

NEWSLETTER

December 2025 & January 2026 | No. 837



Christ Church
United
Reformed
Church



SATURDAY 24TH JANUARY 2026

AT CHRIST CHURCH URC HALL, CHASE SIDE, EN2 6NJ

DOORS OPEN AT 6:30PM FOR A 7PM START
£15 ADULTS / £8 CHILDREN (TABLES UP TO 8)

INCLUDES PLOUGHMAN'S SUPPER + SOUP
(BRING YOUR OWN DRINKS, THERE WILL ALSO BE A RAFFLE DURING THE EVENING)

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Supporting the work of the
3rd Enfield Company

Pastoral Letter December 2025 & January 2026

Hello,

Firstly, I would like to take the opportunity to thank our magazine editors for all they have done for us through 2025. I would like to wish them all, on everyone's behalf, a very Happy Christmas and blessed New Year and especially a well-deserved rest for a month, as this is the bumper December & January edition.

Looking back over the year, so much has been achieved by our three churches. There have been highs and lows but that's life, isn't it? We have had to said goodbye to a few good friends from all three churches and communities, which has brought us times of sorrow. We pray that their loved ones will find some comfort in this first Christmas without them. However, there have been so many good things that have happened and have been achieved during 2025 too.

I was joking with someone that I am already thinking about well into next year; Good Friday has already been mentioned! Planning ahead of time and time management is essential in this role so that when the unexpected happens, there is a bit of give to be flexible. The trouble with this though means at times we do not sit in the moment and therefore do not soak in the present. Christmas time is a time when the activities can take over and we soon realise Christmas Day has come and gone without us enjoying it or worse still giving it a thought.

So much can take us away from thinking about the real reason we celebrate Christmas. There are Christmas markets, Christmas meals, festive light displays, ice skating, pantomimes, concerts, themed experiences, and the list can go on and on and then we are exhausted by Christmas Day, the real reason for the season.

There is a reason God has called us to obey his command of taking the Sabbath rest that he has provided for us. God himself rested on the seventh day. If we did this, we would be able to savour the moments we are given, reboot our energies and most importantly have the time to spend with God.

“There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God; for anyone who enters God’s rest also rests from their works, just as God did from his. Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one will perish by following their example of disobedience.” (Hebrews 4:9-11, NIV)

More people are realising that there is too much materialism around this time of year. Martin Lewis (the financial expert) tells people on his website:

“Don't plan the perfect Christmas - first work out what you can afford” and it is “time to ban unnecessary presents”.

He even goes as far to say that we should “consider not giving” this Christmas. So many people go into debt because they feel they must buy presents for their whole family and friends and then worry going into the New Year about how to afford their incoming bills. God came

into the world to free us from burden not to have us burden ourselves in traditions that make us worried and weary.

Jesus entered this world in the simplest of ways. His first bed was a manger in a stable in Bethlehem, you cannot get lowlier than that. He led a life that wasn't burdened by earthly riches and then gave up his life for our benefit, so that he could defeat death and make us reconciled to God so that we can enjoy eternal life in his presence. This is the greatest gift we will ever receive if we choose to believe.

"Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls." (Matthew 11:29, NIV)

Let us in 2026 learn from Jesus rather than from all that the world throws at us. I would imagine most people will delight in the thought that we can find rest for our souls in this busy world we find ourselves in.

May I wish you a blessed Christmas time and that the New Year brings you good health. May the Lord pour fresh blessings on you and those you love this Christmas time. May he hold you in his loving arms so the plans he has for you in 2026 are fulfilled.

God bless,

Ruth

Zoom Bible Study Group

On Saturday 13 December the Zoom Bible Study Group will be meeting face-to-face at 9:45am at the Chef's Kitchen, 78 Chase Side, Enfield, EN2 6NX. Please let Rosemary know if you will be coming.

In the New Year, the group will be meeting on Saturdays 3 and 17 January at the usual time of 9:30am. New members are very welcome. Please contact Rosemary for more information and the Zoom log in details.

Church Meeting

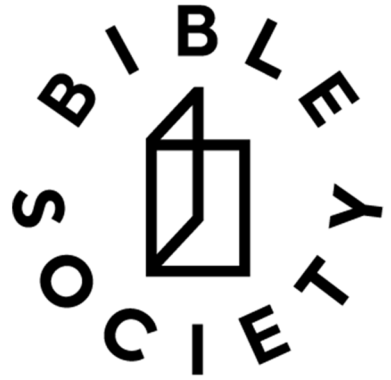
Our next Church Meeting will take place on Sunday 18 January following the morning service. All members are encouraged to attend where possible as we discuss important church matters.

Communion offerings

The December Communion offering (taken at the service on Sunday 7 December) is for the Bible Society.

The Bible Society believes that the Bible is God's gift to the world. They want everyone to discover its message for themselves and because of that they translate the Bible and make it accessible in

people's own languages. They also bring the Bible into public spaces where its voice can be heard, for instance through the National Parliamentary Prayer Breakfast or The Pitch film fund. They tell its stories, for instance through the Open the Book programme with primary-age children. They encourage people who've never thought the Bible was for them to explore it for themselves, and see life through a different lens.



As part of United Bible Societies, the Bible Society is now active in around 240 countries and regions. Through their translation work, they make the Bible available in new spoken and signed languages, as well as revising existing Bibles to bring the language up-to-date.

To meet the individual needs and demands of the millions wanting the Scriptures, their production facilities not only print physical copies but also produce visual, audio and digital forms. Their distribution network takes the Bible to places it might otherwise be hard to come by, and they improve literacy by empowering people to read, using the book as a reference.

The Communion offering for January (taken at the service on Sunday 4 January) is for the Communion Fund. The Communion Fund is distributable at the discretion of the Minister to assist those in need.

A collection plate will be at the back of the church at the end of each service, and any donations will be gratefully received.

Christmas at Christ Church

We will be holding a range of services and other activities as we once again celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.

On Saturday 13 December the Zoom Bible Study Group will enjoy a Christmas breakfast, which you can read more about on page 6.

On Saturday 13 December (10:00am-5:00pm) and Sunday 14 December (10:00am-4:00pm) the church will be open for our Christmas Tree Festival, which the BB & Girlguiding groups are organising. Local charitable organisations are being invited to decorate a Christmas tree with all of these being viewable throughout the weekend.

Refreshments will be available throughout - if you can help with these for any amount of time, please speak to Ruth or an Elder. Visitors will be able to vote for the best tree, which will win a small prize.

At 3:00pm on the Saturday there will be a Carol Concert, and at 10:45am on the Sunday our morning service will be our Christmas Nativity Celebration Service, led by The Worship Group.

At the Christmas Nativity, we invite you to bring gifts of non-perishable food, which will be given to Lancaster Road URC's Food Hub. The loose collection on this day will be given to Crisis and their Christmas Appeal.

On Monday 15 December at 2:15pm the Friendship Club will meet for

a Christmas programme, which will be led by Ruth and will include a bring and share tea.

On Sunday 21 December at 10:45am our Service of Lessons and Carols will be led by Ruth. Please note that the Christmas lunch afterwards will now not be taking place as was indicated in the last newsletter; rather we will look to hold a celebratory lunch in the early part of 2026 when kitchen refurbishments in the hall are complete. Look out for more details of this in the February newsletter.

Also on Sunday 21 December, at 5:00pm-6:30pm, Chase Family Church will be holding a Carols by Candlelight Service in our church, to which our church family is warmly invited. The service will be full of music and readings to remind us of the true meaning of Christmas. Mulled wine and refreshments will be served afterwards.

On Christmas Eve (at 9:30pm) and Christmas Day (at 10:30am) we will be joining with our friends from Lancaster Road URC for worship at their church. Both of these United Services will be led by the Revd Martin Legg, Associate Minister at Lancaster Road URC.

On Sunday 28 December there will be a Breakfast Service, which will be a United Service for the North Enfield Pastorate. It will be led by Ruth and will take place in the Christ Church hall, with breakfast available from 10:00am and the service beginning at 10:45am.

“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given... and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, the mighty God, the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.” (Isaiah 9:6, KJV)

Enfield Choral Society Concert

On Saturday 8 November, Enfield Choral Society helped Christ Church celebrate our 150th anniversary. It was wonderful to see the church full and the building coming into its own showing off its acoustics.

The evening's programme started with Charles Parry's 'I Was Glad' which was written originally for King Edward VII's coronation in 1901. This was followed by three pieces by Anton Bruckner.

We were honoured to have a premier performance of Roderick Elmer's setting of Psalm 46. This was a choral movement for choir and organ. Roddy has sung with ECS for over 30 years with six of his works premiered by the choir.

After the interval, which was provided by a team from Christ Church, the audience were invited to stand for the 'Hallelujah Chorus' by George F Handel. This chorus is the 'triumphant conclusion' of Handel's 'Messiah'.

The ECS Chamber Choir continued the concert with John Tavener's 'The Lamb', a choral setting which takes its text from William Blake. Then came Antonio Vivaldi's 'Gloria in D' which filled the church with its wonderful melodies; you could not help but feel uplifted. The performance concluded with John Rutter's 'A Gaelic Blessing', a perfect end to an incredible evening of sacred music.

The choir's musical director is Mark Sproson, the guest trumpeter was Alan Duguid and guest organist was Jonathan Dods.



150th Anniversary Service

On Sunday 16 November it was fantastic to come together in worship as part of our 150th anniversary celebrations.

The service was led by Ruth, and we were delighted to welcome along the Revd George Watt, Moderator of URC Thames North Synod, who gave the sermon. It was also wonderful to welcome friends from Bush Hill Park and Lancaster Road URCs to this United Service for the North Enfield Pastorate, as well as a number of dear friends who have had an association with Christ Church.

In his sermon, George reflected on the words of Isaiah 11:1-9 and Romans 10:5-15 and how we can be 'people of the Good News', allowing ourselves to be transformed by God through prayer, reading

the Bible and spending time with him, and how the fruit we bear can be a blessing to others as we bring the Good News into the world.

After the service we were able to share in fellowship with refreshments and 150th birthday cake!

Below: The Revd George Watt (Moderator of URC Thames North Synod, Rosemary Milns (current Church Secretary), Chris Sanders, Stephen Gilburt (both previous Church Secretaries), the Revd Ruth Dewis (Minister of Christ Church URC).

Right page, top: Filling the church with praise to God.

Right page, bottom: Cutting the 150th birthday cake!





Friendship Club update

We have enjoyed another very varied programme at Friendship Club from August to October this year. In August we thoroughly enjoyed a wonderful summer tea, we shared some of our favourite poems in September, and in October sang and learned more from the Revd Ruth Dewis about a wide variety of well-known hymns.

On a nice summer day in August, we were all able to relax and chat together over tea as Ruth and Stuart did all the work to organise it. That included everything from setting up tables and preparing, serving at table, clearing up and washing up too. This was a special joy for those of us who usually do the planning and all the jobs involved in carrying out the plans. Everything that you could possibly expect to enjoy from sandwiches and savouries to scones with jam and cream and great big pieces of cake were there, so not only did we go home feeling full up and replete but we also took little bags of extras home and even managed to deliver some tea for a few folk who had not been able to come because of ill health. A very big thank you from us all for Ruth and Stuart for a great afternoon!

In September nearly everyone brought and read for us a poem of their own choice. This led to a very interesting afternoon with an amazing variety of poems of all sorts of styles. It included 'The Owl and the Pussycat' which Sue recited impressively totally from memory; Keats' 'To Autumn', just right for the season, was chosen by Stephen; Ann read for us a comforting poem which she had written herself when her husband died; and Rosie shared a short poem written about herself in a card which a friend had sent to her - a lovely

poem about a lovely lady. Terry Turner and his mother Muriel provided a very special finale as Terry shared a poem which had impressed him from a recent Lancaster Road URC service and Muriel stood up and in the loudest most confident voice of the afternoon shared a short poem about a rainbow. As our oldest member, in her 90s, Muriel's contribution made her entire audience sit up and pay attention. She was given the biggest round of applause of the whole afternoon.

Our October meeting was led by Ruth who began by announcing the sudden, unexpected death of our Treasurer, Olive Parsons, which had just occurred. Ruth led us in a short time of silence and prayer for Olive and her wider family and then moved on to a very interesting afternoon telling us the background to a number of well known hymns which we also sang together. It was a real "Songs of Praise" session. We would also like to record our thanks to Olive for all the work which she has put in quietly, carefully and thoroughly reliably looking after everything to do with finance for us over quite a long period of time.

Our next meeting is on Monday 15 December where Ruth will be leading a Christmas-themed programme, which will include a bring and share tea. The first meeting of 2026 will take place on Monday 19 January where Alan Goldring will be visiting us to speak about the work of Mission Aviation Fellowship, which Christ Church supports with its Communion offering each November. These start at the usual time of 2:15pm and new members would be very welcome to join us.

Sylvia

Boys' Brigade update

We kicked off November at BB with a Bonfire Night celebration, enjoying an evening of games, glowsticks, marshmallows and s'mores, as well as thinking about Jesus as the Light of the World and what it means to live in his light and love.



On Sunday 9 November we joined with others from across Enfield Battalion as well as other organisations, local dignitaries and members of the public for the Enfield Service of Remembrance at the War Memorial on Chase Green.



Joe, one of our Seniors, laid a wreath on behalf of Enfield Battalion during the service, and afterwards we were part of the parade through Enfield Town.



The following day our boys took part in Remembrance activities at our Monday meeting, reflecting on the reason for the commemorations and honouring



those from our own BB family at the 3rd who gave their lives in conflict, as well as thinking about Jesus' ultimate act of love in dying on the cross for us all.

On Saturday 15 November it was great to take part in the Enfield Battalion Ten Pin Bowling Competition at Hollywood Bowl Finchley - well done to our boys who came 2nd (Juniors), 4th (Company) and 2nd (Seniors)!



We would also like to say a massive thank you to all those who have so generously supported the Help for Hunger appeal that was mentioned in the last newsletter. Although donations are still coming in at time of writing, we are really grateful for the response so far.

Make sure to follow us on social media @3rdenfieldbb to see more of what we're getting up to at BB.

Tom

While We Are Gathered Here Today

A Christmas hymn - Matthew 1-2, Luke 1-2

1. While we are gathered here
today
to celebrate his birth,
may we remember Jesus is
the one who saves us all.

2. When Mary was in Nazareth
an angel came to her,
to say that she would have a child
who would be God's own Son.

3. When Mary came with
Joseph to
the town of Bethlehem,
there was no room for them to
stay
where Jesus could be born.

4. At that first Christmas Jesus had
a manger for his bed,
with Mary and with Joseph there
as he lay in the straw.

5. An angel told some
shepherds of
the birth of Jesus Christ,
so then they went to Bethlehem
to see the baby boy.

6. Some wise men saw a star and
came
to see the holy child
they gave him gifts and
worshipped him,
the one born to be king.

7. When Herod learned of Jesus'
birth
he tried to have him killed.
But Joseph fled to Egypt so
that Jesus could be saved.

8. Let everyone now sing in praise
to Jesus Christ our Lord.
He is the Son of God who came
to save us all on earth.

Common metre 8686 iambic

Tune 'Winchester Old' (RS 155 'While Shepherds Watched Their
Flocks By Night')

Taizé Worship for the season of Advent



a service of song, silence
and contemplation

7.30pm Thursday 4th December

Trinity Church Enfield

(Methodist/URC)

Church St, Enfield, EN2 6AN



The Adoration of the Kings

Matthew 2:1-12

Pieter Bruegel the Elder (c. 1525/1530-1569) was a Flemish artist from Antwerp in the Spanish Netherlands and became a master in the Guild there in 1551. He travelled in France and Italy and some of his compositions show the influence of Italian Mannerist art. From 1553 he painted scenes of daily life and religious subjects, influenced by the satirical style of Hieronymous Bosch. Bruegel's sons Pieter the Younger and Jan were also artists.

Bruegel's religious paintings, including *The Adoration of the Kings* painted in oil on an oak panel in 1564, were intended for connoisseurs rather than churches. It has never been proved whether he was a Roman Catholic, Protestant Calvinist or free thinker. He may have supported tolerance and freedom of belief at a time when many people held strong, even extreme, religious views.

Many of the figures in this painting are grotesque, rather than idealised, perhaps to emphasise the wonder of the birth of Christ. Mary is at the centre of *The Adoration of the Kings*. Her face is partly hidden by a blue cloak. She is holding the baby Jesus, whose blanket looks like a shroud, foretelling his death. He is shrinking from the wizened old king who is presenting a gift of gold-red grains of myrrh, which was used as an ointment and perfume. This gift alludes to Jesus' future death and burial. Another elderly king on the left seems overcome by his long journey, as he offers an ornate gold cup with cover. The third black king on the right is dressed in white. His

expensive gift is frankincense, a perfume derived from an aromatic gum resin which was used in burial ceremonies. The frankincense is contained in a small bottle balanced on a monkey in a gold model of a ship.

One of the bystanders in the background is whispering in Joseph's ear, perhaps to ask him what is happening. Other figures pressing forward to see what is going on include soldiers carrying weapons, two of which are topped with crosses symbolical of Jesus' manner of dying.

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

Stephen

You can see a full colour version of *The Adoration of the Kings* on page 35.

135th anniversary of the 3rd Enfield Boys' Brigade

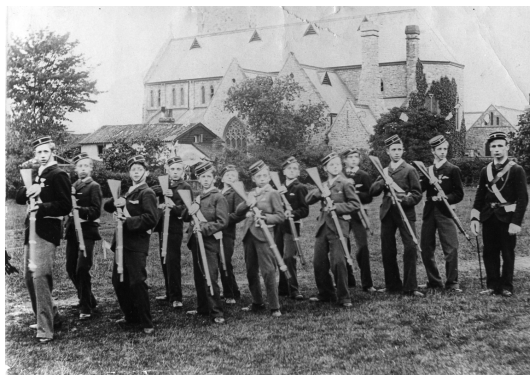
3 December 2025 marks the 135th anniversary of the 3rd Enfield Boys' Brigade Company. The 1st Enfield was only formed two years before the 3rd Enfield; over the 135 years the two Companies have become famous as great rivals and friends, both at the local BB and London District BB levels. The headquarters of both Companies are

geographically close together.

At the time of their formation Enfield was undergoing a transition from a country town to suburb of London. The 3rd Enfield Company was formed by Mr Norris Storer Toms, second son of the Christ Church Minister, and they held their first meeting on 3

December 1890. In the first

session 33 boys enrolled into the Company. In the early days there was a negative atmosphere towards the Companies, however despite these difficulties the 3rd Enfield survived. The Company was registered on 29 January 1891. Legend has it that the man from the 3rd Enfield rushed up to London to register the Company on the same day as the 2nd Enfield. The man from the 2nd Enfield caught the train and the one from the 3rd Enfield missed it.



The 3rd Enfield practicing rifle drill in the 1890s with Christ Church in the background (the use of dummy rifles was discontinued ahead of the union of The Boys' Brigade and The Boys' Life Brigade in 1926)

In 1892 a significant event happened with the appointment of Thomas Room Plowman as Captain of the Company at the age of 16. He began to change the Company, improving it in all areas. He shaped the 3rd Enfield into one of the successful Companies in the Brigade. The Company colour became red and the famous red ties were introduced. They were commonly used on significant events such as the annual Whit Monday inspection parade and sports at the local Enfield Town Park. This athletic sports competition was started in 1893 and was won by the 3rd Enfield.

A drum and fife band was started in 1894, which changed to a bugle band in 1914. The Company first held its first camp at Burnham-on-Crouch in 1893 and the first camp under canvas was 1900 in Lowestoft. In 1897 Sir William Alexander Smith, Founder of The Boys' Brigade, visited the three Enfield BB Companies, known at that time as the United Enfield Companies, before the Enfield Battalion was formed. Mr Smith spoke at a united Bible class and then in the evening he attended a lantern service for 220 boys. Throughout the visit the 3rd Enfield provided a drum and fife band and gave a display of sword drill exercises.

Captain Plowman was able to shape the 3rd Enfield into a tour de force in the discipline of drill. They won the London District Drill competition, the Meares Colours, in 1905. The following year the 3rd Enfield became the very first Company at the Royal Albert Hall Display

to win the new competition for overall proficiency, namely the Daily Telegraph Shield competition. The following year the Company won the Daily Telegraph Shield again, this time Major-General Robert Baden-Powell presented the trophy, only months before running his famous Brownsea Island experiment, which led to the formation of the Scouting movement - and the rest is history.

Between 1906 and 1920 the 3rd Enfield won the Daily Telegraph Shield no less than seven times and appeared in nearly every



The Silver Jubilee of the 3rd Enfield in 1908

final. In 1914 the Company was in the final with the 62nd London Company at the Royal Albert Hall Display. A few days later the BB Founder passed away suddenly. The Company provided a guard of honour at Sir William Smith's funeral in London. Mr Alfred L Winsley, a Lieutenant in the 3rd, was one of the pallbearers at the funeral.

During the First World War, the 3rd with the 1st Enfield provided 'All Clear' Zeppelin air raid buglers to help sound the signal to Enfield residents that they were now safe. Captain Plowman enlisted to fight in the First World War and was wounded in France; although he survived the War, his injuries and the War had taken their toll on his health, he passed away suddenly on 1 January 1920. The Company never recovered for years, they missed their great Captain and they lost their dominance in drill. But by the time of their Golden Jubilee in 1940, the 3rd recovered their excellence in drill once again, winning the Daily Telegraph Shield again in their special anniversary year. The Founder's son, Captain G Stanley Smith, joined the 3rd for their golden celebrations at their church headquarters. The 3rd repeated the Daily Telegraph Shield win in 1943, the Diamond Jubilee year of The Boys' Brigade. At the 1943 Windsor Castle Royal Review with King George VI, the King asked one of the 3rd Enfield boys why they were wearing a red tie.

In the 1950s the Company found success in the field of bugle band work. They won the Devonshire Cup for Bugle Bands for the first time at the 1956 Royal Albert Hall Display, receiving the trophy from the famous runner Sir Roger Bannister. In 1957 they achieved the first ever encore at the BB Royal Albert Hall display, it was the playing of their own bugle piece, 'Swingtime', which had the audience cheering. In

1966, the Company lost their loyalist Officer with the passing of Charles Chopping; he had been with the Company for 72 years, holding every post.

In the 1970s and 1980s the 3rd Enfield had continued success in the field of bugle band and drill work. During this era, they won the Devonshire Cup a further four times (1972, 1978, 1979 and 1982), the Bugle Team four times and the Solo Bugler twice. In 1972 they appeared on TV playing at the Football League Cup final at Wembley. They won the very last Devonshire Cup final held at the BB Royal Albert Hall Display in 1982. The Company also won the London District Two Section Drill trophy ten times. For four years in a row, during the 1980s, they won the Daily Telegraph Shield with the 1st Enfield.



3rd Enfield Company photo for the Centenary of The Boys' Brigade in 1983

In 1985 the Company provided the guard of honour for the unveiling of the Sir William Smith plaque in the St Paul's Cathedral vaults. The BB in Enfield celebrated its centenary in 1988, and in 1990 the 3rd Enfield reached their own 100th anniversary. The Brigade President at the time, Lord Thurso, joined the centennial celebrations in December 1990 at Forty Hall. A special church service was held in front the Brigade President, when new Company colours were presented.

In the 1990s the Company notched up notable cricket and athletic

success. They also returned to form with their bugle band work, winning the London District Drum Team and Solo Bugler titles. In the 21st century, the 3rd Enfield formed a combined bugle band with our friends from the 1st Enfield and won the London District Devonshire Cup in 2006 and 2008, as well as the Novice Band competition in 2014.

The Company in the last ten years has enjoyed a strong and varied programme of events for the boys to take part in, in some cases with our friends at 10th Enfield.

These have included

summer camps, days out to theme parks and zoos, the

Waltham Walk competition,

celebrations to mark the 80th anniversary of the end of the Second World War, etc. The 3rd Enfield remains a strong BB Company today.



Members of the 3rd Enfield Company at the Awards Evening in 2024

We have had a strong history over the past 135 years and hope for many more years of service to the boys and young men of Enfield. A big thank you to all of the loyal supporters the 3rd Enfield has received over the decades by the friends and leaders.

Dr Robert Wilson

All of the photos used in this article are from 3rd Enfield Company archives.

Prayer diary December 2025

- 1 Pray for the Anchors and Juniors as they meet this evening.
- 2 Pray for the external groups that use our church premises.
- 3 Pray for the work of the 3rd Enfield Boys' Brigade over 135 years as they celebrate their birthday today.
- 4 Pray for the pupils and staff of Chase Side Primary School as they visit the church on several occasions this month.
- 5 Pray for the Rainbows and Brownies as they meet this evening.
- 6 Pray for the work of the Bible Society as we support them with our Communion offering tomorrow.
- 7 Pray for Martin Wells as he leads our service this morning.
- 8 Pray for the Company and Seniors as they meet this evening.
- 9 Pray for Ruth and Stuart.
- 10 Give thanks to God for his word to us through the Bible.
- 11 Pray for the residents of Bycullah Avenue.
- 12 Pray for the Guides and Rangers as they meet this evening.
- 13 Pray for the Zoom Bible Study Group as they meet for Christmas breakfast, as well as today's Christmas Tree Festival.
- 14 Pray for today's Christmas Nativity Celebration Service.
- 15 Pray for the Friendship Club as they meet this afternoon.
- 16 Pray for the work of Crisis and other charities that work to help those in need at Christmas.
- 17 Pray for those who face struggles in their faith.
- 18 Pray for the local community around Christ Church.
- 19 Pray that we may all stay safe from any bad weather.
- 20 Pray for our Elders.
- 21 Pray for this morning's Service of Lessons and Carols, and Chase Family Church's Carols by Candlelight Service later in the day.

- 22 Pray for those who are travelling over the Christmas period.
- 23 Pray for those for whom Christmas may be a difficult time.
- 24 Christmas Eve: Pray for this evening's Communion Service at Lancaster Road URC.
- 25 Christmas Day: Celebrate the birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ!
- 26 Pray for friends and family.
- 27 Pray for those who work for the emergency services at this incredibly busy time of year.
- 28 Pray for friends from across the North Enfield Pastorate as we come together in worship in our hall this morning.
- 29 Pray for peace in areas of the world where there is conflict.
- 30 Pray for your own relationship with God.
- 31 New Year's Eve: Give thanks to God for 2025.

Prayer diary January 2026

- 1 Pray for God's guidance in your life over the year ahead.
- 2 Pray for the Government over the coming year and for fair and just decision making.
- 3 Pray for the Zoom Bible Study Group as they meet this morning.
- 4 Pray for Martin Wells as he leads our service this morning.
- 5 Pray for children and young people who are returning to school for the new term this week.
- 6 Pray for all those who work to maintain our beautiful church buildings.
- 7 Pray for those who are mourning the loss of loved ones.

- 8 Pray that God's will be done as we look towards future plans for this church.
- 9 Pray for the Rainbows as they meet this evening.
- 10 Give thanks to God for the beauty of his creation.
- 11 Pray for The Worship Group as they lead our service this morning.
- 12 Pray for the Anchors and Juniors as they meet this evening.
- 13 Pray for the residents of Kirkland Drive.
- 14 Pray for all those who work at Bay Tree House.
- 15 Pray for businesses in our local area.
- 16 Pray for the Brownies as they meet this evening.
- 17 Pray for the Zoom Bible Study Group as they meet this morning.
- 18 Pray for God's guidance at this afternoon's Church Meeting.
- 19 Pray for the Friendship Club as they meet this afternoon.
- 20 Pray for the work of the wider United Reformed Church.
- 21 Pray for the leaders of our church organisations.
- 22 Pray for all those who work at Chase Farm Hospital.
- 23 Pray for the Guides as they meet this evening.
- 24 Pray for the 3rd Enfield Boys' Brigade Quiz Night which is taking place this evening.
- 25 Pray for the Adventurers as they meet during our service today.
- 26 Pray for the Company and Seniors as they meet this evening.
- 27 Pray for the work of Christian charities around the world.
- 28 Pray for all those who work at Nursery on the Green, just along the road from us on Chase Side.
- 29 Pray for Feryal Clark, Member of Parliament for Enfield North.
- 30 Pray for the Rangers as they meet this evening.
- 31 Pray for anyone you know who is suffering from sickness or ill health.

Church diary December 2025

Sunday 7 December

10:45am

Martin Wells

Holy Communion (offering for the Bible Society)

Duty Elder - Rosemary Milns

Saturday 13 December

9:45am

Zoom Bible Study Group Christmas breakfast (at the Chef's Kitchen - see page 6)

Saturday 13 December

10:00am-5:00pm

Christmas Tree Festival (see page 8)

Saturday 13 December

3:00pm-4:00pm

Christmas Carol Concert (see page 8)

Sunday 14 December

10:00am-4:00pm

Christmas Tree Festival (see page 8)

Sunday 14 December

10:45am

The Worship Group

Christmas Nativity Celebration Service

Duty Elder - Alison Gibbs

Monday 15 December

2:15pm

Friendship Club

Christmas programme including a bring and share tea - The Revd Ruth Dewis

Sunday 21 December **10:45am**
The Revd Ruth Dewis
Service of Lessons and Carols
Duty Elder - Sarah Harry

Sunday 21 December **5:00pm-6:30pm**
Carols by Candlelight Service with Chase Family Church (at Christ Church URC)

Wednesday 24 December **9:30pm**
The Revd Martin Legg
Christmas Eve Communion Service
United Service at Lancaster Road URC

Thursday 25 December **10:30am**
The Revd Martin Legg
Christmas Day Service
United Service at Lancaster Road URC

Sunday 28 December **10:00am**
The Revd Ruth Dewis
Breakfast Service
United Service for the North Enfield Pastorate (at Christ Church URC)
Duty Elder - Rosemary Milns

Please note that this service will be in the hall; breakfast will be available from 10:00am and the service will start at 10:45am

Church diary January 2026

Saturday 3 January 9:30am-10:30am
Zoom Bible Study Group (see page 6)

Sunday 4 January 10:45am
Martin Wells
Holy Communion (offering for the Communion Fund)
Duty Elder - Alison Gibbs

Sunday 11 January 10:45am
The Worship Group
Duty Elder - Sarah Harry

Saturday 17 January 9:30am-10:30am
Zoom Bible Study Group (see page 6)

Sunday 18 January 10:45am
The Revd Ruth Dewis
Duty Elder - Alison Gibbs

Sunday 18 January 12:15pm
Church Meeting

Monday 19 January 2:15pm
Friendship Club
Mission Aviation Fellowship - Alan Goldring

Saturday 24 January 6:30pm for 7:00pm
3rd Enfield Boys’ Brigade Quiz Night (see page 2)

Sunday 25 January 10:45am
Lisa Hamblin
Duty Elder - Rosemary Milns

Church diary February 2026

Sunday 1 February 10:45am
Evodian Fonyonga
Holy Communion (offering for Shanthigramam)
Duty Elder - Rosemary Milns

February 2026 Newsletter

The **February 2026** edition of the Christ Church Newsletter will be published on **Sunday 25 January**. Items intended for inclusion in this issue must be with the Editor by Sunday 11 January. Any late submissions will either miss inclusion or 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 Pamela Mansley 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.



The Adoration of the Kings, Pieter Bruegel the Elder 1564, National Gallery, London. Public domain image via Wikimedia Commons. A related article by Stephen Gilburt can be found on pages 20-21.

Front cover image by Liliboas on iStock.



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

