

**Christ Church** United Reformed Church  
**NEWSLETTER**



**March 2021**

# Getting in contact

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## Minister

Revd Mark Meatcher      minister@ccurc.org.uk      020 8374 0509

## Secretary

Rosemary Milns      secretary@ccurc.org.uk      020 8363 6571

## Treasurer & Property Committee

David Fisher      treasurer@ccurc.org.uk      020 8482 4610

## Bookings Secretary

Pamela Mansley      bookings@ccurc.org.uk      07936 798 722

## Newsletter & website

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## Serving Elders

Pamela Fisher      07775 505 999

Rosemary Milns      020 8363 6571

Philip Taylor      07714 325 902

## Youth organisations

### Boys' Brigade - Anchors

Sue Bullock      info@3rdenfieldbb.co.uk      07961 504 123

### Boys' Brigade - Juniors, Company Section & Seniors

Tom Boorman      info@3rdenfieldbb.co.uk      07903 605 545

### Girlguiding - Rainbows, Brownies, Guides & Rangers

Vicki Stratton-Stubbs      9thenfield@gmail.com      07968 483 609

### Adventurers (Junior Church)

Rosemary Milns      020 8363 6571

## Other activities

### Friendship Club

Sylvia Coombs      020 8363 3543

### Worship Group

Rosemary Milns      020 8363 6571

## Website

[www.ccurc.org.uk](http://www.ccurc.org.uk)

## Email

[mail@ccurc.org.uk](mailto:mail@ccurc.org.uk)

## Facebook

[@ccurc](https://www.facebook.com/ccurc)

## Twitter

[@ccurc](https://twitter.com/ccurc)

# Pastoral Letter March 2021

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## **Build on a Strong Foundation**

The theme for the World Day of Prayer being held on 5th March this year is **“Build on a Strong Foundation”**.

The service this year has been put together by women from Vanuatu, a cluster of islands stretching for about 400 miles in the southwestern Pacific Ocean (if you can find it on the globe you'll be doing better than us!).



Because of the Covid situation in the UK, World Day of Prayer will be putting the service on their YouTube channel or elsewhere (for details have a look at their website [www.wwdp.org.uk](http://www.wwdp.org.uk) where service details will be posted).

Can we encourage you, if you are able to, to try and join in with this day as it always, to us, seems to provide a link with other Christians all across the world.

The words of the first song in the service on that day this year we find to be particularly appropriate, even though they were written with Vanuatu in mind:

**It is time to get together  
As a nation and family  
Let's forget our differences  
And let us work in unity**

What a joy it would be to see all the nations of the world working together for unity both as individual countries, but also with their neighbouring countries as well.

But, **building a strong foundation** is also something that we need to be looking to do as a church together.

**Building a strong foundation** involves more than physical buildings, developing resources.

**Building a strong foundation** means growing spiritually, remembering how we came to faith:

*“Therefore let us go on towards perfection, leaving behind the basic teaching about Christ, and not laying again the foundation: repentance from dead works and faith towards God, instruction about baptisms, laying on of hands, resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgement.” (Hebrews 6:1,2)*

It means making that step forward towards perfection, as the writer to the Hebrews says, and it means adding to what we have already got/achieved/accomplished:

*“Make every effort to support your faith with goodness, and goodness with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with endurance, and endurance with godliness, and godliness with mutual affection, and mutual affection with love.” (2 Peter 1:5-7)*

So, as we are now in the season of Lent, a time of preparation for Easter let us think of our own lives and how we might **build a strong foundation**, or build on the strong foundation we already have in our lives, the foundation of faith in Jesus Christ, and if we are wondering about how we might do that then please do take time to explore the other options to grow in your faith and understanding that are presented either in this magazine or elsewhere through the programmes and activities based at our church (there are many!). A lot of the thoughts for the day and sermons that we've delivered over the past year are available to view on the Enfield URCs YouTube page as well!

May God strengthen you for the next stage of your journey, and fill you with hope and peace as we prepare to celebrate Easter again together.

In the love of Christ,

Mark and Melanie

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## Lenten offering

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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 020 8482 4610 or [treasurer@ccurc.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@ccurc.org.uk) to obtain the church's bank details.

Your donations can also 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, which of course continues at this time when we are not able to meet physically. Thank you for anything you are able to give - we really appreciate it.

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## News of the fellowship

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We are very sorry to learn of the recent passing of Rita Wright, who was a regular member of the Friendship Club and frequently attended social events at Christ Church. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family and friends at this sad time.



The  
United  
Reformed  
Church

## Enfield & East Herts Local Area Group

# LENT COURSE

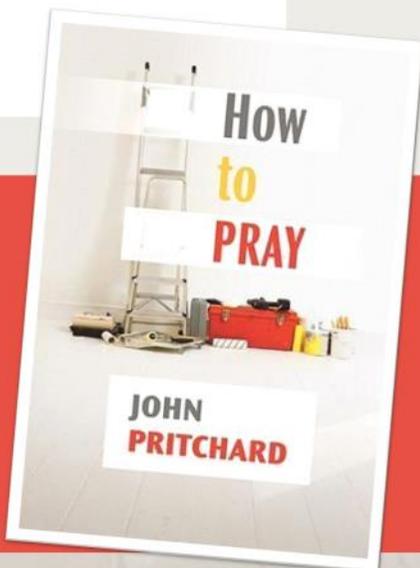
Based on **JOHN PRITCHARD'S** book

## How to PRAY

Wednesdays 24<sup>th</sup> February,  
3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> March  
7.30pm - 9.00pm

or

Saturdays 27<sup>th</sup> February,  
6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> March  
10.30am - 12.00noon



Email: [Mark revd.meatcher@gmail.com](mailto:Mark revd.meatcher@gmail.com) for joining instructions  
Copies of the book (not essential) available from Mark or online

# Eco Tip

Pesticides Action Network (PAN) have surveyed and ranked the top ten UK supermarkets. They found that they could all be doing more to reduce pesticide-related harms in their global supply chains. But there are things we can do:

- Grow your own.
- Buy organic if you can.
- Buy local, seasonal vegetables because generally the shorter a supply chain is, the less pesticides (especially fungicides) will be needed to preserve the produce through the transportation process.
- Buy the wonkiest vegetables possible to show supermarkets that they don't need to use pesticides to make the produce look cosmetically perfect.



# From Zion Chapel to Christ Church

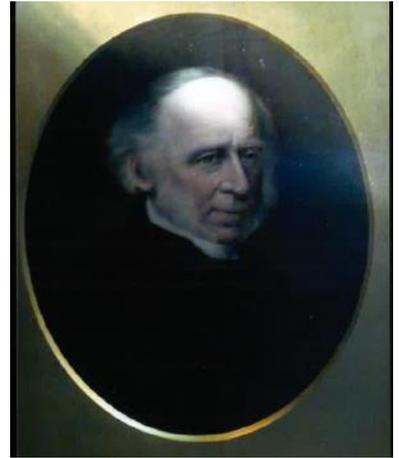
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*The following is the third of a series of articles written by Stephen Gilbert entitled "From Zion Chapel to Christ Church - A Story of Congregationalists in Enfield".*

## **Part 3: Zion Chapel and Chase Side Chapel 1830-71**

### **Zion Chapel 1830-71**

Gaps in the ministry at Zion Chapel, which had been built in 1780, were filled by visiting preachers including students from Cheshunt College. It was one of those, John Stribling, who very successfully served as minister at Zion Chapel from 1832 to 1871, when Zion and Chase Side chapels agreed to unite. After his retirement John Stribling was given a pension for life of £82-10-0 per annum, less £30 p.a. for rent of the Chapel House. Up to his death in 1882 he continued to preach occasionally at the new Christ Church which was built on the site of Zion Chapel in 1874-5.



A vivid picture of life in Zion Chapel during Revd John Stribling's period of ministry is given in a 1917 history of the church, written by his son, a deacon at Christ Church.

"In the writer's early life our old Zion was a somewhat primitive affair: a plain square building with a small schoolroom in the rear; the high-backed pews, narrow gallery all round, and minister's pew curtained off gave it a sombre appearance. The light was from a candle chandelier which the attendant would pull down during the evening service and snuff all the candles... On the formation of the Gas Company

we were the first church to adopt the new light and thought we had reached the height of civilisation. The Parish Church next followed; they had only a few years previously commenced an evening service, before which ours was the only place open on Sunday evening, and consequently usually full. The Church (of England) prayers were formerly read at Zion, but Mr Stribling discontinued the custom. We always stood during prayer, but sat down to sing. Oh the singing of those days, led by Mr Betts' bass-viol and other instruments.

It was a great event when we installed an organ. This was played for many years by the minister's wife, who formed a choir, and vastly improved the musical services. The Sunday School was very crudely carried on, the "Super" ruled by cane, spelling books were used more than Bibles, as so few of us had learned to read."

There were considerable renovations and improvements made to Zion Chapel in 1864 when the roof was raised by two feet. Corinthian columns were added and new pews and a new organ furnished the redecorated interior.



## Chase Side Chapel 1828-71

Chase Side Chapel (also known as The Independent Chapel, Chase Side) had been rapidly built in 1791 after a split in the congregation at the adjacent Zion



Chapel. The leasehold deed of the new chapel had stated “that the Meeting House was held to be used and enjoyed for the Society called Independents, professing the (39) articles of the Church of England” (The freehold of the land was purchased by Christ Church in the early 20th century).

However by 1830 structural problems had been discovered and Chase Side Chapel had to be rebuilt. During the rebuilding period the congregation met in the afternoon at Zion Chapel and in the evening at the Baker Street Meeting House. The new chapel, costing £1,200, could seat 220 people.

Between 1829 and 1833 the essayist Charles Lamb and his sister Mary lived at Westwood Cottage nearly opposite Chase Side Chapel. On one occasion, after dining too well with his friend Dr Jacob Vale Asbury, the parish surgeon for Enfield at the 17th century White Lodge in Silver Street, Charles Lamb wrote: “I should apologise to you and Mrs Asbury for being absolutely carried home upon a man’s shoulders thro’ Silver Street, up Parson’s Lane by the chapels (which might have taught me better) and then be deposited like a dead log at Gaffer Westwood’s... P.S. what is good for a desperate headache?”

Between 1828 and 1871 there were six ministers at Chase Side Chapel - some had more successful ministries than others. In March 1828, 37 out of 43 members present invited Revd R. Davis to become their minister. After preaching for several weeks Mr Davis decided to refuse the invitation because of the “litigious and rancorous spirit evinced by the minority.” In October 1828 a church meeting chose Revd S. A. Davis as the most suitable candidate to be the minister. He was to serve for 20 years until 1848, so the minister and members presumably got on well together. Mr Davis was followed in 1849 by George Wilkinson, an ex-missionary who resigned in 1854. Dr Tidman, minister from 1855 to 1857, was succeeded by W. Martin who resigned in 1859 complaining of “continual discouragement with various aspects of his work.” W. Slater,

who became the minister in 1860, resigned in 1864 and wrote of “the low degree of Spiritual Life in the Church” and the want of brotherly union which had brought him discouragement.

The last minister of Chase Side Chapel from 1865 to 1871 and the first minister of Christ Church from 1871 to 1905, Revd Henry Storer Toms, would have a very positive impact on the life of both the church and the local community.



Image 1: Revd John Stribling  
Image 2: Chase Side Chapel (1791, rebuilt 1830) and Zion Chapel (1780) in the mid-19th century  
Image 3: Interior view of Zion Chapel  
Image 4: Interior view of Chase Side Chapel  
Image 5: Revd Henry Storer Toms  
Images reproduced with the permission of Enfield Local Studies & Archive

## Boys' Brigade update

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At a time when we remain unable to meet face-to-face, we continue to run Virtual Sessions for our Company Section & Seniors, as well as sharing weekly activities for all age groups in the form of challenges to try whilst at home.

It has been great to see and hear of members getting involved, including by making pancakes on Shrove Tuesday - something we usually do at BB at this time of year as well as thinking about the meaning of Lent.

Tom Boorman



# Prayer diary March 2021

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**1st** - St David's Day: Pray for Wales and for Welsh friends.

**2nd** - Pray for those who face increased loneliness as a result of lockdown measures.

**3rd** - Pray for those taking part in the Lent Course session this evening.

**4th** - Pray for Mark and Melanie.

**5th** - Pray for today's World Day of Prayer and the women of Vanuatu who have put together this year's service.

**6th** - Pray for those taking part in the Lent Course session this morning.

**7th** - Pray for our time of online worship this morning.

**8th** - Pray for children and young people as they begin to return to face-to-face education from today.

**9th** - Pray for the residents of Chase Green Avenue.

**10th** - Pray for this evening's Lent Course session.

**11th** - Pray for our government.

**12th** - Pray for friends from the other churches in our Local Area Group.

**13th** - Pray for peace in areas of the world where there is conflict.

**14th** - Mothering Sunday: Pray for mothers and those who have taken on a motherly role.

**15th** - Pray for all those in our Boys' Brigade groups.

**16th** - Pray for those who have lost loved ones as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic.

**17th** - St Patrick's Day: Pray for the island of Ireland and for Irish friends.

**18th** - Pray for the work of KSN Hospital in India.

**19th** - Pray for all those in our Girlguiding groups.

**20th** - Pray for the final morning session of the Lent Course, taking place today.

**21st** - Pray for our time of online worship this morning.

**22nd** - Give thanks to God for new life as we enter spring.

**23rd** - Pray for those who are seeking employment at this time.

**24th** - Pray for those who suffer persecution for their faith.

**25th** - Pray for all those volunteers who serve God through our church.

**26th** - Give thanks to God for his never ending love.

**27th** - Pray for the community around us.

**28th** - Palm Sunday: Reflect on Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem.

**29th** - Pray for the work of the emergency services, especially at this challenging time.

**30th** - Pray for our elders.

**31st** - Pray for your own faith as we approach Easter over the coming days.

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## April 2021 newsletter

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The **April 2021** newsletter will be published on **Sunday 28th March**. Items intended for inclusion in this issue should be with the Editor, Tom Boorman, by Sunday 21st March. Any late submissions may be held over to the following issue.

Please contact Tom with any items to be included in future issues. Items can be received either in paper form at Sunday worship, by email to **newsletter@ccurc.org.uk** or by phone on **07903 605 545**.

The newsletter is published monthly (except for combined issues in July & August and December & January). Back issues dating back to 2007 can be found on our website. Please note that views expressed are not necessarily the views of the whole fellowship, nor are they representative of church policy.

# Church diary March 2021

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Due to the current circumstances, there will be no face-to-face services at Christ Church at least until the end of March.

Weekly services will continue to be provided online and through mail distribution - you can sign up to receive details at <http://eepurl.com/dHm8TH> or by contacting Mark.

We will also continue to join together with friends from across the Local Area Group for online worship on Zoom each Sunday. Joining instructions are available via the weekly email (see above) or alternatively please contact Mark.

Please see page 6 for more details about the Lent Course.

Wednesday 3rd March 7:30pm to 9:00pm  
Lent Course (evening option - session 2)

Saturday 6th March 10:30am to 12:00pm  
Lent Course (morning option - session 2)

**Sunday 7th March**  
**Enfield URCs online worship**  
**Sign up to receive details at <http://eepurl.com/dHm8TH>**  
**or contact Mark for a printed copy**

Wednesday 10th March 7:30pm to 9:00pm  
Lent Course (evening option - session 3)

Saturday 13th March 10:30am to 12:00pm  
Lent Course (morning option - session 3)

**Sunday 14th March**  
**Enfield URCs online worship**  
**Sign up to receive details at <http://eepurl.com/dHm8TH>**  
**or contact Mark for a printed copy**

Wednesday 17th March  
Lent Course (evening option - session 4)

7:30pm to 9:00pm

Saturday 20th March  
Lent Course (morning option - session 4)

10:30am to 12:00pm

**Sunday 21st March**  
**Enfield URCs online worship**  
**Sign up to receive details at <http://eepurl.com/dHm8TH>**  
**or contact Mark for a printed copy**

**Sunday 28th March**  
**Enfield URCs online worship**  
**Sign up to receive details at <http://eepurl.com/dHm8TH>**  
**or contact Mark for a printed copy**



**Be part of the transformation...**

**India Appeal 2021**  
Church of North India, West Bengal

We're appealing for £10,000 to continue life-transforming work including purchasing a new digital facility for an existing X-Ray machine, enabling remote assessment by qualified radiologists. Visit: [give.net/IndiaAppeal2021](http://give.net/IndiaAppeal2021)

Your donations are transforming healthcare at the KSN Hospital in rural West Bengal, providing safe accommodation to children at risk, and training vulnerable women in Kolkata.



**Cathedral Relief Service**  
Kolkata, India



Enfield  
United  
Reformed  
Churches

# Regular activities at Christ Church

## SUNDAY

11:15am

Morning worship  
(Holy Communion - first Sunday)  
(Family Parade Service - third Sunday)  
(regular service - other Sundays)

11:15am

Adventurers (children aged 3 upwards)

## MONDAY

2:15pm

Friendship Club (once monthly - see diary)

6:00pm to 7:30pm

Boys' Brigade Anchors (boys aged 5 to 8)

6:00pm to 7:30pm

Boys' Brigade Juniors (boys aged 8 to 11)

7:30pm to 9:15pm

Boys' Brigade Company Section (boys aged 11 to 15)

7:30pm to 9:15pm

Boys' Brigade Seniors (boys aged 15 to 18)

## FRIDAY

5:00pm to 6:15pm

Rainbows (girls aged 5 to 7)

6:00pm to 7:30pm

Brownies (girls aged 7 to 10)

7:30pm to 9:00pm

Guides (girls aged 10 to 14)

7:30pm to 9:00pm

Rangers (girls aged 14 to 20)

## SATURDAY

9:00am to 10:30am

Breakfast Bible Study Group  
(twice monthly - see diary)

**Please note that current circumstances mean that regular activities may not be taking place as they normally would.**

For details of other special events and activities please see the diary.



# Christ Church

## United Reformed Church



**Christ Church URC** is a part of the **North Enfield Group of URCs** and the **North West Enfield Group of Churches**.

Motto: "Enter to worship, depart to serve."

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.

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

Cover image by Gabor Koszegi on Unsplash