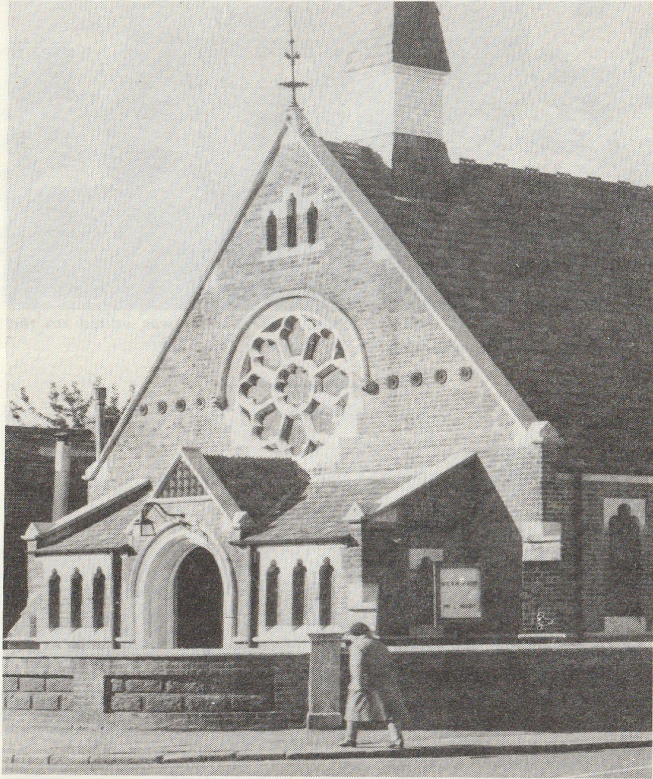


**LANCASTER ROAD  
UNITED REFORMED CHURCH  
LANCASTER ROAD - ENFIELD  
1885-1985**



*"I will fill this house with glory," saith the Lord of hosts. "The glory of this latter house shall be greater than of the former," saith the Lord of hosts; "and in this place will I give peace."*  
HAGGAI 2, v. 7 and 9.

one

**Newsletter  
March 2025**

Hello, Spring is upon us at last! March is a busy month for all sorts of reasons. There's St David Day and St Patrick's Day when we remember these great saints of the faith. Shrove Tuesday when we prepare for starting lent but probably spend more time thinking about what toppings to put on our pancakes before entering the period of Lent. We have Mothering Sunday which originally was a day set aside for servants to go back to their mother church and spend the day with their family, now it's a bonus for the economy. It's also a busy month for the church in its preparations for the wonderful celebration of Easter Day.

It's so very easy to get into the business of things that we don't stop long enough to enjoy the view, or take in just one moment from each day. So much to do yet so little time to do it, as they saying goes. Life is just so busy for so many people these days and on top of that we expect so much of others and ourselves don't we?

Recently being on holiday I found it so difficult to change gear to a lower speed. My mind is my constant voice of things I should be doing! There's always that urge to get the things done that you've not had time to do due to work pressures. However in the second week being in the Lake District the pace of life just immediately slowed down. We were blessed with amazing weather. It was cold but sunny and Lake Windermere were incredibly still. I often find photography a wonderful way to help me to reflect and a way I can listen to God. He definitely speaks to me through nature and what I catch in a photograph.

Here are a couple of photos of a scene that allowed me to reflect:

Due to the pace of life we can often just see the difficulties; the things that hinder us (the bramble thorns, the overgrowth). However if we were willing to stop and face the difficulty straight on and be more patient, we might be able to start seeing the beauty that's also within the difficulty





and the good that can be apparent because of that difficulty; otherwise known as a blessing in disguise.

(Same view different perspective)

I also reflected that coming to a difficulty from another angle and not being so rigid and deal with things in the same way as we always do, we get to a different viewpoint and often see a clearer picture more quickly. This can mean that we need to be willing to listen to others and take other people's advice graciously.

God has given us so many ways to listen to him if only we just stopped even for a moment.

Psalm 46:10-11

"Be still, and know that I am God! I will be honored by every nation. I will be honored throughout the world."

The Lord of Heaven's Armies is here among us; the God of Israel is our fortress."

Let us try each day, in March, to set aside a moment to be still and know that he is God and honour him. It will help us to know that he is with us as our fortress in not just the difficult times but our good times too.

Amen

Yours in Christ,

Ruth

Our Church Mission Statement.

"As a Church our desire is to worship God and grow as disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ. To show and nurture love, joy, peace and justice in our fellowship, community and to all people through the power of the Holy Spirit."

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
3 <b>Toddlers</b> Small Hall 9.30-11am	4	5 <b>Bible Study</b> 9.45 <b>Food Hub</b> 10.00-12pm  <b>Prayer at Home</b> 9.30pm	6
10 <b>Toddlers</b> Small Hall 9.30-11am	11 <b>Bible Study</b> Church Lounge 8.15pm	12 <b>Food Hub</b> 10.00-12pm  <b>Prayer at Home</b> 9.30pm	13
17 <b>Toddlers</b> Small Hall 9.30-11am	18	19 <b>Bible Study</b> 9.45 <b>Food Hub</b> 10.00-12pm <b>Prayer at Home</b> 9.30pm	20
24 <b>Toddlers</b> Small Hall 9.30-11am	25 <b>Bible Study</b> Church Lounge 8.15pm	26 <b>Food Hub</b> 10.00-12pm  <b>Prayer at Home</b> 9.30pm	27

2025

Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	1 <b>Special Supper Ministry</b> 6.30pm Church Hall	2 <b>Morning Communion</b> 11.15am <b>Revd Martin Legg</b> <b>Followed by Church AGM</b>
7 <b>Shoppers Coffee &amp; Warm space</b> in the church followed by light lunch 10-2.30pm	8	9 <b>Church Anniversary</b> 11.15am <b>Revd Martin Legg</b>  <b>Family Parade Service</b>
14 <b>Shoppers Coffee</b> Morning 10-12pm	15	16 <b>Morning service</b> 11.15am <b>Mr Terry Silvey</b> <b>Evening service</b> 6pm @ LR <b>Revd Martin Legg</b>
21 <b>Shoppers Coffee &amp; Warm space</b> in the church followed by light lunch 10-2.30pm	22	23 <b>Morning service</b> 11.15am <b>Revd Ruth Dewis</b>
28 <b>Shoppers Coffee</b> Morning 10-12pm	29	30 <b>Mothering Sunday</b> Pastorate Service <b><u>Christ Church, 10.45 am</u></b> <b>Revd Martin Legg</b>



## My European Extravaganza, part three – conclusion

What a difference a few hours can make! After leaving Tuscany in rain, mist and murk, by the afternoon we were sitting in glorious warm sunshine in Cinque Terra. We had parked the car at Manarola, and after a welcome short stroll to the seafront, we then caught a train to Vernazza. After just two stops we admired that seafront before climbing up steep steps towards Corniglia to a café/restaurant with splendid outdoor sunny seating overlooking the rugged mountainous coastline and shimmering sea. I must say I have been disappointed with Italian food. I imagined most meals to be served with a Mediterranean diet of sumptuous deliciously healthy vegetables that we are advised and encouraged in this country to eat. However, the pasta dishes that I experienced in Italy did not meet this criteria. Although quite tasty, they did not include even one vegetable! Even the oranges and other fruits that adorned restaurants never seemed to be included in the menus. Pizzas did adhere to more healthy foods, with vegetarian options being far more to my liking with aubergines, mixed peppers, sweetcorn, onions, mushrooms, olives, and those elusive tomatoes.



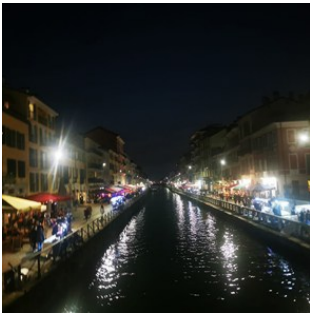
Over the next few days I had the privilege and pleasure of visiting Monzo Park and Lake Garda. The latter included walking up to a church whose grounds hosted a cat sanctuary. Here numerous cats were roaming free amongst the bushes, looking very relaxed, well away from the many tourists on the banks of the lake. I also visited the much quieter Lake Pusiana en route to Lake Como and enjoyed a stroll around Emma and Sam's locality of Lomagna. Here I spent a considerable time exploring the church. I found it to be very 'heavy' and somewhat sombre and morbid, as most of its décor depicted suffering. I would have liked to have had more time to explore Italian churches. Are they all Roman Catholic?



I saw the famous Duomo in its prominent high position in Milan, on coming up from the Metro, but due to the vast number of tourists there, I did not venture inside. (I had briefly stepped inside the church at the Cat Sanctuary, but Emma quickly ushered me out owing to a man lurking in the shadows, who Emma was convinced was 'playing' with a flick knife!) From the Duomo we



walked through La Scala with its fashionable and very expensive shops to the Teatro Alla Scala (theatre) before walking beside the river to Navigli, a pedestrian region, full of character, boasting of many restaurants and bars, illuminated by delicate, but vibrant coloured little lights.



Another question I have regarding Italian churches/religions/Christianity was brought to my attention by Sam, not working on 1<sup>st</sup> November, All Saints Day, but on Good Friday he had been working as usual. I previously thought Italy to be a strict Christian

country, but now I am not so sure! Surely Good Friday is one of the most important days of the Christian calendar and deserves to be observed? If any of you reading these articles can throw any light on my questions, I would love to hear from you. ([marion.burdett@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:marion.burdett@yahoo.co.uk) – if I don't see you)

All too soon the day dawned when Emma and I had to begin our long journey back to Britain. But first, back to the Alps and our previous accommodation there. The weather was wonderful, illuminating the snow-capped mountains and autumn colours even better than on our previous visit (I wouldn't have thought that possible!) We couldn't resist

purchasing a slab of Alp butter produced by our farm-stay. We were not disappointed – delicious! After lingering for as long as possible the following morning, in awe of the sunny views, the colours, the snowy mountains, the beautiful windowboxes full of red geraniums, the chalet style homes, etc, etc, and watching the little girl setting off walking purposefully a fair distance all by herself with a backpack almost as big as herself to catch a school bus, we listened to the cows' bells and then set off, through those wonderful Alps, to France.

The route took us to Lac du der. An interesting spot with a church, sadly locked. The area had been cleared several years ago for the lake and many villagers had been forced to move out and relocate elsewhere, which sounded rather heartless to me! Perhaps if my French language was better, I may have understood more of why this happened.

My lack of French also let me down at our overnight stay on our final night in a mobile home in the grounds of a house with views overlooking fields and a vegetable plot! The owner bounded over to us with a welcoming 'Bienvenue' and then continued to speak very rapidly in French. I failed miserably in trying to communicate with him. I could not understand him, and he could not understand me although he did give us a large box of vegetables from his garden! Gratefully accepted!

I am so grateful for God's mercy, healing, love and forgiveness in allowing me such an adventure. At the beginning of January 2023, I was told I would be lucky to see that Christmas unless I had the stem cell treatment and here I am. I have survived the treatment, had this wonderful experience of seeing more of God's wonderful natural world – and enjoyed another Christmas. Every morning, I give thanks to God that I am alive. Every day is a bonus to be thankful for.

Marion Burdett





## Special Supper Ministry—'Ben & Friends'

"We held our Christmas meal along with crackers, clothing handouts (including hats and gloves for everyone), live band and singing (thanks Chris and Laura), and general merriment for 30 guests. It was a happy occasion with warm fellowship on a very cold night. Thank you everyone for your prayer support and the wonderful volunteers that made it possible. **The next meal is on 1st March at 6.30pm.**"

Graham Carlisle.



On the **24<sup>th</sup> March 2025**, Paul Bates, a member of our Church, will be coming to give us an illustrated talk about his work as a paramedic; the development of the Ambulance Service and how they serve and care for the community both in and out of hospital.

The Meeting is open to everyone and will be held in the Lady Chapel, of St Luke's Church, Browning Road, Enfield.

Refreshments will be served prior to the Meeting at 10 am in the Refectory and Paul's talk will begin at 10.30 am in the Lady Chapel.

# **Lent Course 2025 – Journey of Generosity**

This year's LENT COURSE will be held on:

**Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> March and the 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> April** - with 2 follow up sessions after Easter

(dates to be agreed when we meet in person).

**10.30am at Lancaster Road URC**

(church lounge)

led by Revd Ruth Dewis

**OR**

**7.30pm at Bush Hill Park URC** (church lounge)

led by Mrs Lisa Hamblin

Please sign up if you want to attend the course. A booklet will then be sent to you as a pdf for you to print out (if required). If you would like a booklet printed out for you, please indicate when you confirm your wish to attend the sessions.



Dear friends

We have organised a Gardening Morning at the Church Hall, Armfield Road on **Saturday 5th April 2025 between 10am and 12 noon**. We hope that we can get a good number of volunteers together to tackle cutting down the shrubs that have become overgrown. These shrubs have not helped with the damp problem that has become apparent on some of the walls at the front of the hall and also they are blocking the light from the building. If we can get a good working party of 8 - 10 volunteers we could manage this job in a few hours (weather permitting of course!!).

Please let me know if you could spare an hour or two to get this work completed. Refreshments will be provided and please bring any loppers, cutters, gardening gloves etc. that you might need.

Thank you

Clare [secretary@lancaster-road-urc.org.uk](mailto:secretary@lancaster-road-urc.org.uk)

### **BB News**

Boys Brigade have had a busy start to the session. Monday 14<sup>th</sup> October, we held our Enrolment and Awards Night which was conducted by our Minister. On Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> October Kieran and 4 Boys went to Colchester Zoo with the Battalion. Fortunately, the weather was kind and they didn't get wet. Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> November the London Band took part in the Lord Mayor's show and for the first time in a long while the Boys Brigade had some really good coverage. The Following day was Remembrance Sunday. In the morning the BB led the service which included the reading of the names on our roll of honour. In the afternoon there was the usual parade and service at the War Memorial. Max was asked to represent the Battalion by laying the Battalion Wreath. Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> November was the Battalion Top Gold Competition. We had 2 boys entered for this event with Aden coming 4<sup>th</sup>.

The Boys took part in the Parade of Light which takes place on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December.



Duty Elders for March 2025				
Date	11.15 a.m.	Notes	6:00 p.m.	Notes
2 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>Clare/Chris</b>	<i>Holy Communion &amp; Church AGM</i>		
9 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Graham</b>	<i>Church Anniversary &amp; All Age/Parade Serv.</i>		
16 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Beryl</b>		<b>Graham</b>	<i>With Clay Hill Parish</i>
23 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>Clare</b>			
30 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Pastorate Service</b>	<b>at Christ Church</b>	<b>10:45am</b>	
<p>Elders marked in <b>BOLD</b> are responsible for reading notices at that service. Please let them have any notices 10 minutes before the start of the service.</p> <p>Elders on duty at a <b>Communion Service</b> must ensure that the person presiding at Communion informs the congregation of the Charity/ Organisation receiving the Communion Offertory and that the collection plate is on the Communion Table.</p> <p>Thank you</p>				

### FLOWER ROTA for March

2nd Grace Huggett

9th CHURCH ANNIVERSARY

16th Laura Marlow remembering Gwen and Don

23rd Whitmell family

30<sup>th</sup> -----



## Lancaster Road URC Church Anniversary

Sunday 9th March 2025

A service of Thanksgiving

Celebrating 140 years serving our God and  
our community since 1885

*Members and friends will have the opportunity to make an anniversary gift. Envelopes will be available at the back of the church*

*Thank you*

### Church Hall – Building and Refurbishment Work

The building work and redecoration will have started in our church halls by the time the newsletter is published. The works are expected to take a few months. There will be some disruption for those that use the church hall, with some activities relocating to the church.

We will keep you updated on the progress of the work and try to minimise any disruption.

Many thanks for your understanding and support.

## Who to Contact

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