

Christ Church United Reformed Church
NEWSLETTER



October 2020

Getting in contact

Minister

Revd Mark Meatcher 020 8374 0509

Secretary

Rosemary Milns 020 8363 6571

Treasurer & Property Committee

David Fisher 020 8482 4610

Bookings Secretary

Pamela Mansley 07936 798 722

Newsletter & website

Tom Boorman 07903 605 545

Serving Elders

Tom Boorman 07903 605 545

Pamela Fisher 07775 505 999

Stephen Gilbert 020 8363 0031

Rosemary Milns 020 8363 6571

Youth organisations

Boys' Brigade - Anchors

Sue Bullock 07961 504 123

Boys' Brigade - Juniors, Company Section & Seniors

Tom Boorman 07903 605 545

Girlguiding - Rainbows, Brownies, Guides & Rangers

Vicki Stratton-Stubbs 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

Email

mail@ccurc.org.uk

Facebook

@ccurcenfield

Twitter

@ccurc

Pastoral Letter October 2020

Does what you believe change your action?

“faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead” (James 2:17)

Is what you believe important? How important? Does it affect how you live your life every day? Or is it simply something you bring out to show every Sunday when attending church, or at other times?

What elements of what you believe affect the decisions that you make?

It is probably quite easy for us to say that we are concerned about the plight of the poor in our society, the refugee, the homeless, and that we believe that all people are of equal importance to God and therefore of equal importance to us.

And, as evidence of those cares and concerns, we probably supply the foodbank regularly, support All People All Places in their work in this area, give financially to charities that are working with refugees and so on.

But how far does our faith take us?

A couple whom we know run an “Open House” - it is their own home, but it is always open to anyone who needs a bed for the night. Opening up their home in this way does occasionally cause them problems (how can you trust the stranger in your home?) and we suspect this may well be a step too far for most of us, but they want to respond in a welcoming and open way to all they meet (they’re part of the Catholic Worker Movement).

The apostle James writes strongly to the early church about how they should be living, and we wonder whether his words

need to be thought about more deeply in our churches today.

James speaks about showing favouritism in church. Do the people that come into our churches who dress “properly” receive more attention from us than the “difficult” people that we know who come regularly (or maybe not)?

He speaks about what we do when we see another human being “naked” and “lacking daily food” and questions how we respond. Are we people who simply pray a blessing on others, or people who respond with actions to support the need we notice?

One of the areas that can be a good judge for us of how our faith is informing our actions lies in the way we use our money.

Most of us do not appreciate that **how** we use our money **can** have a dramatic effect on other people. As a simple starting guide if you are buying something cheap, or cheaper, then ask yourself the question “why?”

If something is cheaper, then the likelihood is that somewhere along the production line a human being has been exploited, and this could well be a child/children.

Is one of your beliefs that you believe that Jesus thinks it is okay for human beings to be exploited? If you don't, then perhaps looking at where and how a product has been produced before purchasing it may be a good idea.

As an example of the sort of things you may discover by looking at this is that

- 31 out of 32 global fashion giants were unable to provide proof that they were paying a living wage
- Of a £29 item of clothing, £17 goes to the retailer, and just 18p to the garment worker

- Violations of workers' rights to form unions, bargain, and strike increased by almost 12% between 2012 and 2015

(Ethical Consumer Sept/Oct 2019 & Sept/Oct 2020)

And if we believe that climate change is an issue, that God created the world for us to look after, not to exploit, then again how we use our money can make a difference.

Where you hold your bank account could be changed to stop supporting those who are actively supporting fossil fuels, or are linked to multiple human rights abuses (Barclays, Lloyds, the NatWest group and Santander rate very poorly on the ethical scale - source Ethical Consumer Sept/Oct 2020).

Were you aware that you can invest in organisations that help provide homes for the homeless and get returns on your money greater than that in a lot of other savings schemes? Whilst there may be some risk in investing in this way, for those of us who may have significant savings might there be an opportunity for us setting aside at least part of our money to be used in this way?

The final thing to say when it comes to our beliefs and our practices is to ask what we believe about the church and how important or otherwise it is, what we think about ministry and sharing the good news of Jesus Christ.

A lot of the churches in the UK are facing a financial crisis as a result of the impact of Covid-19. If our personal finances are tight, is it better that we support our churches or other charitable causes?

Do your beliefs affect your responses? How important are they to you?

We pray that those who walk together with us as part of God's family in this locality will find that as they give they will be

blessed in all that they do.

Jesus himself encourages us to:

“give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.” (Luke 6:38)

Mark and Melanie

October events

Bible Study

The ongoing Bible Study series looking at the parables being held on Zoom will take place on Saturday 3rd and Saturday 10th October at 10:30am. Please contact Mark for details if you wish to join this group.

Thames North Synod

Thames North Synod is scheduled to meet virtually on Saturday 17th October. If you would like to “attend” then please ask Mark for details.

Elders and Church Leaders Training Day

On Saturday 31st October there will be an elders and church leaders training day led by Revd Sam White, the Principal at Westminster College, Cambridge, hopefully to be held at Hertford URC (this will be dependent on the Covid-19 situation at the time, so please look out for further details closer to the date). The day will last from 10:00am to 4:00pm and is entitled “Discipleship and our Personal Spirituality”. Please do bring your own lunch for the day.

Forest CHURCH

*Gather in our local
'outdoor cathedral'*

Celebrating:

COMMUNITY

Creativity

Creation

and the

Creator

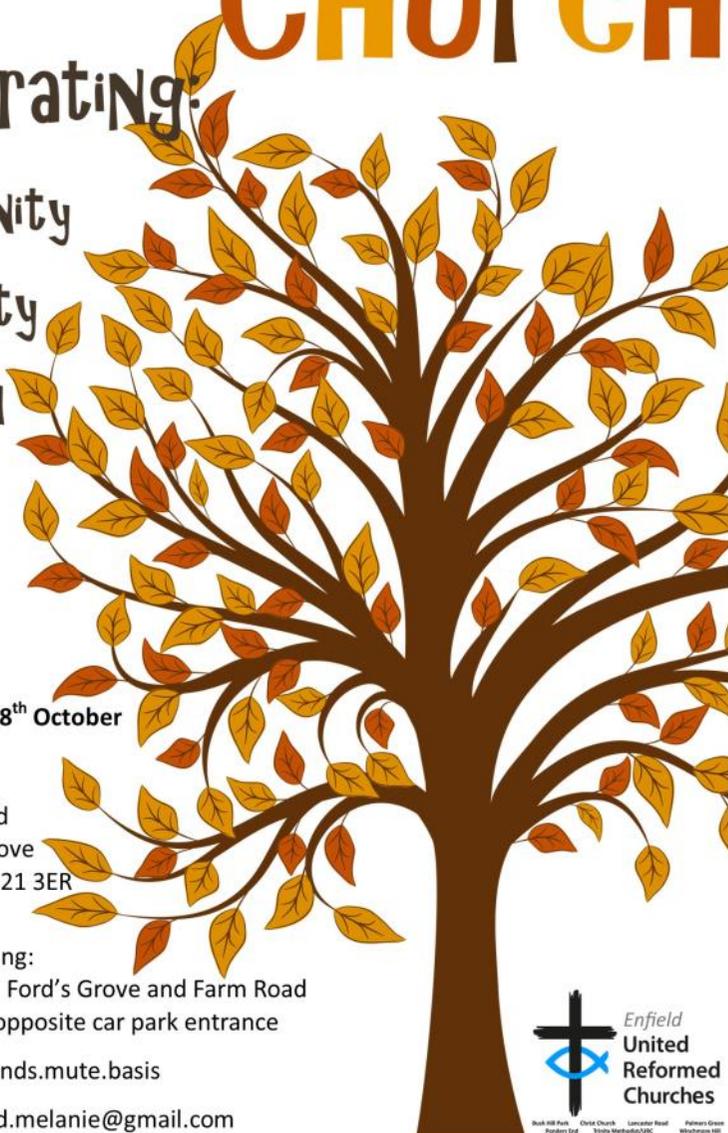
3.30pm Sunday 18th October

The Scout Field
The Paulin Ground
(Top of) Ford's Grove
Winchmore Hill N21 3ER

Free Sunday Parking:
Car Park between Ford's Grove and Farm Road
Entrance to field opposite car park entrance

what3words ///lands.mute.basis

Further info: revd.melanie@gmail.com



Book Hill Park - Christ Church - Lancaster Road - Palmers Green
Ponders Hill - Trinity Methodist Church - Winchmore Hill

Youth update

It's fantastic that our youth organisations have been able to resume face-to-face activities again over the last few weeks, with the groups following guidelines from their respective national headquarters to help protect against Coronavirus.

The Boys' Brigade continues to meet on Mondays and Girlguiding on Fridays, with individual age groups meeting on alternate weeks and in some cases slightly different times for the time being. If you are interested in finding out more please contact the relevant group leader (details on page 2).

Please pray for the members and leaders of the youth organisations as they get used to a new way of doing things.

Due to current circumstances the BB has postponed its social event which was due to have taken place in November this year. It will now take place on Saturday 4th December 2021 - full details can be found in the advert below.



A GET TOGETHER FOR CURRENT AND FORMER MEMBERS,
FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS OF THE 3RD ENFIELD...

RESCHEDULED DATE:
SATURDAY 4TH DECEMBER 2021
FROM 7:00PM

HOLTWHITES SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB
1 KIRKLAND DRIVE, ENFIELD, EN2 ORN

£14 PER PERSON (£7 FOR UNDER 18S)

INCLUDES A **BUFFET MEAL**, A **SHOWCASE OF OUR 130+ YEAR HISTORY** AND THE OPPORTUNITY TO **CATCH UP AND SOCIALISE WITH OTHERS** (DRINKS CAN BE PURCHASED FROM THE CLUB'S FULLY STOCKED BAR)

FOR MORE DETAILS
ABOUT THE EVENT
PHONE **07903 605 545**
OR EMAIL US AT

INFO@3RDENFIELDBB.CO.UK



3RD ENFIELD

Harvest Festival

Our Harvest Festival service on Sunday 20th September was led by our minister, Revd Mark Meatcher, and reminded us of the need to be thankful of God's bountiful gifts and our responsibility to the world. During the service we heard Jesus' warning against false prophets (Matthew 7:15-20) and the Parable of the Sower from Matthew 13:1-9.



Donations of non-perishable food items have been donated to the North Enfield Foodbank. Foodbanks are an initiative by the Trussell Trust, whose aim is to end hunger and poverty in the UK. For more information please visit www.trusselltrust.org

The loose offering from the service is being donated to Christian Aid's Global Neighbours Autumn Appeal. Find out more at www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/global-neighbours-autumn-appeal

Photo by Pamela Fisher

Cards for Good Causes

Cards for Good Causes is looking for volunteers at its Palmers Green URC pop-up shop. It is one of 300 across the UK, selling non-profit cards with at least 70p in every £1 going to the charity and the other 30p paying for warehousing and staff. Due to Covid-19 their pool of volunteers is sadly depleted as many are shielding, so they are looking for help. Correct PPE will be provided. Would you be interested in helping open the Christmas shop this year? If so, please contact Diana Goforth by email on d.goforth@virgin.net or phone 020 8886 2871.

Revd Vivian Buddle (1925-2020)

We are sad to report of the recent death of Revd Vivian Buddle, who served as minister of Christ Church from 1960 to 1965 - a time when Sylvia Coombs and Stephen Gilbert both came into church membership. Some of you may recall that Vivian's wife, Mary, died earlier in the year.

Vivian and Mary had lived with their daughter Judith near Yarm, Stockton-on-Tees.

Please do remember their children Judith, Ian and Philippa in your prayers.

Interestingly (it's a small world) when making contact with the Synod to obtain a little further information Mark received back the following email from the minister at the church where they were last:

"I am the product of the nurturing of Vivian and Christ Church Enfield as I was brought up in the church from birth until the age of 11. They were formative years - and very happy ones. Stephen Gilbert may remember me as Hilary Mansbridge, William Hummerstone's granddaughter... I am bitterly disappointed that I am unable to take the service due to my medical situation - but Stephen my colleague minister, and husband, is taking it and I will be able to tap into the live stream.

I hope to be back in touch soon.

Yours
Hilary

Revd H. J. Collinson MA
Minister Tees and Swale Pastorate
United Reformed Church"

Fairtrade matters

Originally published in September's Reform magazine, we re-print this article as it follows our theme of how our faith informs our practices this month:

'If you do not buy Fairtrade, you are walking in the footsteps of slave traders'

If black lives matter, so does Fairtrade. In fact, if you say that Black Lives Matter, and yet buy tea, coffee, sugar, bananas, chocolate or even cotton or condoms which are not fairly traded, you are walking in the footsteps of slave traders and slave owners. You are continuing in the subjugation of people already disadvantaged by the legacies of slavery. You may as well be worshipping at the foot of Colston's plinth. You may as well be flying a 'White Lives Matter' banner. Harsh? I don't think so.

The products I've mentioned are all grown in countries that were integral to the triangular slave trade. After that slave trade came to an end formally, it continued informally: workers had to remain on those farms or starve. Slave owners were compensated. Colonial enterprises continued to trade. We didn't stop eating sugar when the slave trade stopped. Sugar came from the same places, with the same winners and losers. That distinction remains today. Most of the products we consume from the Caribbean Islands, Africa and India are still produced by people who are living on or around the poverty line, with few labour rights and educational opportunities. Some of these products are made using child labour: slavery by any other name.

To put it simply, if you say Black Lives Matter, and yet Wispa, then please shut up. You are exposing yourself as a hypocrite. If you don't want to take a break from Kit Kat, as Nestlé, one of the most profitable food companies in the

world, reneges on its already flimsy Fairtrade commitment, then take a walk away from #BLM. You have simply jumped on a bandwagon. If you put non-Fairtrade sugar in your non-Fairtrade tea, then you're full of bile. If you find this a little harsh, then thank you. As a Christian minister, I take my lead from the line of Hebrew prophets and Jesus in setting out the stark challenge of justice. Now is the time to change the way you live, or stand accused of double standards. This is gospel; this is good news for the poor.

You may be starting to make excuses. This is an issue that hasn't occurred to you? It has now. Perhaps you haven't found a Fairtrade coffee blend you like? Try other brands. You know that you can adapt quickly when it comes to saving lives. Just look what you've achieved during the coronavirus pandemic. Worried that it will cost more? So it should - you are contributing to fair, not slave, wages. If Black Lives Matter, your shopping basket will look very different from now on. From your next shop. And then every shop.

Of course, not everyone is as privileged as me. Price is important when you yourself are on the breadline. You may have dietary requirements. Perhaps an autistic child insists on a certain cereal. Please, don't feel bad. Do what you can, make changes where you can. But this is not aimed at you. This is aimed at those of us who leave our brains at the supermarket door and forget that as well as supporting BLM with our words, we must do so with our wallets. Otherwise, you are like a noisy gong or clanging cymbal. You don't love.

If you are buying tea, coffee, chocolate, bananas, sugar and can't find fairly traded ones, yet believe that black lives matter, go without. Many other products are Fairtrade-certified too, not least gold. Do you really want to wear a band signifying love 24/7, knowing that a miner's basic human rights were exploited to make it?

I rarely, if ever, ask people to share my own thoughts. But this

is different. This has the power to transform lives all over the world. As individuals, it is almost impossible for us to know how we are to make recompense for the legacies of slavery. Fairtrade is probably the most direct way any of us can start to redress the injustices of the past. If we don't bother with Fairtrade, we are part of the problem. If we insist on Fairtrade, we will start an economic revolution; and that can start today, with you.

I say this knowing that I slip at times. I see something on a shelf that looks attractive and I can be seduced. I know I must do better. I recommit to Fairtrade. Will you?

Revd Melanie Smith

Cathedral Relief Service

Friends of Cathedral Relief Service report as follows:

A Report on the Position in Kolkata September 2020

First of all, a big thank you to everyone who donated so generously to the Covid-19 and Cyclone Amphan appeal. In total, including gift aid recovered, the appeal raised nearly £17,000 from the time it was launched in April to the end of July.

The money has made a huge difference to families which had been left in desperate straits.

While the initiative for the relief operation came from Bishop Paritosh and Rig David, who were both at the front with their teams delivering the aid, it would not have got off the ground without your support.

Food and medication was delivered to 11 CRS project areas, and 6 Cathedral parishes, reaching nearly 3,000 families. In June, the Government of West Bengal began to distribute food in Kolkata and other districts in West Bengal and so distribution by CRS gradually ceased. To respond to the needs caused by the cyclone, CRS has acquired 400 tarpaulins and 400 sets of cooking utensils. Distribution has been delayed because of continuing lockdowns, but it started in August, and the intention is to deliver to a total of 11 CRS projects and Cathedral parishes.

Although hard information is difficult to come by, it is clear that cases of Covid in Kolkata continue to rise. One report describes Covid management in some areas as “close to collapse”. The Government response is confusing to people and it is of course the poorest who are being hit the hardest. CRS is keeping in regular contact with the project communities so that they know they are still supported.

Rig David comments as follows: “Despite the frequent lockdowns, the CRS Team continues to work on the frontline, ensuring that the children are catered for with health clinics and nutrition. In some of the education centres online education has commenced with a few children and their parents participating with great enthusiasm. The women’s groups are being encouraged and small numbers have started to attend the skill development courses.”

Government-aided and private schools have managed to establish online teaching, but the schools in the slums are mainly excluded from that because of lack of access to online equipment. CRS has proposed acquiring and distributing smart phones to teachers in CRS schools, and to those providing skills training to women’s groups.

The Trustees have given their support to this proposal, the details and implementation of which are being worked out. Nari Dana continues to operate with women being brought to

the production centres at the Cathedral and in the Bishop's House. They are concentrating on making masks, and have orders for these, as well as several orders for other products. It is hoped to produce another full newsletter before the end of the year. In the meantime, news continues to be posted on Facebook and the website:

www.cathedralreliefservice.net/news/stories

Thank you for your support.

If you wish to donate to the Friends of Calcutta Cathedral Relief Service, the bank details are:

CAF Bank Ltd, Sort Code 40-52-40. Account No: 00096998.
Account Name: Friends of Calcutta Cathedral Relief Service

Another easy way of donating is through the JustGiving page
www.justgiving.com/calcutta-ccrs

Enquiries to: secretary@friendsofcrs.co.uk

Eco Tip

This month why not catch up on David Attenborough's recent BBC programme "Extinction" that was broadcast on Sunday 13th September at 8:00pm.

It is an hour long, and reflects further on last year's UN report that revealed that around one million animal and plant species are threatened with extinction.

Enfield Churches Debt Centre

We are pleased to confirm that Enfield Churches Debt Centre has now been registered by the Charity Commission with the Registered Charity Number 1191279.

If you would like to make a personal donation to the project you can do so at www.give.net/ecdc

On Monday 16th November at 7:30pm we will be holding a launch evening at Enfield Baptist Church and streaming the event live (please watch this space for further information).

The initial trustees of Enfield Churches Debt Centre are Mark and Melanie, Kate Bleasdale-Barr (from Enfield Town Community Church), Nick Chanda (from Revival Christian Church of Enfield), Peter Dufton (from Chase Family Church) and Hayley Harding (from Restore Community Church).

Please keep praying for this initiative which we hope and pray will support those in Enfield who are likely to be in most need.

Mark and Melanie

Prayer diary October 2020

1st - Give thanks to God at the start of a new month.

2nd - Pray for the Girlguiding groups that are meeting this evening.

3rd - Pray for today's Bible Study on Zoom.

4th - Pray for this morning's service, including Holy Communion for the first time since we resumed services.

- 5th** - Pray for the BB groups that are meeting this evening.
- 6th** - Pray for all those involved with Goldie College in the Solomon Islands.
- 7th** - Pray for those in our fellowship who are unable to attend face-to-face activities for any reason at this time.
- 8th** - Pray for those who work to ensure that our buildings are safe to use at this time.
- 9th** - Pray for the Girlguiding groups that are meeting this evening.
- 10th** - Pray for today's Bible Study on Zoom.
- 11th** - Pray for this morning's Family Service.
- 12th** - Pray for the BB groups that are meeting this evening.
- 13th** - Pray for peace in areas of the world where there is conflict.
- 14th** - Pray for our friends from other churches in the Local Area Group.
- 15th** - Pray for key workers.
- 16th** - Pray for the Girlguiding groups that are meeting this evening.
- 17th** - Pray for today's Thames North Synod meeting.
- 18th** - Pray for this afternoon's Forest Church event.
- 19th** - Pray for the BB groups that are meeting this evening.
- 20th** - Pray for the work of Cathedral Relief Service in Kolkata.
- 21st** - Pray for the homeless.
- 22nd** - Pray for the local community around Christ Church.
- 23rd** - Pray for the Girlguiding groups that are meeting this evening.
- 24th** - Give thanks for God's never ending love for each of us.
- 25th** - Pray for the members of The Worship Group as they lead our service this morning.
- 26th** - Pray for children and young people as they begin half term today.
- 27th** - Pray for our elders.
- 28th** - Pray for all those who work at Bay Tree House.
- 29th** - Pray for friends and family.
- 30th** - Pray for the work of Christian charities around the world.
- 31st** - Pray for the leaders of our church organisations.

Church diary October 2020

Please note that current circumstances mean that events may be changed or cancelled at short notice. Please follow instructions and signage at face-to-face events and remember that face coverings should be worn.

During October services will continue to be provided online and through mail distribution. Sign up to receive details at <http://eepurl.com/dHm8TH> or contact Mark.

Saturday 3rd October 10:30am to 11:30am
Zoom Bible Study Group
Please contact Mark for joining instructions

Sunday 4th October 11:15am
Revd Martin Legg
Holy Communion (offering for Goldie College)
Duty Elder - Pamela Fisher
This service will be streamed on Zoom - please contact Mark or one of the elders for joining instructions

Saturday 10th October 10:30am to 11:30am
Zoom Bible Study Group
Please contact Mark for joining instructions

Sunday 11th October 11:15am
Revd Mark Meatcher
Family Service
Duty Elder - Rosemary Milns
This service will be streamed on Zoom - please contact Mark or one of the elders for joining instructions

Sunday 18th October

11:15am

Martin Wells

Duty Elder - Tom Boorman

This service will be streamed on Zoom - please contact Mark or one of the elders for joining instructions

Sunday 18th October

3:30pm

Forest Church (Enfield URCS event - at the Scout Field, Ford's Grove, Winchmore Hill - see page 7)

Sunday 25th October

11:15am

The Worship Group

Duty Elder - TBC

This service will be streamed on Zoom - please contact Mark or one of the elders for joining instructions

November 2020 newsletter

The **November 2020** newsletter will be published on **Sunday 25th October**. Items intended for inclusion in this issue should be with the Editor, Tom Boorman, by Sunday 18th October. 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 **mail@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.

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 Erik Witsoe on Unsplash