

NEWSLETTER

June 2026 | No. 842



Christ Church
United
Reformed
Church

9th Enfield Rainbows, Brownies,
Guides and Rangers
fundraising

Afternoon Tea

Please kindly join us for a delightful afternoon of tea, treats, and wonderful company as we host an enchanting afternoon tea to raise vital funds for our four groups.

20th June 2026 - 1.30pm - Christ church hall

Tickets: Adults £15 Children £10 (up to 10 yrs)



Please let us know of any dietary requirements when booking tickets

Tickets will be sold on a first come first served basis

Pastoral Letter June 2026

Hello everyone,

I hope this month's letter finds you keeping well? There have been many people hit by bad coughs recently and a few having to spend time in hospital. Hopefully, if you have been poorly, you'll start to benefit from the warmer weather and care you have received and get back to full strength soon.

We take good health for granted, don't we? It's only when we become ill we take stock. Many people take the time to be disciplined around physical exercise in order to take care of themselves. However, despite all our human efforts, we cannot defy the ageing process and our bodies slow down until one day they stop.

There is a level of health that can be maintained and can become even stronger with ageing - our spiritual health. Like our physical exercises, we need to be disciplined to see the benefits. Exercise in fits and starts does not produce stamina, strength and resilience to the stresses placed on the body, we need to do exercise regularly.

Regularly spending time with God in prayer and reading Scripture strengthens us to stand up against the lies the world would want us to believe. Remember the Devil deceives and steals and if we don't read Scripture, how can we ever know the Truth intimately?

We live in a world that places importance on how we feel, rather than what is truth; a world around self-service rather than serving others.

Feelings aren't reliable, they go up and down due to all sorts of factors that affect us.

Lent, for example, is a time when we are disciplined about giving up things like chocolate, social media and maybe biscuits. Let's go into June deciding to be disciplined about reading our Bibles and spending time in prayer each day. We will be investing our time well, as we are told in Scripture:

"Do not waste time arguing over godless ideas and old wives' tales. Instead, train yourself to be godly. Physical training is good, but training for godliness is much better, promising benefits in this life and in the life to come." (1 Timothy 4:7-8, New Living Translation)

"No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it." (Hebrews 12:11, New International Version)

As it says in Nehemiah (8:10) "the joy of the Lord is your strength" and we can only get to know what God's joy is if we spend time with him in prayer and in his word. Jesus promised us that the Holy Spirit will help us and that he will never leave us. We can call upon the help of the Holy Spirit to help us to be disciplined in our spiritual training too.

I'll conclude sharing what Isaiah 41:10 encourages us with:

"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my

righteous right hand.”

God bless you this June,

Ruth

Zoom Bible Study Group

The Zoom Bible Study Group will be meeting on Saturdays 6 and 20 June at 9:30am. The Group will be continuing a series of studies on the Book of Revelation, entitled *Revelation: Faithfulness in Testing Times* by the London Institute of Contemporary Christianity (LICC).

If anyone is interested in joining this friendly group, please speak to Rosemary for the login details.

Lunchtime @ Christ Church

Forthcoming Lunchtime @ Christ Church events will take place on Saturdays 13 June, 11 July, 8 August, 12 September and 10 October. All of these events will take place from 12:30pm-2:30pm and everyone is very welcome to join us for this time of fellowship. There is no set price for the food and drink - donations are accepted.

Volunteers are needed to help with these - if you can assist, even if it's just for one of the dates, please speak to Rosemary.

Christian Aid Week

Many thanks to all those who supported the Christian Aid lunch on Saturday 9 May and to those who have donated to the Appeal. Details of how much was raised will follow.

Dedication of horse chestnut tree

The new horse chestnut tree, which has been planted in the garden at the back of the church, is to be dedicated after the morning service on Sunday 7 June. All are welcome. Thank you to all who have contributed to the purchase of the tree as part of our 150th anniversary celebrations.

Fellowship lunch

We will be holding a lunch on Sunday 7 June (from 12:30pm; following the morning service and the dedication of the horse chestnut tree) to celebrate the installation of the new kitchen in the hall. All are welcome.

The cost will be £25 for a three-course meal, plus cheese and biscuits, tea/coffee and after dinner mint. A £10 deposit is payable. Please book your place with Rosemary by Sunday 31 May at the latest and let her know if you have any dietary requirements.

North Enfield Pastorate of United Reformed Churches

Weekend of



Prayer

At: Lancaster Road
United Reformed Church



Friday 12 June (10am-7pm)

Saturday 13 June (10am-7pm)

Sunday 14 June 2026 (10am-1:30pm)

including Sunday service from 11:15am

*Come to receive prayer or just spend time
in quiet reflection in a sacred space away
from a busy world.*

Come when you can - go when you must.

Refreshments available.



ALL WELCOME



Knitting request

If you like knitting would you consider helping us to build us a stock of little angels to give out to all those who visit the Nativity Festival that will be held at Lancaster Road URC (the same weekend the Christmas Tree Festival at Christ Church and the Enfield Christmas Parade of Light on 5 and 6 December).



Knitting instructions will be available on printed sheets at the back of the church, or please speak to Ruth.

If you are able to knit, please hand your little angels to Ruth to look after until December.

Celebration Worship Service

On Sunday 3 May we hosted a Celebration Worship Service with friends from Chase Family Church, Enfield Baptist Church and others, spending an evening in worship and inviting the Holy Spirit to work.



Thank you to all those who were involved in making it happen. It is planned that another one will take place on Sunday 11 October.

Communion offering

This month's collection is to support the Friends of KSN Hospital. KSN is a mission hospital in West Bengal, India, which also has a training school for nurses and a hostel which provides safe accommodation for local girls whose families are struggling to care for them. The hospital does amazing work within the local rural community, with limited resources.

At the instigation of the Revd Melanie Smith, the Friends of KSN CIO, a UK charity, was formed in 2021 to promote fundraising efforts in the UK. Rosemary is one of the trustees, as is Laura Marlow at Lancaster Road URC.

Funds raised by KSN CIO over the past year have been used to purchase surgical equipment, to fund Eye Camps to deal with the removal of cataracts (a major problem in India), to pay for the support of girls at the hostel and to fund the training of student nurses.

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

Celebrating baptism

At our service on Sunday 17 May it was wonderful to celebrate Lia's baptism, which was presided over by Ruth. Congratulations to Lia - it was a joy to be able to share in the occasion, and we're praying for her in her walk with God.

Boys' Brigade update

On Mondays over the last few weeks our boys have continued to get into a wide range of activities, including our younger boys learning about the natural world with Earth Day and David Attenborough themes, also helping us to think about God's wonderful creation, and our older lads getting into a Record Breakers theme by having a go at breaking some unusual world records and thinking about how God loves us because of who we are rather than what we achieve.



On Saturday 25 April we took part in the Enfield Battalion Football Academy, with training sessions followed by tournaments for the Juniors and Company/Seniors age groups. Well done to our joint teams with 10th Enfield who came 2nd in the Juniors event and 3rd in Company/Seniors!



Two weeks later, on Saturday 9 May, we took part in the Enfield Battalion Hare & Hounds (Fun Race & Cross Country) at Grovelands Park. The event consisted of races of different lengths for each age group, with our boys coming 2nd in the



Anchors age group, 6th in Juniors and winning the Seniors event!

Well done also to Jack (Anchors) and William (Seniors) who were the individual winners in their respective age groups.

On Saturday 16 and Sunday 17 April our Company lads took part in the Waltham Walk, a challenge expedition in the Essex countryside.

Entering the Mini Trek category, they walked nearly 20 miles over the two days, taking on a series of checkpoint challenges along the way and camping overnight where they had to set up their tents and cook their own food.

They did brilliantly as a team of complete newcomers to the event, working well together and coming in 5th place overall.

Well done to David, Lillyan, William and Zaydan!

The next day, on Monday 18 May, we held our Annual



Awards Evening in the hall, as an opportunity to celebrate all that our boys have achieved over the last 12 months.



Each of them were presented with a range of badges, trophies, certificates and special awards, with well over 100 awards presented in total! It was fantastic to be joined by lots of family members and Church friends to share in celebrating our fantastic group of boys.

Included in the awards were two President's Badges, the second-highest award in The Boys' Brigade, which were presented to Moisis and Sunny. Well done to them both - they are extremely deserving of the award and we're very proud of them both!

Anchors Best Boy: Yuvaan

Juniors Best Boy: Ciaran

Frank Head Trophy (Company Best Boy):
Micah

Chris Bullock Memorial Trophy (Seniors
Best Boy): Joe

RL Plowman Trophy: William

TR Plowman Trophy: Sunny

George Page Sports Cup: Max

Elsie Hart Centenary Cup: Moisis

President's Badge: Moisis & Sunny

Find out more about our trophies at 3rdenfieldbb.co.uk/history



Tom

Lunchtime @ Christ Church

Saturday

13 June

12:30pm-2:30pm

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**



Buckingham Palace Garden Party

One of the best days of my life was on Friday 8 May when I accompanied Tom to a Buckingham Palace Garden Party.



Back in March Tom received an email telling him his name had been put forward by an unknown person/organisation and would receive an invitation to a Garden Party. He was to put three dates in first, second and third order and that he was able to take a guest, he asked me if I would like to go, of course I said yes! Two weeks before the dates we received an official invitation from Buckingham Palace. Two weeks to sort out an outfit, luckily my daughter helped me!



On the day we travelled to London, joined the queue to be checked by security in front of the Palace, eventually the gates opened and we made our way towards the gardens. The sun was shining, one of two bands were playing (two bands opposite ends of the garden take it in turns to play a piece of music), a large tea tent down one side, the Royal tea tent and Diplomatic tea tent overlooking the lake. There was plenty of seating for thousands of people invited.

We made our way across the lawns, within a short time people started lining up to get a glimpse of the Royals. After about an hour the Royal party of the Prince and Princess of Wales, Duke and Duchess of

Edinburgh and Mrs Zara Tindall came out of the Palace to stand at the top of the steps for the National Anthem to be played. We were a distance away but Tom managed to get some great photos of them. The Royals spent time talking to chosen guests at the start of the line followed by members of the public who wanted to shake their hands and say hello.



We enjoyed our afternoon tea, a variety of finger sandwiches, smoked salmon roll and savoury wraps, a mini scone with cream and jam, Battenburg, mini cheesecake. We had a choice of tea, apple or orange juice. Later on waiters walked round the garden with trays of mini tubs of vanilla, strawberry or chocolate ice cream for anyone who wanted one. We strolled down to the lake, Tom took a walk round it and saw more of the gardens, we sat and listened to the RAF music band.



The afternoon was coming to an end but what an amazing day it was, a once in a lifetime opportunity and I will never forget any minute of it. My Mum, Tom's granny would be so proud that he'd been invited and asked me to go with him.

Alison B



Thames North Synod URC

Eco Day

Saturday 13th June 2026

9.30am - 4pm

Amersham Free Church

Woodside Road, Amersham HP6 6AJ

Nature on our Doorstep



Join fellow churchgoers from across the Synod in exploring animal and plant life, gardening skills, and energy saving.

Hear our gold medal winning 'Amersham in Bloom' describe how they transform public places for nature and people.

Come for a walk with us (optional!) through the woods to the River Misbourne, a chalk stream. 45 minutes of gentle walking, but bring strong shoes. We'll bus back.

Enjoy a delicious lunch - locally sourced produce, and home-made cakes for tea.



For more information email: Colleen Fraser at modpa@urcthamesnorth.org.uk



I Want to Follow Jesus Christ

A hymn of discipleship

1. I want to follow Jesus Christ
and to obey what he has taught,
so I may know what I should do
and change accordingly.
2. I want to read his word and learn
its meaning for my daily life,
so I may act upon his words
and follow where he leads.
3. I want to learn what Jesus did
for all those people who he met,
so that I too may give my help
and guide those who I meet.

Stephen Gilbert

Metre 8886 iambic

Tunes 'Helvetia', verse 3 (RS 367 'I Want to Walk With Jesus Christ')
'Childhood' (RS 615 'O God of Mercy, God of Might')
'Saffron Walden' (RS 364 'Just As I Am, Without One Plea')

The Transfiguration

Matthew 17:1-13, Mark 9:2-13, Luke 9:28-36

Duccio di Buoninsegna (1255/60-1319) was one of the most important artists of the early Italian Renaissance working in Siena. *The Transfiguration*, painted in egg tempera on poplar, was one of originally nine scenes showing Jesus as a teacher, minister and performer of miracles. They formed a predella along the base of the back of the *Maestà* altarpiece created by Duccio and his assistants for Siena Cathedral in Tuscany between 1308 and 1311. Images of reconstructions of the front and back of the altarpiece were in the May 2025 Newsletter. Although most of the altarpiece is still in Siena in the Cathedral Museum, *The Transfiguration* may be seen in the National Gallery, London.

Matthew, Mark and Luke's Gospels all record the occasion when Jesus took his disciples Peter, James and John up a high mountain. Jesus's face appeared to be shining like the sun and his clothes were dazzlingly white. The disciples saw Moses and Elijah talking with Jesus. They heard a voice saying "This is my own dear Son with whom I am pleased - listen to him."

Duccio shows Christ shimmering in striated robes on top of a mountain with Elijah to the left and Moses holding the Ten Commandments on the right. Below, the disciples Peter, James and John express their surprise and fear with raised arms.

Stephen

You may see a full colour version of *The Transfiguration* by Duccio on page 27.

The Calling of Peter and Andrew

Mark 1:16-18, Matthew 4:18-20, Luke 5:1-11

Duccio di Buoninsegna (1255/60-1319) was one of the most important artists of the early Italian Renaissance working in Siena. *The Calling of the Apostles Peter and Andrew* was one of originally nine episodes in the life of Jesus painted in egg tempera on a predella panel along the base of the back of the *Maestà* altarpiece created by Duccio and his assistants for Siena Cathedral in Tuscany between 1308 and 1311.

Matthew, Mark and Luke's Gospels all record the occasion when Jesus called Peter and Andrew to be his disciples. Duccio shows Jesus on the rocky shore of the Sea of Galilee calling to Peter and Andrew. They are in their boat hauling in a net full of fish. Other fish can also be seen in the water.

This painting may be seen in the National Gallery of Art, Washington, USA.

Stephen

You may see a full colour version of *The Calling of the Apostles Peter and Andrew* by Duccio on page 27.

Sacred images

From the time of the early Christians sacred representations have been created in the form of wall paintings, private devotional images, statues, altarpieces, icon screens, tapestries and stained glass windows. Many Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox churches had images of Jesus, the Virgin Mary, various saints, Bible stories, Christian virtues and the Last Judgement.

In western Europe the Bible was written in Latin, which in medieval times only the elite and priests could read. As a result pictures became the people's Bible. Some of these images, particularly from Italy, have been illustrated in previous newsletters.

Following the Reformation, which was started by Martin Luther in Wittenburg in Germany in 1517 and John Calvin in Geneva in Switzerland, many Calvinist Protestants, particularly in the Netherlands and Scotland, destroyed religious images which they considered to be idolatrous. In Protestant churches emphasis was placed on the word of God in the Bible, with the pulpit in a prominent position. The Bible was translated into local languages and, with the invention of the printing press, copies were made available for people to read for themselves.

In England Henry VIII broke from the Catholic church and ordered that a copy of the Bible in English should be placed in all churches. Under his more fervent Protestant son Edward VI, and later during the Commonwealth period following the Civil War in the mid-17th century, many stained glass windows were destroyed, wall paintings

whitewashed and statues and altarpieces removed or hidden.

In more recent centuries some of the lost religious images in Britain have been rediscovered. One local example was in the medieval parish church of St Andrew in Enfield. When the chancel arch was enlarged in the 1770s, a pre-Reformation painting on wood of the Resurrection of the Dead and the Last Judgement was discovered and removed. Unfortunately when a copy was painted only about two thirds of it had survived and I consider that the fragments may not have been assembled in the correct order (see below photo from Enfield Local Studies). On the left sinners are being rounded up by a devil, ready to be dragged to the fires in the jaws of Hell on the far right. The second section, of which only the right half survived, showed the righteous being led up to Heaven. The next section, of which only two quarters survived, showed the archangel Michael with black wings pursuing a devil, with a crosier in one hand and weighing souls in a balance in the other, to decide whether they should go to Heaven or to Hell. Next to the mouth of Hell the dead are rising from their graves. Unfortunately the original altarpiece has since disappeared.



By the 19th century attitudes towards religious images had changed in Britain. Many stained glass windows and wall paintings were created, particularly for Anglican and Catholic churches. St Andrew's Church in Enfield has an image of the crucifixion painted above the chancel arch showing Jesus flanked by his mother Mary and his disciple John. It also shows St George and St Andrew lower down. It was painted by Powells in 1923, as a memorial to those who died in the First World War.



Photo by Stephen Gillburt

I hope to illustrate examples of Christian images in other local churches in some future newsletters.

Stephen

Prayer diary June 2026

- 1 Pray for God's guidance at the start of a new month.
- 2 Pray for the work of Enfield Council as it moves forward following the recent local elections.
- 3 Pray for Christ Church and its place in our local community.
- 4 Pray for those who are new to the Christian faith.
- 5 Pray for the Rainbows as they meet this evening.
- 6 Pray for the Zoom Bible Study Group as they meet this morning.

- 7 Pray for the work of the Friends of KSN Hospital as we support them with our Communion offering today.
- 8 Pray for the Anchors as they meet this evening.
- 9 Pray for Ruth and Stuart.
- 10 Pray for young people who are continuing with exams.
- 11 Pray for the work of the Enfield & East Hertfordshire Local Area Group, 10 years on from its formation.
- 12 Pray for the Pastorate Prayer Weekend taking place from today until Sunday at Lancaster Road URC.
- 13 Pray for today's Lunchtime @ Christ Church.
- 14 Pray for The Worship Group as they lead this morning's service.
- 15 Pray for the Friendship Club as they meet this afternoon.
- 16 Pray for our Elders.
- 17 Pray for the pupils and staff of Chase Side Primary School.
- 18 Pray for those who are suffering from sickness or ill health.
- 19 Pray for the Brownies as they meet this evening.
- 20 Pray for the Zoom Bible Study Group as they meet this morning.
- 21 Father's Day: Pray for fathers and fatherly figures.
- 22 Pray for the Juniors as they meet this evening.
- 23 Pray for the residents of Parsonage Lane.
- 24 Give thanks to God for his word to us through the Bible.
- 25 Pray for all those who work at Bay Tree House and the important work they do in supporting the mental health of children and young people.
- 26 Pray for the Guides and Rangers as they meet this evening.
- 27 Pray for peace in areas of the world where there is conflict.
- 28 Pray for Evodian Fonyonga as she leads our service this morning.
- 29 Pray for the Company and Seniors as they meet this evening.
- 30 Pray for the work of our emergency services.

Church diary June 2026

Saturday 6 June 9:30am-10:30am
Zoom Bible Study Group (see page 5)

Sunday 7 June 10:45am

The Revd Ruth Dewis

Holy Communion (offering for the Friends of KSN Hospital)

Duty Elder - Alison Gibbs

This service will be immediately followed by a dedication of the new horse chestnut tree in the garden, and a fellowship lunch in the hall from around 12:30pm - see page 6

Friday 12 June 10:00am-7:00pm
Pastorate Prayer Weekend (at Lancaster Road URC - see page 7)

Saturday 13 June 10:00am-7:00pm
Pastorate Prayer Weekend (at Lancaster Road URC - see page 7)

Saturday 13 June 12:30pm-2:30pm
Lunchtime @ Christ Church

Sunday 14 June 10:00am-1:30pm
Pastorate Prayer Weekend (at Lancaster Road URC - see page 7)

Sunday 14 June 10:45am

The Worship Group

Duty Elder - Alison Gibbs

Monday 15 June Friendship Club Chair exercise time - Rosemary Randall	2:15pm
Saturday 20 June Zoom Bible Study Group (see page 5)	9:30am-10:30am
Saturday 20 June Girlguiding Afternoon Tea (see page 2)	1:30pm
Sunday 21 June Jeevan Bethala Father's Day Duty Elder - Rosemary Milns	10:45am
Sunday 28 June Evodian Fonyonga Duty Elder - Sarah Harry	10:45am

July & August 2026 Newsletter

The **July & August 2026** edition of the Christ Church Newsletter will be published on **Sunday 28 June**. Items for inclusion in this issue must be with the Editor by Sunday 14 June. 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	Alison Gibbs	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	rosemary@ccurc.org.uk
Friendship Club	Sylvia Coombs	020 8363 3543 / mail@ccurc.org.uk
Activities for children and young people		
Adventurers	Rosemary Milns	rosemary@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.



Top: *The Transfiguration*, Duccio 1308-1311, National Gallery, London.

Bottom: *The Calling of the Apostles Peter and Andrew*, Duccio 1308-1311, Gallery of Art, Washington, USA.



Both public domain images via Wikimedia Commons. Related articles by Stephen Gilburt can be found on pages 18-19.

Front cover image by Townsend Walton 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

