

Christ Church United Reformed Church
NEWSLETTER



September 2020

Getting in contact

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Serving Elders

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Youth organisations**Boys' Brigade - Anchors**

Sue Bullock

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Boys' Brigade - Juniors, Company Section & Seniors

Tom Boorman

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Girlguiding - Rainbows, Brownies, Guides & Rangers

Vicki Stratton-Stubbs

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Adventurers (Junior Church)

Rosemary Milns

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Other activities**Friendship Club**

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Worship Group

Rosemary Milns

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Pastoral Letter September 2020

Creation Time

At the beginning of September we enter Creation Time, and over this period I am sure that you will find the topic of creation being covered in different ways at different times in our various church services. But what is it all about? The following is an extract from Eco-Congregation Scotland about this year's observance of Creation Time:

What is Creation Time?

In 1989 the Ecumenical Patriarch suggested that 1st September, the first day of the Eastern Orthodox Church year, should be observed as a day "of protection of the natural environment". Ten years later the European Christian Environmental Network (ECEN) widened this proposal, urging churches to adopt a Time for Creation stretching from **1st September to the feast of St Francis on 4th October** and this was endorsed by the 3rd European Ecumenical Assembly in Sibiu, Romania in 2007, which recommended that the period "be dedicated to prayer for the protection of Creation and the promotion of sustainable lifestyles that reverse our contribution to climate change".

Since 2008 Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI) has compiled a programme of resources to encourage and assist churches to observe Creation Time. These include suggestions on a variety of ways in which churches, groups and individuals could choose to focus on a creation theme at this particular time of the year.

Pope Francis made the Catholic Church's warm welcoming of the season official in 2015, using powerful words last year to encourage participation in the ecumenical Season of Creation:

"This is the season for letting our prayer be inspired anew by closeness to nature... to reflect on our lifestyles... for undertaking

prophetic actions...directing the planet towards life, not death."

Creation Time 2020

We have known for decades that this time will come. We have been made aware of the rapid extinction of beautiful and unique creatures. Thanks to the honest and disciplined work of climate scientists, we know (unless we fall victim to fake news) right now, that our lifestyle is unsustainable, and our dominant philosophy of 'permanent growth at all cost' carries the seeds of the destruction of the life that God called good.

Over and above the foolish stewardship of land and resources, yet closely allied to it, is the crisis of values, and of spirituality; a twisted and self-deceptive view of 'profit'.

The whole Christian family now has an unprecedented opportunity and calling: to bring together mission, justice, stewardship, and study: to bring out of our 'treasure' the determinative priorities and values that are so different from those piloting Creation towards catastrophe.

And above all, to take note of, and act on, and trust in, the worth we are given (each and all of us) in Christ. The worth and encouragement we may give to our neighbour, and our fellow creature, in partnership, rather than exploitation. May we cherish and be empowered by the knowledge of our enduring and transforming worth in the sight of God. Even if, until now, we have indeed pursued 'worthless things'.

The writers of the materials that we will be using in some of our services over this period come from a variety of church backgrounds and pastoral contexts, and, in particular include some good friends of ours, Revd David Coleman (who is the Environmental Chaplain for Eco-Congregation Scotland), Rev Alex Mabbs (URC minister at the Brighthelm Centre) and Rev Andy Braunston (URC minister for the Glasgow Southside cluster and also co-ordinator of the URC's Daily Devotions which some of you may be receiving).

If you are able to do so please do check out the wide variety of resources that are available to help us think about creation at www.ecocongregationscotland.org and elsewhere.

May we pray:

You asked for my hands that you might use them for your purpose, I gave them for a moment, then withdrew them, for the work was hard.

You asked for my mouth to speak out against injustice. I gave you a whisper that I might not be accused.

You asked for my life that you might work through me. I gave a small part that I might not get too involved.

Lord, forgive my calculated efforts to serve you only when it is convenient for me to do so, only in those places where it is safe to do so, and only in those who make it easy to do so.

Lord, forgive me, renew me, heal me, nurture me, empower me, send me out as an instrument of your peace and justice that I might take seriously the meaning of servant-leadership.
Amen.

(Joe Seramane, Christian Aid Lifelines, South Africa)

Revd Mark Meatcher & Revd Melanie Smith

Songs of Praise

If you are able to please do make a note to watch Songs of Praise on Sunday 13th September as this will feature an interview with the new General Secretary of the United Reformed Church, Revd Dr John Bradbury, that has been filmed in one of our Enfield churches.

Worship in September

During September services will still be provided online and through mail distribution with services being provided as follows during the month:

6th	Mark and Melanie
13th	Revd Jim Gascoigne
20th	Anna Erikson
27th	Jill Nugent

Worship leaders at “live” services during September will be as follows:

Christ Church (all at 11:15am)

6th	Evodian Fonyonga
13th	Revd Mark Meatcher
20th	Revd Mark Meatcher (Harvest)
27th	The Worship Group

Bush Hill Park (all at 10:00am)

6th	Revd Mark Meatcher
13th	Revd Mark Meatcher
20th	Laura Marlow (Harvest)
27th	Revd Mark Meatcher

Lancaster Road

6th	11:15am	Revd Mark Meatcher
13th	11:15am	Laura Marlow
20th	6:30 pm	Revd Martin Legg
27th	11:15am	Revd Mark Meatcher

Please note that none of the above services will be communion services - we hope to be working out how we might do those with the elders of the individual churches over the next couple of weeks so that we can hold some in October.

Prayer Meetings

We will continue to hold a Zoom Prayer Meeting on Wednesday mornings at 10:30am throughout September, beginning on Wednesday 9th September.

If you would like to join in and pray with us then please do contact me for details.

Revd Mark Meatcher

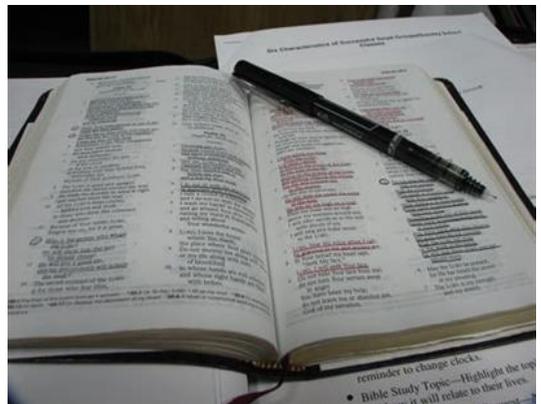


Bible Study

On Saturday 5th September and Saturday 19th September we will be holding a Zoom Bible Study on the theme of "The Parables" from 10:30am to 11:30am.

If you would like to join in then please do contact me for details.

Revd Mark Meatcher



Harvest Festival

At our Harvest Festival on Sunday 20th September we are invited to bring gifts of food to church as a sign of our thankfulness to God for the many ways in which he provides us with food. These gifts will be sent to the North Enfield Foodbank, which helps to provide emergency food for local people in crisis. Items gratefully received include non-perishable, non-meat products, pasta, tins (beans/soup/vegetables/pulses), rice, tea, coffee, biscuits with a long shelf life.

The loose offering at the service will be sent to Christian Aid. Christian Aid's Global Neighbours Autumn Appeal is in support of communities still facing crisis around the world. With your support, these vulnerable communities are joining forces with their neighbours to overcome crisis together. Find out more at www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/global-neighbours-autumn-appeal

Social distancing with humour

Redeemer Presbyterian Church in New Orleans, USA has come up with a humorous way of reminding their congregation to maintain social distancing, closing off pews with Bible-themed quotes including:

- "I have prepared a place for you..." Just not this pew.
- Jesus sat the 5,000 down in rows. But not this one.
- Abraham was 100 years old when Isaac was born. And if he were here today, he still wouldn't be allowed to sit in this pew.
- Reserved for Elijah only.
- "You will find me when you seek me". Just not in this pew. Keep seeking.
- Jesus said take up my cross, not this pew.

Newsletter contributions

If you enjoy reading this newsletter, we would like to invite contributions towards the cost of producing it if you feel able.

Contributions can be made in the following ways:

In person: Please pick up a donation envelope from the back of the church and add it to the offertory or pass it to our Treasurer, David Fisher.

By post: Please send to David Fisher, 40B Chase Green Avenue, Enfield, EN2 8EB.

Online: Please contact David Fisher on 020 8482 4610 for the relevant details.

In all cases please mark your donation as a newsletter contribution.

The suggested contribution is £12, or £15 if you receive the newsletter by post (to cover the additional cost of envelopes and stamps). Your contribution can be Gift Aided if you are a UK tax payer, allowing us to receive an extra 25% of what you contribute - just include your number from the freewill offering envelope, or your name and address.

Zoom Quiz - message of thanks

A big thank you to all those who organised and took part in an enjoyable Zoom Quiz on Friday 7th August. The quiz was held to raise money for Commitment for Life, the URC's global justice programme. If you would like to make a donation you can still do so at <http://bit.ly/cfldonate>

Forest CHURCH

*Gather in our local
'outdoor cathedral'*

Celebrating:

COMMUNITY

Creativity

Creation

and the

Creator



3.30pm Sunday 20th September

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

[what3words ///lands.mute.basis](http://what3words:///lands.mute.basis)

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

Further info: revd.melanie@gmail.com



Book Hill Park Christ Church Lancaster Road Primers Green
Parsons Hill Trinity Methodist Church Winchmore Hill

URC's General Secretary retires

The following article has been reproduced from the United Reformed Church's website at <https://urc.org.uk/latest-news/3557-the-revd-john-proctor-retires-after-serving-the-urc-for-34-years.html>

The Revd John Proctor, outgoing General Secretary of the United Reformed Church (URC), retired on 14th August having served the Church for 34 years.

Due to coronavirus, colleagues and friends gathered digitally for a virtual leaving do. In his own words, John reflects on his time in the role and offers thanks to those he has worked with:

It was refreshing to read the interview in July's *Reform* with our new General Secretary, John Bradbury. The Church has made a fine choice. John will get a grip on the job very quickly, and he will serve with great creativity and much good sense.

Meanwhile I am retiring. There are many people to thank. The General Secretary has a special vantage point across the life of the URC, and I've often been mightily impressed by the commitment, care, witness and energy in our local congregations. Our people make a difference in God's world. There is much we should rejoice in and persist with, and I salute everyone who is a part of it - tens of thousands of you.

The team at Church House in London is an excellent bunch of people - gifted, committed, hard-working, helpful. I enjoy their company and have learned a lot from working among them.

David Grosch-Miller and Alan Yates have line managed me on behalf of the Church, wisely and attentively, for three years each. Krystyna Pullen, Helen Munt and Tasneem Choudhury have given me important PA support. Our Deputy General

Secretaries are really outstanding colleagues - Jane Baird, Francis Brien and Richard Church. The Assembly Officers with whom I have worked give able and generous service to our Church, all of them voluntarily. My wife Elaine, invisible to most of the URC, is an absolute rock to me.

Being trusted as a minister is an immense and humbling privilege. I've spent forty years working for values I believe in, generally among pleasant, well-motivated and supportive people. My family and I have lived from the Christian giving of others. I don't apologise for that; I've worked hard. But I am certainly grateful.

What about hopes? The good news of Jesus Christ - God taking our flesh, dying for our sins and defeating our death - is a hope to hold onto through thick and thin, and a hope to hold out confidently to the world. May God bless you, and may this hope hold you firm.

Prayer diary September 2020

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

2nd - Pray for children and young people who are preparing to return to school at this time, some for the first time in several months.

3rd - Pray for those who are preparing online worship for the Enfield URCs this month.

4th - Pray for all those affected by the recent explosion in Beirut, Lebanon.

5th - Pray for today's Bible Study on Zoom.

- 6th** - Pray for our time of worship this morning and for our friend Evodian Fonyonga, who is leading it.
- 7th** - Pray for the work of Enfield Council.
- 8th** - Give thanks for the beauty of God's creation.
- 9th** - Pray for today's Prayer Meeting on Zoom.
- 10th** - Pray for those who are new to the Christian faith.
- 11th** - Pray for all those who work in Bay Tree House.
- 12th** - Pray for our Property Committee and for the work they do to maintain our church buildings.
- 13th** - Pray for Mark as he leads our time of worship today.
- 14th** - Pray for the members of our uniformed youth organisations.
- 15th** - Pray for the residents of Chase Court Gardens.
- 16th** - Pray for our friends from the other URCs in the North Enfield Group.
- 17th** - Pray for friends and family.
- 18th** - Pray for those who are suffering from the effects of natural disasters.
- 19th** - Pray for all those who are taking part in today's Bible Study Group meeting on Zoom.
- 20th** - Pray for this morning's Harvest Festival service and this afternoon's Forest Church event.
- 21st** - Pray for all those who rely on a good harvest.
- 22nd** - Pray for the work of Christian missionaries around the world.
- 23rd** - Pray for all those who have suffered as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic.
- 24th** - Pray for Mark and Melanie.
- 25th** - Pray for God's guidance in your own life.
- 26th** - Pray for the local community around Christ Church.
- 27th** - Pray for The Worship Group as they lead our time of worship this morning.
- 28th** - Pray for the pupils and staff of Chase Side Primary School.
- 29th** - Pray for all those who are involved in our Local Area Group.
- 30th** - Pray for key workers and the important roles they play, particularly in recent months.

Church diary September 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.

Online worship will continue to be available each week during September. Sign up to receive details at <http://eepurl.com/dHm8TH> or contact Mark for a printed copy.

Saturday 5th September 10:30am to 11:30am
Zoom Bible Study Group
Please contact Mark for joining instructions

Sunday 6th September 11:15am
Evodian Fonyonga

Wednesday 9th September 10:30am to 11:30am
Zoom Prayer Meeting
Please contact Mark for joining instructions

Sunday 13th September 11:15am
Revd Mark Meatcher

Wednesday 16th September 10:30am to 11:30am
Zoom Prayer Meeting
Please contact Mark for joining instructions

Saturday 19th September 10:30am to 11:30am
Zoom Bible Study Group
Please contact Mark for joining instructions

Sunday 20th September 11:15am
Revd Mark Meatcher
Family Service (Harvest Festival)

Sunday 20th September 3:30pm
Forest Church (Enfield URCs event - at the Scout Field,
Ford's Grove, Winchmore Hill - see page 10)

Wednesday 23rd September 10:30am to 11:30am
Zoom Prayer Meeting
Please contact Mark for joining instructions

Sunday 27th September 11:15am
The Worship Group

Wednesday 30th September 10:30am to 11:30am
Zoom Prayer Meeting
Please contact Mark for joining instructions

October 2020 newsletter

The **October 2020** newsletter will be published on **Sunday 27th September**. Items intended for inclusion in this issue should be with the Editor, Tom Boorman, by Sunday 20th September. 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 usually 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 Karl Lee on Unsplash