

Christ Church United Reformed Church
NEWSLETTER



March 2024

Easter 2024

at Christ Church URC and in the local community

Sunday 24 March

11:15am at Christ Church

Palm Sunday worship with Terry Silvey

Friday 29 March

**10:30am at the Fountain,
Enfield Town**

Ecumenical Act of Worship

**11:00am at
St Andrew's Church**

United Service for Good Friday

Sunday 31 March

8:30am at Armfield Road Hall (Lancaster Road URC)

North Enfield Pastorate Service of Holy Communion
(followed by an Easter Sunday Breakfast)

11:15am at Christ Church

Easter Sunday All Age Service with The Worship Group
(includes Holy Communion)



Pastoral Letter March 2024

Happy Easter everyone,

It's early this year and just manages to stay in the month of March.

Easter time is a time for hope isn't it? The signs of Spring are evident as flowers push through their winter beds, stretching open for us all to enjoy their glorious colours. The sun does start to get warmer and the day light lasts so much longer than the winter months. Things do seem better when the sun shines. It's a time for some churches to dress crosses with flowers and then display them at the front of their church buildings. I remember when I was small we always had Easter bonnet competitions at school and of course the obligatory Easter egg hunt. Mind you, you are never too old for an Easter egg hunt, are you?

On 2 March this year it is the annual World Book Day when children go to school dressed as their favourite character from a book; or whichever character can be rustled up the night before. There's plenty of characters in the 66 books of the Bible that people could choose from too. Jonah with his big fish, Noah and his ark or Joseph and his colourful coat; the choice is endless. What is your favourite book of the Bible? Who would you choose to dress up as?

During Lent church groups get together to study the Bible and often use resources that either focus on a theme or one of the books of the Bible. The three churches in the North Enfield Pastorate are joining together to look at Holy Week over a five-week period on a Tuesday

evening (details are advertised further on in this newsletter). Everyone is welcome to join these times of study and discussion. We all too often can't wait to get to the joy and celebration of Easter without really looking at the lessons we can learn from those last days of Christ's life before his crucifixion.

Because of what occurred over 2,000 years ago, our Christian faith is built on our belief that Jesus went to the cross in our place to take the punish of death we deserve because of our sin.

"Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen." (Galatians 1:3-5)

His glorious resurrection has given us the opportunity to invite him into our lives and turn away from the life we once led towards the life Jesus has promised us; an eternal life with him.

Recently I have been upheld by a song by We Are Messengers called *God You Are*. It has a beautiful chorus. For me these words remind me of the amazing love of God for us all and how safe we are in his embrace.

*It's in the empty tomb
It's on the rugged cross
Your death-defying love
Is written in your scars
You'll never quit on me*

*You'll always hold my heart
'Cause that's the kind of God you are.*

May God bless you and keep you.

Ruth

Zoom Bible Study Group

The next meetings of the Zoom Bible Study Group will take place on Saturdays 9 and 23 March from 9:30am. 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.

Annual General Meeting

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.

New Pastorate Treasurer needed

Brian Page, the current Treasurer for the Pastorate has indicated that he will be stepping down from the role. Brian has been treasurer for five years and we would like to take this opportunity to thank him for all that he has done. The Pastorate is therefore looking for a new Treasurer.

The role involves being responsible for the financial management of the North Enfield URCs pastorate account. The estimated time commitment is 8 hours per month (once the handover is completed).

The person carrying out the role needs to have sufficient practical financial understanding to ensure that the account is kept properly and to be literate and numerate and computer literate. A period of training and handover would be provided and specialist training will be provided as required.

A full job description is available on request. If you would like further information, please contact Rosemary Milns.

Maundy Thursday Reflection

Bush Hill Park URC invites you to join them for a Maundy Thursday Reflection with the Revd Ruth Dewis and the Revd Martin Legg. This will take place on 28 March at 7:00pm in their church and is an opportunity to remember the last supper that Jesus had with his disciples in the upper room before his crucifixion and resurrection.

Pastorate Policies Workshop

Along with serving Elders and group leaders in the churches of the North Enfield Pastorate and others in the South and East Enfield and North Lea Valley Pastorates, I attended a workshop at Bush Hill Park URC on Saturday 3 February. It was led by the Revd Ruth Dewis, the Revd Martin Legg and Chris Marlow (an Elder at Lancaster Road URC).

The aim was to ensure that all churches were compliant with URC policy. Even though I am not a serving Elder or leader of a group of adults or children, I still found the day useful in understanding issues concerning security checks, safeguarding and fire safety.

In individual church groups we looked particularly at safeguarding. We were asked to ensure that our policy was legally compliant and that we followed good practice, we knew who was responsible for safeguarding and what to do if problems arose. It was suggested that, particularly for those who do not want to or who are unable to participate in individual online presentations, group sessions on safeguarding in front of a large screen would benefit group leaders and church members.

Stephen

Lancaster Road Coffee Morning

Lancaster Road URC will be holding a 139th Church Anniversary Coffee Morning on Saturday 9 March from 10:00am to 12:00pm. This will take place in their church building and will include tea, coffee, home made cakes and a raffle. All are welcome!

Boys' Brigade update

On Saturday 27 January a small group from the 3rd Enfield took part in the Juniors age group at the Enfield Battalion Swimming Gala, coming 7th overall. Well done to all who took part!

The following Saturday a group of around 120 Anchors & Juniors from across Enfield Battalion came together for a Space Themed Fun Day at Barnet URC (1st Barnet HQ).



The day began with lunch, following which the children were split into groups and got involved in a range of activities including a planetarium, rocket launching, games and crafts.



To finish the day the whole group came together for a devotional which was led by the Revd Dominic Grant, 1st Barnet's Chaplain.

On Monday 5 February all of our age groups had an early celebration of Shrove Tuesday due to the day itself falling in half term. We took the opportunity to reflect on the significance of Lent and what it means for us, enjoyed some tasty pancakes and played some games!



Tom

Friendship Club update

Thank you Mandy! On 19 February our spirits were raised on a wet and gloomy Monday afternoon as we had a hilarious time at our last meeting thanks to the Revd Mandy James who led us through a fun-filled hour with one of her unique quizzes.

It was just what we needed and all had a very good time and proved that “laughter is the best medicine”, as they say. It was also a good session for the new members to get to know us. It was great to see so many people who had ventured out to join us on such a miserable day.

Thank you also Tom for helping to set up the big table that we just about fitted round for tea and cakes and conversation. It is a tremendous gift to be able to entertain and make people laugh so we all say a very big “thank you and please come again” to Mandy.

All are welcome to our forthcoming meetings, which will take place on Mondays at 2:15pm as follows:

- 18 March: Painting us a picture - Linda Clarke
- 15 April: Life in Zambia - Alison Gibbs (including short AGM)
- 20 May: Desert Island Discs - Anne Luciani (a fun afternoon with music and singing)
- 17 June: Mission Aviation Fellowship - Alan Goldring (please bring any unwanted postcards to donate)
- 15 July: A journey on the trans-Mongolian and trans-Siberian railway - Sylvia Coombs
- 19 August: Summer tea

Jesus' Entry into Jerusalem

Matthew 2:1-11, Mark 11:1-11, Luke 19:28-40, John 12:12-19

The most famous works of the Florentine Early Renaissance artist Giotto (1266/7-1337) are his 1305 frescoes (painted directly onto wet plaster covered walls) in the Scrovegni or Arena Chapel in Padua, Italy, where they can still be seen today. They show events from the Life and Passion of Christ.

Jesus is riding on a donkey towards the city of Jerusalem, during the Passover Festival, which took place each year about the beginning of April. Many Jews came to the city at that time to celebrate the first Passover meal, before Moses led the people of Israel out of Egypt (Exodus 12). Christians celebrate Jesus' entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, a week before Easter Day.

Giotto shows people climbing trees to pull down branches and taking off their cloaks to lay at the feet of the donkey Jesus is riding. The people are also singing praises to God. To save paint, the precious blue pigment on Jesus' robe was applied when the plaster had dried and much of it has since flaked off. Behind Jesus his disciples have haloes, to show that they are saints.

Stephen

You can see a full colour version of the *Entry into Jerusalem* fresco by Giotto on page 23.

When Jesus Rode a Donkey

A hymn for Palm Sunday - Matthew 21:1-11, Mark 11:1-11, Luke 19:28-40, John 12:12-16

1. When Jesus rode a donkey
into Jerusalem
the people tore down branches
to strew along his way;
when he came to the city,
that holy place for Jews,
they chanted and sang praises
and blessed the name of God.

2. When Jesus rode a donkey
they praised him as their Lord
and hoped that he would save them
from hated foreign rule;
may we now also praise him
who came to save us all
and let him always guide us
in what we say and do.

Stephen Gilburt

Metre 7676D iambic

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

Penlan (RS 590 *In Heavenly Love Abiding*)

Pratt Green Hymn Competition



2024 Hymn Competition

To celebrate the *40th Anniversary of the Pratt Green Trust*, new hymns are invited on the theme of

'Celebrating Creation in All its Diversity'.

We have three categories designed to cater for the variety of skills and talents involved in hymnwriting; whether writing words, composing music - or both.

We are pleased to offer a £500 prize for the winning entry in each category.

NOW OPEN FOR ENTRIES

Entries for this competition can fall into three categories: Original text to a well-known melody; Original text to an original melody; Original melody to a Fred Pratt Green text. Entries are open now, the closing date is 10 May 2024 and winners will be announced on 4 July 2024. For more details please visit **hymncomp.prattgreentrust.org.uk**

Praying with the Labyrinth

This event will take place on Saturday 9 March from 10:00am-12:00pm at Lumen URC, 88 Tavistock Place, London, WC1H 9RS. It is being run by Thames North Synod and the speakers are Fay Rowland, a labyrinth artist and author of *40 Days with Labyrinths*, and the Revd Eddie Boon, the Synod's Discipleship Enabler.



During this event, you will learn how to draw these ancient pilgrim paths and discover the Christian tradition of praying as you walk (includes a guided meditation). This will be followed by a practical session and an opportunity to pray using the Synod's 7m x 7m labyrinth. Why not join them and enjoy another way of praying and developing your relationship with God?

To book a place please email Ola Lawal on lpcomm@urcthamesnorth.org.uk

Thames North Synod Conference

Join Steve Rouse from LICC for 'Everyday Faith - Everyday Fruitfulness', a Thames North Synod Conference aimed at discovering God's purpose in every season of life (especially in the senior years). It will take place on Saturday 13 April from 10:00am-1:00pm at Lumen URC, 88 Tavistock Place, London, WC1H 9RS. Find out more and book tickets at ticketsource.co.uk/urc-thames-north-synod

RIDING
LIGHTS
THEATRE
COMPANY
PRESENTS

The



ROAD

POWERFUL
THEATRE
ON THE JOURNEY
TO EASTER

BY PAUL BIRCH

HERTFORD URC

TUE 12TH MARCH 7.30PM

11 Cowbridge, Hertford, SG14 1PG

Tickets: £12 Box Office: 07930141446



Lent note from the Green Apostles

During Lent we should like to encourage you to be active for the environment.



Our note is about flower displays in church. Rather than spending money on shop flowers, how about collecting flowers from members' gardens, you could ask for contributions.

I spotted a church in Wales that has a collection bucket on its doorstep, during the week, to encourage people to contribute from their gardens.

Spring flowers are beginning to bloom now and there are still interesting seeds from the autumn in most gardens. A collection of flowers, greenery and seeds from your local area can create a colourful and sustainable display. See the accompanying photograph which shows what I found in my own garden. No packaging, no air miles, no energy costs. Just a little time and energy on our part!

If you already use local flowers in your church and have any photographs do send them to us at **minister.trinity.coresend@gmail.com**

Jill Nugent

Pastorate Lent Course

A reminder that the Pastorate Lent Course will be continuing to take place in March, on Tuesday evenings from 7:00pm-9:00pm.

We will be spending time together as follows, looking at the topics listed in brackets:

- 5 March at Bush Hill Park URC (The Garden of Gethsemane)
- 12 March at Lancaster Road URC (Good Friday)
- 19 March at Bush Hill Park URC (Holy Saturday)
- 26 March at Bush Hill Park URC (Easter Sunday)

The sessions will take place in the respective church lounges. For more information please see page 8 of the February 2024 newsletter.

Prayer diary March 2024

- 1 St David's Day: Pray for Wales and Welsh friends.
- 2 Pray for peace in areas of the world where there is conflict.
- 3 Pray for our friend Martin Wells as he leads our service this morning.
- 4 Pray for the Anchors as they meet this evening.
- 5 Pray for the Pastorate Lent Course which continues this evening.
- 6 Pray for God's guidance as we explore ideas to make better use of spaces in our church.
- 7 Pray for the residents of Lambs Walk.
- 8 Pray for the Rainbows as they meet this evening.

- 9 Pray for the Zoom Bible Study Group as they meet this morning.
- 10 Pray for friends across the North Enfield Pastorate as we come together in worship at Lancaster Road URC today, as well as mothers and motherly figures on this Mothering Sunday.
- 11 Pray for the Juniors as they meet this evening.
- 12 Pray for Ruth and Stuart.
- 13 Pray for our government.
- 14 Pray for the work of the Enfield & East Hertfordshire Local Area Group.
- 15 Pray for the Brownies as they meet this evening.
- 16 Pray for those who are suffering from sickness or ill health.
- 17 Pray for today's Easter Celebration Service as well as for Irish friends on this St Patrick's Day.
- 18 Pray for the Friendship Club as they meet this afternoon.
- 19 Pray for Christ Church and its place in the local community.
- 20 Pray for the work of the Food Hub at Lancaster Road URC.
- 21 Pray for our Elders.
- 22 Pray for the Guides and Rangers as they meet this evening.
- 23 Pray for the Zoom Bible Study Group as they meet this morning.
- 24 Palm Sunday: Reflect on Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem.
- 25 Pray for the Company and Seniors as they meet this evening.
- 26 Pray for this evening's final session of the Pastorate Lent Course.
- 27 Pray for those who are seeking employment at this time.
- 28 Maundy Thursday: Reflect on the events in that upper room as Jesus shared his last supper with his disciples.
- 29 Good Friday: Give thanks that Jesus chose to die on the cross to save us from our sins.
- 30 Give thanks to God for friends and families.
- 31 Easter Sunday: Celebrate the risen King Jesus!



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.



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 16)

Saturday 9 March

9:30am-10:30am

Zoom Bible Study Group

Please contact Rosemary for joining instructions

Sunday 10 March

11:15am

The Revd George Watt

United Service at Lancaster Road URC to celebrate their Church Anniversary (no service at Christ Church)

Tuesday 12 March

7:00pm-9:00pm

Pastorate Lent Course (Week 3 - Good Friday)

Taking place at Lancaster Road URC (see page 16)

Sunday 17 March

11:15am

The Revd Ruth Dewis

Easter Celebration Service

Duty Elder - Rosemary Milns

Monday 18 March 2:15pm
Friendship Club
Painting us a picture - Linda Clarke

Tuesday 19 March 7:00pm-9:00pm
Pastorate Lent Course (Week 4 - Holy Saturday)
Taking place at Bush Hill Park URC (see page 16)

Saturday 23 March 9:30am-10:30am
Zoom Bible Study Group
Please contact Rosemary for joining instructions

Sunday 24 March 11:15am
Terry Silvey
Palm Sunday
Duty Elder - Sarah Harry

Tuesday 26 March 7:00pm-9:00pm
Pastorate Lent Course (Week 5 - Easter Sunday)
Taking place at Bush Hill Park URC (see page 16)

Friday 29 March 10:30am & 11:00am
Act of Worship (at the Fountain, Enfield Town) and United Service
for Good Friday (at St Andrew's Church)

Sunday 31 March 8:30am
North Enfield Pastorate Service of Holy Communion (at Armfield
Road Hall, Lancaster Road URC)

Sunday 31 March

9:00am

North Enfield Pastorate Easter Sunday Breakfast (at Armfield Road Hall, Lancaster Road URC)

Please add your name to the sign up sheet in the church or speak to Rosemary if you would like to attend

Sunday 31 March

11:15am

The Worship Group

Easter Sunday All Age Service (including Holy Communion)

Duty Elder - Philip Taylor

Church diary April 2024

Sunday 7 April

11:15am

Anna Erikson

Holy Communion (offering for the Communion Fund)

Duty Elder - Pamela Fisher

April 2024 newsletter

The **April 2024** edition of the newsletter will be published on **Sunday 31 March**. Items intended for inclusion in this issue should be with the Editor by Sunday 17 March. 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** @ccurcnenfield **Twitter** @ccurc

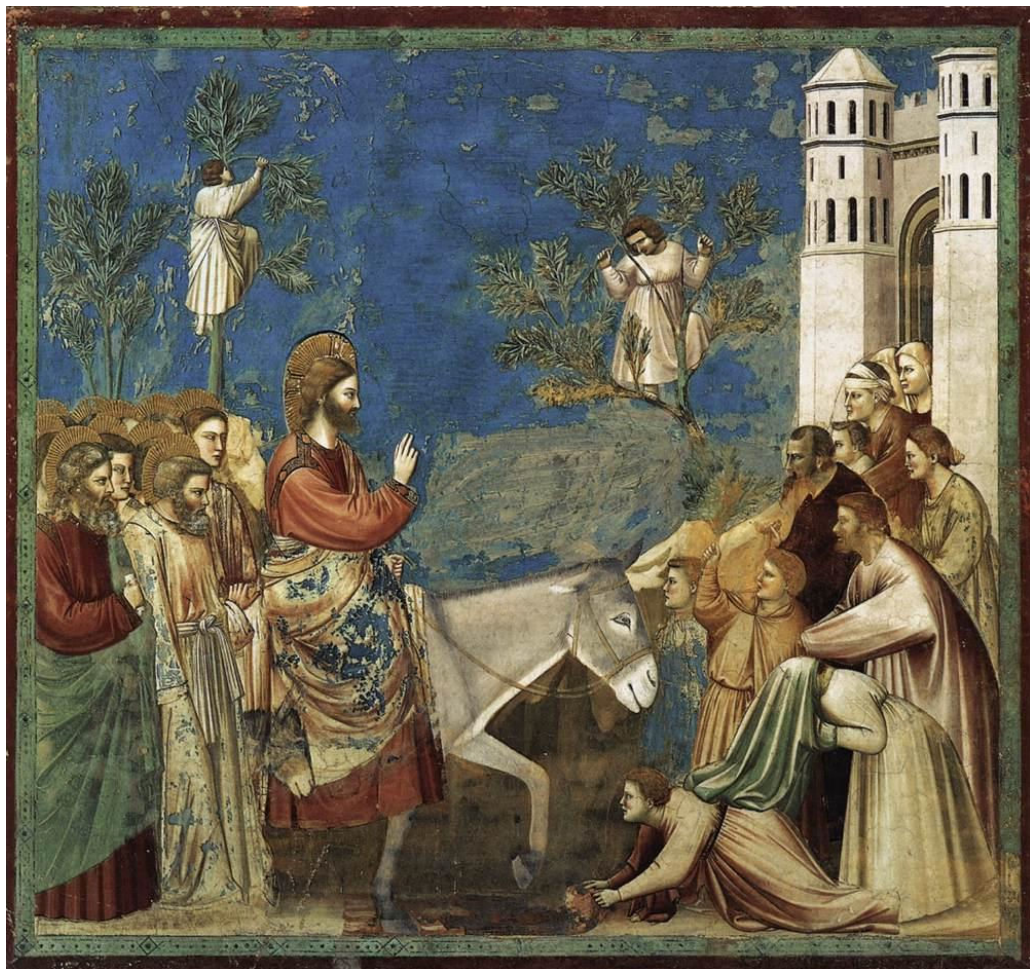
Address Christ Church URC, Chase Side, Enfield, EN2 6NJ

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.



Entry into Jerusalem, Giotto 1305, Scrovegni Chapel, Padua, Italy.
Public domain image via Wikimedia Commons. A related article by
Stephen Gilburt can be found on page 10.

Front cover image by Gerd Altmann on Pixabay.
Inside front cover image by robertsrob on iStock.

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

