please phone Ruth and your details will be passed on.

Website ccurc.org.uk **Facebook & Instagram** @ccurcenenfield

Address Christ Church URC, Chase Side, Enfield, EN2 6NJ

Christ Church URC is a part of the **North Enfield Pastorate** and the **Enfield & East Hertfordshire Local Area Group**.

Our motto: "Enter to worship, depart to serve."

Our 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.

Please note that views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily the views of the whole fellowship, nor are they representative of church policy.



Detail and full painting of *Kitchen Scene with Christ in the House of Martha and Mary*, Velázquez 1618, National Gallery, London. A related article by Stephen Gilburt can be found on page 15.

Front cover image by Aaron Burden on Unsplash.



Christ Church
United
Reformed
Church

Email mail@ccurc.org.uk
for more details of regular
activities taking place at
Christ Church



You are invited...

Join us for worship on **Sundays** at **10:45am**

See diary for details of upcoming services

Adventurers (Junior Church)

During our Sunday morning service - for children aged 3+

Games, drama, craft and lots more fun activities based around a Bible theme

Friendship Club

Once monthly on a Monday (usually third Monday) at 2:15pm

Social meetings for adults for all ages - see diary for upcoming dates



Monday evenings
For boys aged 5-18
info@3rdenfieldbb.co.uk



Friday evenings
For girls aged 4-18
9thenfield@gmail.com



Zoom Bible Study Group

Saturdays (twice monthly) at 9:30am

See diary for upcoming dates

