

Christ Church United Reformed Church
NEWSLETTER



February 2024



Guides Thinking Day Celebration Service

Sunday 25 February at 11:15am

Led by the Revd Ruth Dewis and Sarah Harry

Join us for this special time together as we
celebrate the worldwide Girlguiding movement
and its global impact

Pastoral Letter February 2024

Happy New Year,

I know by the time you read this we will be facing February but it's the first newsletter edition written in 2024. This is the start of my first full year in the Pastorate and I can't believe how quickly the first four months and one week as your Minister has flown by.

Well, this February we are blessed with an extra day. What will you do with that extra day? I often think of all those people who were born on 29 February. I tried to work out how old someone who is 70 would really be and by my calculations they would be 17.5 years old, still just shy of adulthood.

The romantics out there show their love for the special person in their life on 14 February, St Valentine's Day. St Valentine was a 3rd Century Roman saint, known as the patron saint of love, but probably lesser known as the patron saint of Terni (a city in the southern part of Central Italy), epilepsy and beekeepers. He apparently was a clergyman who spent his time ministering to the Christians who were being persecuted. Like many Christians he was martyred and it is said he was buried on 14 February.

St Valentine may be the patron saint of love but it's his love for Christ we should remember him for. It was clearly dangerous to minister to Christians at that time, yet his love for them because of his love for Christ must have spurred him on. You have to admire the strength of character people have, like St Valentine. They are willing to lose

everything for Christ. Can we say that? Thankfully we live in a country where the freedom to worship is accepted. Here in Britain we rarely suffer the fear experienced by so many around the world, who have to deal with persecution on a daily basis, because of their love for Jesus.

I was wondering if as a pastorate family, we could, on that extra day in 2024 in our own prayers at home pray for our brothers and sisters across the world. You might like, if you are able, to look at the Open Doors website. Open Doors is a non-denominational organisation that support and resource persecuted Christians. On their home page they write:

“Over 360 million Christians suffer persecution and discrimination. They follow Jesus, no matter the cost.”*

Jesus was very clear about what we were called to do:

“Then Jesus said to his disciples, ‘Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it.’” (Matthew 16:24-25)

Let us pray that our brothers and sisters across the world can stand firm in their faith, even in the depths of despair and anguish and that they have a sense of “God’s peace, which exceeds anything we can understand”, and that “his peace will guard [their] hearts and minds as [they] live in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:7).

May that be the prayer for ourselves too for the coming year, that we

grow closer to the Lord and deny ourselves, take up our crosses and follow him according to his will. Amen.

Ruth

* Open Doors UK & Ireland - opendoorsuk.org

Zoom Bible Study Group

The next meetings of the Zoom Bible Study Group will take place on Saturdays 10 and 24 February from 9:30am (please note the change of weeks). The group will be continuing a series of LICC studies based on the book of Ruth, entitled *Ruth: Drawing on a Deeper Love*.

If you are interested in taking part please contact Rosemary Milns for joining instructions - everyone is very welcome.

Pastorate Policies Workshop

On Saturday 3 February we are holding a Pastorate Policies Workshop from 10:00am to 3:30pm at Bush Hill Park URC in order to start making sure we are policy compliant. If you lead a group or feel you can be of help at this workshop please let Ruth know on either minister@ccurc.org.uk or text her on her work mobile number **07592 125027** as soon as possible for catering purposes.

Lenten offering

If you would like to make a Lenten gift this year, you can do so by using a Lenten offering envelope or via bank transfer.

Envelopes can be returned to David Fisher (Church Treasurer), or alternatively please contact him on **treasurer@ccurc.org.uk** to obtain the church's bank details.

Your donations can be Gift Aided - if you are a UK taxpayer, this will enable us to claim an additional 25p for every £1 given, at no extra cost to you. Please let David know if you are happy for us to do this.

Our Lenten offering goes towards supporting the work of Christ Church. Thank you for anything you are able to give - we really appreciate it.

Christmas greetings

Christmas messages were received from a number of friends of Christ Church who have moved away from Enfield, including the Revd David Atkinson, the Revd Roy and Joy Martin, the Revd Chris and Rob Willis, John Badger, Ken and Mary Basham, Trevor and Sandra Blackmore, and Norman and Jean Griggs.

Stephen

Celebration Services

In 2024 we are going to be trialling holding five “Celebration Services”, to which the members of our youth organisations and their families will be invited to join us. Each of the services will be linked to a special time of year.

These will be held on the following Sundays, all at 11:15am:

- 25 February: Guides Thinking Day
- 17 March: Easter (to avoid school holidays)
- 15 September: Harvest
- 13 October: Boys’ Brigade Enrolment
- 8 December: Christmas Nativity

All of these services will be led by Ruth, with the exception of the Christmas Nativity which will be led by The Worship Group.

Annual General Meeting

An advance notice that our Annual General Meeting will take place on Sunday 14 April at 12:45pm (following the morning service). All members are encouraged to attend where possible.

Leaders of church organisations are requested to send their annual reports for 2023 to Tom Boorman on **newsletter@ccurc.org.uk** by Sunday 17 March so that they can be included in the April 2024 newsletter.

Pastorate Lent Course

Over five weeks we will be looking at the events of Holy Week. Often we rush to the Good News of Easter Sunday and miss what each of the days can teach us.

You are invited to spend time together looking at:

- Maundy Thursday
- The Garden of Gethsemane
- Good Friday
- Holy Saturday
- Easter Sunday

The course will be held on Tuesday evenings at 7:00pm-9:00pm:

- 27 February at Lancaster Road URC
- 5 March at Bush Hill Park URC
- 12 March at Lancaster Road URC
- 19 March at Bush Hill Park URC
- 26 March at Bush Hill Park URC

The sessions will take place in the respective church lounges.

Unfortunately it is not possible to hold any of the sessions at Christ Church as our hall is in use on Tuesday evenings.

Come to discuss with others or just sit quietly reflecting on what God reveals to us as a group through the sessions.

There will be no cost for the resources used. If you have any questions or would like further details please speak to Ruth.

St Andrew's Lent Course

Would you like to learn how to become closer to Jesus, feel his love more fully and reflect on his love in your life?

St Andrew's Church will be running *Inside Out* - a course on Christian Spiritual Formation which runs every Saturday morning from 10:00am -12:00pm for six weeks in Lent, from 17 February to 23 March, at the new Brookwater Care Home (1A Oakthorpe Road, Palmers Green, N13 5HY). Refreshments are available before the session.

It looks at six themes starting with what Spiritual Formation is, how we picture ourselves, God, the Gospel, how people change and how to follow Jesus more closely following basic spiritual practices.

For more information or to register interest please contact Olive Cope on **020 8363 8221** or Ruth Mackay on **07982 900 777** or **ruthmac94@gmail.com**

LICC Lunchtime Session

The London Institute for Contemporary Christianity (LICC) will be running an online seminar titled *Ten ways worshipping together fuels our worship in the world* on Monday 5 February at 12:00pm. The cost to attend is £5.

Find out more and book online at **licc.org.uk/events-and-training**

Christmas at Christ Church

During December we held a series of services and special events as we celebrated the birth of Jesus Christ at that very first Christmas.

On 2 December the Zoom Bible Study Group enjoyed a Christmas breakfast at the Chef's Kitchen on Chase Side, which was followed the next day by our Advent Sunday service led by Terry Silvey.

That afternoon, it was great to be able to open our doors and serve refreshments to the local community as the annual Enfield Parade of Light passed along Chase Side on its way to Enfield Town.

The next week, 10 December, our Christmas Nativity Family Service took place. The service was led by members of The Worship Group, with members of the congregation taking part to retell the story of Jesus' birth. Our thanks to all who took part.

On 17 December our Service of Lessons and Carols was led by The Worship Group, as we heard



readings from the Bible and other sources, and sung carols together.

The service was followed by a Christmas lunch - our thanks to all who were involved in organising the event, as well as the caterers for providing a very tasty meal which was enjoyed by all.

On Monday 18 December the Friendship Club held their Christmas meeting in the hall, which you can read more about on page 12.

On the morning of Christmas Eve we came together in worship for a service of music, spoken word and art. Thank you to Ruth and Stephen for coming together to plan and lead a different, and thought-provoking, time of worship.

That evening, we had the opportunity to come together with friends at Lancaster Road URC for a Christmas Eve Communion Service led by Ruth, which was timed to coincide with midnight in Bethlehem.

On Christmas Day we were once again able to join with friends at Lancaster Road URC for a United Service.

This service was led by the Revd Martin Legg, and it was wonderful for the two churches to be able to come together as one as we celebrated that central event in history, the birth of Jesus Christ.



Friendship Club update

A Lively Festive Farewell to 2023 and an Exciting Hello to 2024!

Our December Christmas Party and Bring and Share Tea was a very happy and fun filled occasion enjoyed by all.

However, it was good for us, amid all the hubbub and preparations for "The Big Day", that Ruth, our Minister, reminded us of the true meaning of Christmas, which is all too easily forgotten in today's materialistic world. Christ is the greatest gift, as is written in John 3:16: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not die but have eternal life." We followed Ruth's reflective message with singing a carol.

No party is complete without playing a game and Sylvia had devised a fun balloon team game, with balloons labelled 'Joy', 'Peace', 'Hope', 'Gift' and 'Love'. We were divided into two teams and had to keep all the balloons in the air without them touching the floor. It was quite energetic and very funny.

A knock on the door - a visitor - Father Christmas with a gift bag for everyone. Then around the table with so much food that we could even take some home.

It was a wonderful afternoon, a very big thank you to everyone who made it possible.

Sylvia opened our first meeting of the New Year with a reading from

Joshua 1 where God commands Joshua to lead the Israelites into the Promised Land after the death of Moses. From verse 7 we read: "Just be determined, be confident... Don't be afraid or discouraged, for I, the Lord your God, am with you wherever you go." We took that as a personal resolution for this New Year.

This was a very good choice as it turns out, as our visiting speaker Stuart Dewis kept us on the edge of our seats with the account of his working life as an air traffic controller. A job that needs courage, determination, perseverance, concentration, the ability to keep a cool head particularly under intense pressure and the ability to make what could be life or death decisions with immediate effect.

He showed us a map of the airspace above the UK which seemed covered with aeroplanes - someone has to know where each one has come from, where it is going and at what height, how it will "stack" with others in sequence in preparation to land, bearing in mind it is a mixture of large jumbo jets, a twin-engine jet, small private planes, or could be a light aircraft with one engine, all of course affected by our unpredictable weather!

We were really taken out of our comfort zone. Thank you very much Stuart, you really opened up another world to us. We certainly all felt ready for our cup of tea and cake after that!

Our next meeting is Monday 19 February when our speaker will be the Revd Mandy James on "My life in medicine". Everyone is welcome at 2:15pm in the hall.

Boys' Brigade update

To kick off December at BB (on the day of our 133rd birthday!) we were part of a group of 50+ children and young people from across Enfield Battalion who enjoyed a Christmas Party at our hall before joining a range of community groups to take part in the Enfield Parade of Light. Our "Christmas Winter Wonderland" float included lots of Christmas-themed inflatables and music!



In the last couple of weeks of term all of our members took part in a range of Christmas-themed activities, including the opportunity to reflect on Jesus being 'The Greatest Gift' and the reason why we celebrate. Our final meeting of the year saw us hold Christmas Parties with a range of games, activities and food for all to enjoy!





At the time of writing we're now three Mondays into the new term. Our younger members have spent time thinking about New Year Promises, learning about 'Animals in the Night' and science-based activities including making slime (!), while our older lads have thought about their goals for 2024, exploring the talents that we have, as well as a 'Would I Lie to You?' theme. Many of our sessions include a faith message to share something of what God can do in our lives.



On Saturday 20 January we held our annual Quiz Night, where we welcomed around 70 people and raised £680 in support of our work. A huge thank you to everyone who came along or supported the event in any way!

We also have recently launched a new Supporters Network to help keep in touch with former members and all those who take an interest in our work. Find out more at 3rdenfieldbb.co.uk/supportersnetwork



Tom

Who is My Neighbour?

The Parable of the Good Samaritan - Luke 10:25-37

1. Who is my neighbour, Lord,
the one who lives next door,
or someone I have never met,
who comes from far away?

Help me to understand
the needs I cannot see,
a person who I do not know
may be my neighbour too.

3. Who are my neighbours, Lord,
the ones I do not like,
because they are unfriendly to
the people who they meet?

Help me to understand
the problems they may have,
so that they may then change
their ways
and find they do have friends.

2. Who are my neighbours, Lord,
the ones with different faiths
or those who may not look or
sound

like people who I know?
Help me to understand
your love is for us all
and that I should show them
respect
despite our differences.

4. Who are my neighbours, Lord,
the ones who always talk
but do not think of others'
needs,

or listen to their views?
Help me to understand
the worries they may have,
so I may see their hidden worth
and try to be their friend.

5. Are we good neighbours, Lord,
or do we pass on by,
or fail to see that words and deeds
can hurt those who we meet?
Help us to understand
how through the power of God,
that lives may be transformed for good,
by what we say and do.

Stephen Gilbert

Double short metre 6686D iambic

Tune *Diademata* (RS 262 *Crown Him With Many Crowns*)

The Light of the World

Psalm 119:105, John 1:9, John 8:12, Revelation 3:20

Born in London in 1827, William Holman Hunt was one of the founders and principal artists of the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood from 1848, together with Millais and Rossetti. They aimed to paint in a style from before that of Raphael (1483-1520) and other artists of the Italian High Renaissance.

Hunt worked on several versions of *The Light of the World*. The first, painted in oil on canvas over a panel in 1853, is in Keble College,

Oxford. A smaller version of 1857, which was largely painted by Frederick G Stephens, is now in Manchester City Art Gallery. In 1900 Hunt painted another large version of the subject, with some assistance from Edward R Hughes because of Hunt's failing eyesight. Inscribed on the frame are these words from the Book of Revelation (3:20): "Behold I stand at the door and knock: if any man hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to him and will sup with him and he with me."

Jesus is wearing priestly robes and a crown of thorns to indicate his suffering and sacrifice. The full moon behind his head creates a halo effect. The lantern, which he holds, is a symbol of Christ as a source of illumination - Psalm 119:105: "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path", and John 8:12: "I am the light of the world". The seven sides of the lantern may represent the seven churches of Asia mentioned in the Book of Revelation.

Jesus is knocking on a door which has no outside handle and which can only be opened from the inside. The door is choked up with weeds to show that it has not been opened for some time.

The painting became extraordinarily popular in the English-speaking world. Many engravings and pirated copies were made. It was considered to be a suitably edifying subject to be displayed in Victorian and Edwardian drawing rooms. Christ Church possesses a copy of the picture.

Between 1905 and 1907 the final version of the painting was sent on a tour of Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa, where many

people queued for hours to see it. It had gained the status of a Protestant icon. In 1908 it was presented to St Paul's Cathedral where it can still be seen. Hunt was buried in St Paul's in 1910.

Stephen

You can see a full colour version of *The Light of the World* by William Holman Hunt on page 27.

God's Word is Like a Lamp

This hymn is a paraphrase of parts of Psalm 119:105, John 1:9, John 8:12 and Revelation 3:20. It was written after seeing William Holman Hunt's painting *The Light of the World*.

1. God's word is like a lamp
to guide us and provide
a light along our path.
Christ is the world's true light
that comes into the world
and shines on everyone.

2. When Christ knocks on the door
whoever opens it
Christ will come in and eat.
Whoever follows him
will have the light of life
and not walk in the dark.

Stephen Gilbert

Metre 666D iambic trimeter

Tune *Laudes Domini* (RS 292 *When Morning Gilds the Skies*)

The Adoration of the Kings

The Adoration of the Kings illustrated in the December 2023 & January 2024 newsletter was the version painted by Pieter Bruegel the Elder in 1564 rather than the one described in the text which was painted by his younger son Jan Bruegel the Elder in 1598.

Both paintings may be seen in the National Gallery in London or online at **nationalgallery.org.uk**

Stephen

Discipleship Matters

You are invited to join Thames North Synod's Discipleship Enabler, the Revd Eddie Boon, for *Discipleship Matters*, an informal online conversation to encourage our Whole-Life Discipleship.

The next session will take place on Wednesday 28 February at 3:00pm or 7:00pm. It will take place on Zoom, lasting a maximum of one hour and including a Q&A.

For more information, including joining details, please email Eddie on **disc.enab@urcthamesnorth.org.uk**



Quiz Night

**On: Saturday 23rd March
2024**

To raise money for Lancaster Road URC's

FOOD HUB

Start Time: 7pm prompt.

At: Church Hall, Armfield Road, EN2 0DH



Tickets: £12 per person

and includes Ploughman's
Supper and tea or coffee

Bring your own drinks.

Tickets booked in advance from: Beryl Woolley 07950592454

Tables of 8 or less competing for a star prize.



Hope UK events

Hope UK, a Christian charity that equips young people to make drug-free choices, is running a series of online events (via Zoom) to help equip attendees with knowledge and skills around drugs and drug-related behaviour.

The next of these are as follows:

- Monday 26 February, 7:30pm-8:30pm: Nitrous oxide - an introduction for parents, youth workers and other adults
- Tuesday 12 March, 11:30am-12:30pm: Basic drug awareness for youth workers.

For more information and to sign up please visit hopeuk.org/events

Prayer diary February 2024

- 1 Pray for God's guidance at the start of a new month.
- 2 Pray for the Rainbows as they meet this evening.
- 3 Pray for the Pastorate Policies Workshop taking place today.
- 4 Pray for the work of Shanthigramam, a haven in India for those who once had leprosy, who we are supporting with our Communion offering today.
- 5 Pray for the Anchors and Juniors as they meet this evening.
- 6 Pray for all those who have been affected by the recent bad weather.

- 7 Pray for our Elders.
- 8 Pray for lasting peace in areas of the world where there is currently conflict.
- 9 Pray for the Brownies as they meet this evening.
- 10 Pray for the Zoom Bible Study Group as they meet this morning.
- 11 Pray for the Revd Martin Legg as he leads our service today.
- 12 Pray for the children and young people who are on half term this week.
- 13 Shrove Tuesday: Ask for God's forgiveness wherever it may be needed in your life.
- 14 Ash Wednesday: Seek God's presence during this Lent period.
- 15 Pray for all those who work at Chase Farm Hospital.
- 16 Pray for Ruth and Stuart.
- 17 Pray for those who are new to the Christian faith.
- 18 Pray for the members of The Worship Group as they lead our service today.
- 19 Pray for the Friendship Club as they meet this afternoon.
- 20 Pray for friends from across the North Enfield Pastorate.
- 21 Pray for the staff and pupils of Chase Side Primary School.
- 22 Pray for the residents of Holtwhites Hill.
- 23 Pray for the Guides and Rangers as they meet this evening.
- 24 Pray for the Zoom Bible Study Group as they meet this morning.
- 25 Pray for this morning's Celebration Service for Guides Thinking Day.
- 26 Pray for the Company and Seniors as they meet this evening.
- 27 Pray for this evening's first session of the Pastorate Lent Course, taking place at Lancaster Road URC.
- 28 Pray for Feryal Clark, our Member of Parliament.
- 29 Pray for our brothers and sisters across the world.

Church diary February 2024

Saturday 3 February 10:00am-3:30pm
Pastorate Policies Workshop (at Bush Hill Park URC - see page 5)

Sunday 4 February 11:15am
The Revd Ruth Dewis
Holy Communion (offering for Shanthigramam)
Duty Elder - Pamela Fisher

Saturday 10 February 9:30am-10:30am
Zoom Bible Study Group
Please contact Rosemary for joining instructions

Sunday 11 February 11:15am
The Revd Martin Legg
Duty Elder - Philip Taylor

Sunday 18 February 11:15am
The Worship Group
Duty Elder - Sarah Harry

Monday 19 February 2:15pm
Friendship Club
My life in medicine - The Revd Mandy James

Saturday 24 February 9:30am-10:30am
Zoom Bible Study Group
Please contact Rosemary for joining instructions

Sunday 25 February

11:15am

The Revd Ruth Dewis & Sarah Harry

Guides Thinking Day Celebration Service

Duty Elder - Rosemary Milns

Tuesday 27 February

7:00pm-9:00pm

Pastorate Lent Course (Week 1 - Maundy Thursday)

Taking place at Lancaster Road URC (see page 8)

Church diary March 2024

Sunday 3 March

11:15am

Martin Wells

Holy Communion (offering for the Communion Fund)

Duty Elder - Pamela Fisher

Tuesday 5 March

7:00pm-9:00pm

Pastorate Lent Course (Week 2 - The Garden of Gethsemane)

Taking place at Bush Hill Park URC (see page 8)

March 2024 newsletter

The **March 2024** edition of the newsletter will be published on **Sunday 25 February**. Items intended for inclusion in this issue should be with the Editor by Sunday 18 February. Any late submissions may be held over to the following issue.

Key information

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

Secretary Rosemary Milns secretary@ccurc.org.uk

Serving Elders

Pamela Fisher, Sarah Harry, Rosemary Milns & Philip Taylor elders@ccurc.org.uk

Safeguarding Pamela Fisher safeguarding@ccurc.org.uk

Treasurer & Property David Fisher treasurer@ccurc.org.uk

Bookings Pamela Mansley 07936 798 722 / 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** @ccurcenenfield **Twitter** @ccurc

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

Christ Church URC is a part of the **North Enfield Group of URCs** 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 Light of the World, William Holman Hunt 1900, St Paul's Cathedral, London. Public domain image via Wikimedia Commons. A related article by Stephen Gilbert can be found on pages 17-19.

Front cover image by Yoksel Zok on Unsplash

Regular activities at Christ Church URC

Email mail@ccurc.org.uk for more details



The
United
Reformed
Church



You are invited...

Join us for worship on **Sundays** at **11:15am**
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

