

NEWSLETTER

November 2025 | No. 836



Christ Church
United
Reformed
Church

Enfield Choral Society

Charity Number: 293997

Celebrating 150 years of Christ Church Christ URC Chase Side Enfield EN2 6NU

7:30pm Saturday 8th November 2025



Performing works by

Bruckner

Elmer

Parry

Rutter

Tavener

Vivaldi:

Conductor Mark Sproson

Tickets: £16 in advance, £17 on the door
£7 (under 25s in full time education),
free for accompanied under 16s.

Book via any choir member
or phone 07864 061755
or scan QR code
or visit enfieldchoralsociety.org.uk



Pastoral Letter November 2025

Hello,

I started writing this letter as I sat on a train travelling to Stockholm from Oslo. Visiting another country always stirs me to reflect on my own country. It's easy to feel the grass is greener on the other side isn't it? You see the good things in a different country on a short visit because you're not there long enough to see the 'not so good' bits.

A fact pointed out to us on a tour around Oslo, is that the Scandinavian flags all bear a cross, a sign of the Christian faith, the predominant denomination being Lutheranism. It made me reflect on how there's been a lot of debate over the flying of flags in our own nation recently. Sadly, it wasn't just a pride in our nation that generated the love of our flag, there were the undertones of prejudice too.

There's really only one banner worthy of being raised across our nation and that's Christ's - not just in the UK but across the whole globe. It reminds me of the song by Noel Richards:

"We want to see Jesus lifted high
A banner that flies across this land
That all men might see the truth and know
He is the way to heaven."

The problems we face these days isn't just the fault of the politicians or even society, it's equally the fault of the Church. We should have

been preaching about Jesus' love, his justice and God's judgement with more urgency and passion. We have not wanted to 'upset' people though have we?

We have not been tasked with placating society and the desires that are in fashion. We are called to join the mission of spreading God's good news of salvation for the world. The way we live should be the living example of our faith, for example the way we care for creation, how we help in the community and how we love people as Jesus loves us remember all people are made in the image of God. Every need of the world can be met through Jesus. When we talk about Jesus, we are preaching about a love beyond our imaginations - agape love. A love that gives itself for others.

Our faith should not be dictated on how we feel. How we feel from day to day is not something we can rely on. We need to put our faith in the One who is our Creator, Provider and our ever present Refuge and Strength.

When we preach biblical justice and truth it translates as loving our neighbour as ourselves. It should motivate us to encourage one another to walk on the path of righteousness and holiness.

If we preach about God's judgment, which is a fair and just judgment, retribution would be no business of ours because it would remind us that we will be judged as we judge - that in itself is a very good reason to leave things in God's hands.

"For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your

heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.” (Matthew 6:14-15)

But we can't help ourselves can we? We insist on 'preaching' our own agendas, the things we are passionate about, rather than being passionate about God's agenda and his will. Then when people disagree with us, or we are challenged, we have a tendency to make our disapproval personal. Look at the recent death in America of Charlie Kirk. Whether we agreed or disagreed with his views, it exemplified how one side's disapproval of the other can lead to a unnecessary tragedy. Which ever way you look at it, many lives changed forever in a moment of hatred that day. There's a young family without a father, a wife without a husband and a young person whose life will be spent incarcerated or ended prematurely with the death penalty. God insists on unity for a very good reason - division that leads to hatred and intolerance has devastating results.

The Church in Britain is on the platform of a 'train station'. Do we get onto the train, to follow God's travel plans and reach his intended destination for us in the power of the Holy Spirit? Or, does the Church just watch the train leave the station and watch society continue to fall into chaos because we just couldn't be bothered to get on it and so stand there watching the train go out of sight? Going to church on a Sunday alone will not save our country but sacrificing our own desires for Christ's mission will certainly help.

“Then if my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sins and restore

their land.” (2 Chronicles 7:14)

God is quickening his steps and we need to keep up with him in his strength (not ours) and by his grace. You may think to yourself, “but I can hardly walk, never mind quicken my steps”. Well the good news is (apart from the Good News of the Gospel), even the bed bound can pray. Prayer is our most powerful weapon against the works of the devil, whose mission is to lie, steel, kill and destroy our hope of an eternity with God and our involvement in God’s mission.

“The thief [Satan] comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I [Jesus] have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.” (John 10:10)

You may not physically be able to bend your knee in prayer but I encourage you to metaphorically do it and pray that the Church in this nation will climb aboard God’s ‘train’ and that this country will truly turn back to God, because people need all the prayer we can offer them and they need us to guide them to the one true Saviour who promises to make all things new.

God bless you all,

Ruth

Zoom Bible Study Group

The Zoom Bible Study Group will be meeting on Saturdays 1 and 22 October at 9:30am (note first and fourth Saturdays this month). The group will be continuing their study of the Gospel of Luke. New members are always welcome. Please contact Rosemary Milns for joining details.

Communion offering

Our Communion offering at the service on Sunday 2 November is for Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF). MAF is the world's largest humanitarian air operator. For over 75 years they have been flying light aircraft over jungles, mountains, swamps and deserts.



They enable more than 1,400 aid, development and mission organisations to bring medical care, emergency relief and long-term development to remote areas of the world. Their pilots and personnel deliver relief workers, doctors, pastors, school books, food, medicines - everything that can only be safely and speedily delivered by air.

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

Christ Church 150th anniversary

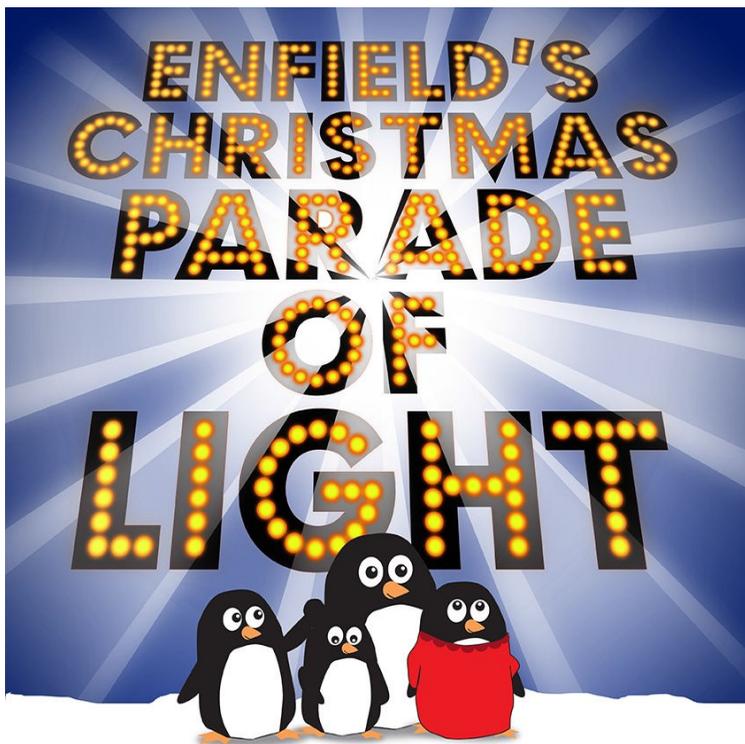
It has been wonderful to celebrate 150 years of God working through our current building during 2025, and we still have more events coming up before the year is out.

On Saturday 8 November from 7:30pm-9:30pm, Enfield Choral Society will be holding their Autumn Concert in the church. Full details, including how to purchase tickets, can be found on page 2.

On Sunday 16 November at 10:45am, we are looking forward to welcoming the Revd George Watt (Moderator of Thames North Synod) for our Church Anniversary Service. We will also be welcoming friends from across the North Enfield Pastorate to this joint service.

On Wednesday 19 November at 3:00pm, Stephen Gilbert will be presenting 'From Zion Chapel to Christ Church: A story of Congregationalists in Enfield' at Jubilee Hall, 2 Parsonage Lane. This is an illustrated talk organised by the Edmonton Hundred Historical Society. All members and friends from Christ Church will be welcome.

Saturday 13 & Sunday 14 December is our Christmas Tree Festival in the church, giving the opportunity to see a range of Christmas trees decorated by church organisations and local community groups. On the Saturday it will be from 10:00am-5:00pm, including a Carol Concert at 3:00pm-4:00pm to which everyone is warmly invited. The church will also be open from 10:00am-4:00pm on the Sunday, including worship at 10:45am. If you can assist with welcoming or refreshments, please speak to Ruth or an Elder.



The Enfield Christmas Parade of Light is back for its 14th year on Sunday 30 November!

Usually there is a range of entertainment and activities through the afternoon at the Market Place and Fountain Island, so keep an eye on local community channels for any details as they become available.

The parade itself starts at 4:00pm from the Civic Centre and goes along Baker Street, Lancaster Road, Chase Side, Church Street, Silver Street and back to the Civic Centre. **Christ Church will be open for refreshments, with the parade passing the church at around 4:55pm - any offers of help would be greatly appreciated!** There will be carol singing at the Fountain in Enfield Town at approximately 5:20pm and a firework display at around 5:40pm.

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.



From Zion Chapel to Christ Church
A story of Congregationalists in Enfield



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.

A message from Stephen

I would like to thank friends for all the cards and presents I received for my 80th birthday last month. I am glad that so many were able to join me for lunch to celebrate the occasion.

Stephen

Finance update

We are pleased to report that Pamela Mansley was appointed as Treasurer at our Church Meeting on Sunday 5 October. It was also agreed to establish a new Finance Committee to support the Treasurer and to help with accountability and compliance. This will consist of Barbara Hunt (to link with the Property Committee), Alison Gibbs (representing the Elders), the Revd Ruth Dewis (as Minister) and Tom Boorman (for bookings).

We thank David Fisher for all his work as Treasurer over many years and pray for all those who are taking on these new roles.

Remembrance Sunday

Our service on Remembrance Sunday, 9 November, will be at the usual time of 10:45am and will be led by The Worship Group. In the opening part of the service the names on our Rolls of Honour will be read out, and the Last Post will be sounded followed by a two-minute silence at 11:00am.

Christmas lunch

Our Christmas lunch has been provisionally scheduled for Sunday 21 December, following the Service of Lessons and Carols. Further details will be available in the next newsletter.

Boys' Brigade update

It has been another busy few weeks at BB, with lots going on for all of our age groups.

On Thursday 25 September, our Company & Seniors took part in the Enfield Battalion Quiz & Pizza Night, doing very well to come 2nd overall and just a few points behind the winners!

That weekend, on Saturday 27 & Sunday 28 September, three of our Seniors - Joe, Tyla and Yianni - joined forces with 10th Enfield to take on their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award expedition.

The boys walked 21 miles over two days, navigating their journey in the Hertfordshire countryside around Hemel Hempstead, and carrying all of the equipment they needed for the weekend including clothes, tents and food. At the overnight camp they had to put up their tents and cook meals for Saturday dinner and Sunday breakfast.

They successfully completed the



expedition and once they finish the other three sections of the award - Volunteering, Physical and Skills - they will become our first DofE recipients in, we believe, 33 years.

On Monday 29 September, all of our age groups took part in some Minute to Win It Challenges, competing against each other to try to get the best scores possible across a range of activities with just a minute on the clock for each. Well done to our winners - Ellis (Anchors), William (Juniors) and Sunny (Company & Seniors)!



On Thursday 9 October, 15 of our young people and leaders headed to Wembley Stadium for the England vs Wales men's international friendly. It was an enjoyable experience for everyone and for some their first visit to Wembley or even any football match, and it was all topped off with a 3-0 win for England!



Two days later, on Saturday 11 October, members of our Company & Seniors age groups took part in a Paintball Event which was organised by London District at Velocity Paintball in Slough. Throughout the day they took part in a range of games across different arenas,



with our lads being a part of the winning Green team.

We finished off a packed week by joining with the congregation at Christ Church for our Enrolment Celebration Service on Sunday 12 October.

The service was led by Ruth and gave us the opportunity to rededicate ourselves to BB and present the boys with their Membership Cards for this session. During the service we also thought about how we can be thankful to God for all the things he does in our lives.



On Saturday 18 October our Anchors & Juniors had a great day out at Whipsnade Zoo, having the opportunity to see and learn about a wide range of different animals in areas themed around Africa, Asia and Europe as well as Base Camp.

They were able to find out a bit about the wildlife conservation efforts of ZSL, the charity that operates Whipsnade Zoo as well as London Zoo, and they were also able to spend some time in the outdoor play area!



Tom

Help for Hunger

In the run up to Christmas the 3rd Enfield Boys' Brigade is going to be supporting Help for Hunger, a local charity which works to provide hampers to families who would otherwise go without at Christmas.

The hampers consist of essential food and gifts for all in the family. Last year they provided hampers to over 1,400 families including over 3,000 children, and they expect numbers to be larger this year.

The 3rd Enfield will be donating hampers for two families, and to do that we are asking for your help.

How does it work? Help for Hunger has provided a standard list of items to include in each hamper, which includes food and cleaning/sanitary products. As the families live in severe deprivation they also ask for a hooded blanket, hat and gloves to be included, as well as a Christmas gift for each member of the family.

We will be encouraging our BB and Christ Church family to get involved by signing up to donate one or more items. A list of required items will be available in the church from the service on Sunday 2 November onwards, initially you just need to put your name against the item(s) you would like to provide. We then ask that the actual items are with us by Sunday 23 November. These will then be collated and given to Help for Hunger to go to the families in December.

If you have any questions about this initiative please speak to Tom. Thank you in advance for any support you are able to give.

THE SALVATION ARMY
ENFIELD

CHRISTMAS
WITH THE
SALVATION ARMY

ENFIELD BAPTIST CHURCH
CECIL ROAD EN2 6TG

£5 ON
THE
DOOR

6 PM

22 NOV 2025

FEATURING

**ST. MATTHEWS SCHOOL CHOIR
KIDS INC. ENFIELD PRE SCHOOL
SALVATION ARMY BAND AND CHOIR**

**Start your Christmas with an evening
of music and carol singing**



A Celebration of Christmas
Presented by Enfield Concert Band
In aid of Noah's Ark Children's Hospice
Suggested donation £10
Saturday 29th November 2025 at 6pm

Lancaster Road United Reformed Church
Lancaster Road Enfield EN2 0BS

NOAH'S ARK
children's hospice

Enfield Concert Band

Thank you from Lancaster Road

Thank you so much for the donations from your Harvest Festival service at Christ Church. What an amazing amount. Our thanks for your generosity on behalf of those who will receive these via the Food Hub. We were very busy [on the Wednesday following the service] and welcomed over 35 visitors, many remarked on the cheeky little faces on the potatoes and carrots.

With blessings to everyone at Christ Church.

Clare Locke (on behalf of the Lancaster Road URC Food Hub)

The Annunciation

Luke 1:26-38

Fra (brother) Filippo Lippi (1406-1469), an orphan, was put into the Carmine monastery in Florence in 1421. He was however unsuited to life as a monk, leaving the monastery in 1434. Between 1452 and 1464 he painted a cycle of frescoes in Prato in Tuscany. While there he was tried for fraud and abducted a nun, Lucrezia, who he went on to marry after he had fathered a son, Filippino, also a painter.

Filippo Lippi's *The Annunciation* was painted on a wooden panel to hang over a doorway at the Palazzo Riccardi in Florence which was owned by the Medici family who were patrons of Lippi. The subject may have been chosen because of the expected birth of a child, possibly the future Lorenzo the Magnificent, who was born in 1449.

On the left the Angel Gabriel with head bowed is kneeling in a walled garden which along with the vase of lilies are symbols of the Virgin Mary's purity. A dove flutters down from the hand of God at the top of the picture towards Mary's womb. Mary bows her head and looks down on being told that she will bear God's son.

This painting, together with *Seven Saints* also painted for the Palazzo Riccardi in Florence, may be seen in the National Gallery in London.

Stephen

You can see a full colour version of *The Annunciation* on page 27.

Our Church is Dedicated to Jesus Christ Our Lord

A hymn for Church Anniversary

1. Our church is dedicated
to Jesus Christ our Lord,
he teaches us and saves us
and lives for evermore.
Now we should always follow
his teachings every day,
so that we may more clearly
all come to know his love.

2. So now let us remember
all those who built our church,
the people who raised money
and those who worshipped here,
the ministers and members
who helped and guided us,
and those who served in healthcare
or taught in many lands.

3. We always should remember
those who were here before,
the children and the adults,
they all have served our Lord.
But as we leave this morning
we should now be prepared
to tell the news to others
of God's love for the world.

Stephen Gilbert

Metre 7676D iambic

Tunes 'Aurelia' (RS 566 'The Church's One Foundation')

'Penlan' (RS 590 'In Heavenly Love Abiding')

From the Green Team

As members of Thames North Synod's Green Team, we often remind ourselves that nature's gifts are closer than we think. Our local parks, greenways, and woodlands offer a sanctuary for the soul - no travel required.



Whether it's a quiet walk, listening to the wind rustling through leaves, or watching the dappled sunlight dance through the trees, these moments are simple yet profound. Children delight in the joy of a fallen branch sword fight or the thrill of batting conkers and acorns through the woods. These are not just playful activities; they are opportunities to reconnect with creation and with each other.

Spending time in nature has been shown to reduce stress, anxiety, and depression, while boosting mood and life satisfaction. It's a reminder that caring for our environment also nurtures our well-being.

Whether alone or with family, take a moment to enjoy the green spaces nearby. Let the breeze, the sunlight, and the laughter of children be a reminder: this is your time to breathe, to be present, and to celebrate God's creation.

For inspiration and ideas, visit WWF's Prescription for Nature: www.wwf.org.uk/prescription-for-nature/active-in-nature

Exploring AI

There are lots of debates currently about the dangers of artificial intelligence (AI), particularly with the rise of misinformation and fakery, but it can be argued that there are benefits when it comes to finding information - indeed, you'll see more and more of it if you use search engines. Ask it, for instance, why someone should follow Jesus and it will tell you something like the following:

"Following Jesus offers a path to true peace, purpose, and hope. His teachings guide us to love others selflessly, forgive freely, and live with integrity. Jesus invites everyone into a personal relationship with God, not through religious rituals, but through grace and faith."

"In a world filled with uncertainty, his message provides stability and direction - reminding us that we are deeply loved and never alone. Jesus modelled compassion, humility, and sacrifice, showing what it means to serve others and put God first. By following him, we discover our true identity and calling: to live in love and truth. His death and resurrection offer the ultimate gift - salvation and eternal life."

"Choosing to follow Jesus means walking in light, finding strength in hardship, and sharing his love with the world. It's the most life-changing and fulfilling journey a person can take."

Whatever your thoughts on AI, it would be hard to argue with it here!

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:

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

Prayer diary November 2025

- 1 Pray for the Zoom Bible Study Group as they meet this morning.
- 2 Pray for the work of Mission Aviation Fellowship as we support them with our Communion offering this morning.
- 3 Pray for the Anchors as they meet this evening.
- 4 Pray for anyone you know who is suffering from sickness or ill health at this time.
- 5 Pray for the work of Thames North Synod.
- 6 Pray for friends from Trinity Church.
- 7 Pray for the Rainbows as they meet this evening.
- 8 Pray for this evening's Enfield Choral Society Autumn Concert.

- 9 Remembrance Sunday: Pray for events taking place across the country today.
- 10 Pray for the Juniors as they meet this evening.
- 11 Remembrance Day: Remember those who sacrificed so much for our freedom.
- 12 Pray for peace in areas of the world where there is conflict.
- 13 Pray for our Elders.
- 14 Pray for King Charles III as he celebrates his 77th birthday today.
- 15 Pray for those who work to maintain our beautiful church buildings.
- 16 Pray for the Revd George Watt, our Synod Moderator, as he leads our Church Anniversary service this morning.
- 17 Pray for the Friendship Club as they meet this afternoon.
- 18 On this day, Christ Church's 150th anniversary, give thanks for God's work and witness through our church over 150 years.
- 19 Pray for those who suffer persecution for their faith.
- 20 Pray for the leaders of our church organisations.
- 21 Pray for the Brownies as they meet this evening.
- 22 Pray for the Zoom Bible Study Group as they meet this morning.
- 23 Pray for the Adventurers as they meet during our service today.
- 24 Pray for the Company and Seniors as they meet this evening.
- 25 Pray for Ruth and Stuart.
- 26 Pray for the residents of Gentleman's Row.
- 27 Give thanks to God for giving us the gift of the Holy Spirit.
- 28 Pray for the Guides and Rangers as they meet this evening.
- 29 Pray for friends and family.
- 30 Pray for friends from across the North Enfield Pastorate as we come together in worship at Lancaster Road URC this morning, as well as this afternoon's Enfield Christmas Parade of Light.

Church diary November 2025

Saturday 1 November 9:30am-10:30am
Zoom Bible Study Group (see page 7)

Sunday 2 November 10:45am
Anna Erikson
Holy Communion (offering for Mission Aviation Fellowship)
Duty Elder - Alison Gibbs

Saturday 8 November 7:30pm-9:30pm
Enfield Choral Society Autumn Concert (see page 2)

Sunday 9 November 10:45am
The Worship Group
Remembrance Sunday
Duty Elder - Sarah Harry
A two-minute silence will be observed at 11:00am

Sunday 16 November 10:45am
The Revd George Watt
Church Anniversary
United Service for the North Enfield Pastorate (at Christ Church URC)
Duty Elder - Rosemary Milns

Monday 17 November 2:15pm
Friendship Club
Quiz time - The Revd Mandy James

Saturday 22 November

9:30am-10:30am

Zoom Bible Study Group (see page 7)

Sunday 23 November

10:45am

Laura Marlow

Duty Elder - Alison Gibbs

Sunday 30 November

11:15am

The Revd Martin Legg

Advent Sunday

United Service for the North Enfield Pastorate (at Lancaster Road URC)

Please note the location and later start time for this service

December 2025 & January 2026 Newsletter

The **December 2025 & January 2026** edition of the Christ Church Newsletter will be published on **Sunday 23 November** (a week earlier than normal as there is no service at Christ Church on Sunday 30 November). Items intended for inclusion in this issue must be with the Editor by Sunday 9 November. 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.

Right (please turn page sideways): *The Annunciation*, Fra Filippo Lippi 1449, National Gallery, London. Public domain image via Wikimedia Commons. A related article by Stephen Gilburt can be found on page 18.



Front cover image by Ellie Pourreza 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

THE BOYS' BRIGADE
> the adventure begins here



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

