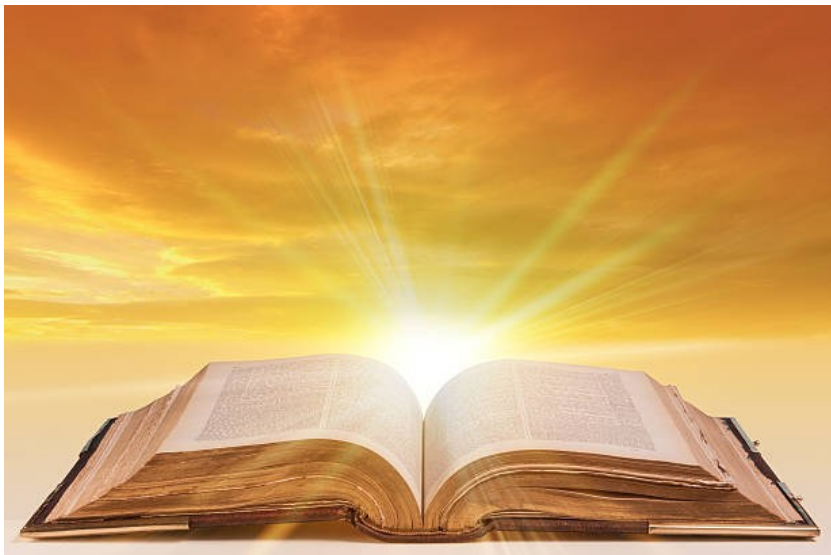


Lancaster Road
United Reformed Church



May 2025
Newsletter

Hello,

I'm writing this month's letter to you while I'm in Skegness. 14 of the pastorate members have come to Spring Harvest. This year's theme is 'No greater story'. There is no greater story than God's story is there? We really do have good news to share don't we? What really struck me was what the main Bible teaching session leader (Leon Evans) mentioned; that our own stories might not have been the stories we would have desired (due to illness, grief, abuse, addiction, etc) but our stories can be redeemed by the one who redeems, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Our stories, as believers, are part of God's story of love for the world. There was great emphasis on how we need to be more intentional in sharing the good news about Jesus and how he has impacted our stories, as there is an increase in those searching for that something that is missing.

Despite the opinion that youngsters are not interested in Christianity this is actually not true. The sale of Bibles is increasing as people are searching for hope. The church is actually growing globally with around 2.6 billion people already members of God's family.

The sun shone and in fairness Skeggie wasn't as cold as expected at the start but it did get cold at times. However the worship and teaching definitely wasn't cold in fact that got hotter. It really is wonderful when you are in the midst of around 2000 people praising our God.

What I love about Spring Harvest is that denomination disappears. We are there to worship as one church family. It's a glimpse of what heaven will be like - no religious systems to be seen and people having that freedom to worship the one and only God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, as they want - no one cares if you hold your arms in the air or clap as you sing.

The Bible book of the week, which we concentrated on, was the book of Isaiah. The 66 chapters of Isaiah remind us of the 66 books of the Bible. What absolutely blows my mind is that planning for each Spring Harvest event starts well before the week. Planning starts over 2 years prior but it

always feels it was written specifically for the moment we live in. This year could not have been more relevant thinking about the chaos and madness we are watching unfold across the globe.

Like Isaiah, as believers we are commissioned to go and tell people about the judgement of God that is coming (Isaiah 6) but better still, that a Redeemer has always been part of God's plan and that he hears our cries,

"Comfort, comfort my people,
says your God". (Isaiah 40:1).

Our Redeemer did come but not quite as people expected; rather than a warrior He was a suffering servant for us all,

"But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed." (Isaiah 53:5)

We have been redeemed through Christ as soon as we believe and our own stories can then be wonderfully transformed to glorify God's holy name.

As the weather warms up, I pray that the flame of the Spirit inside us all is fanned and increased to empower us as we go out to share what God has done for us all and that we can help people to find the One that will satisfy their searching.

God bless you in this coming month.
Ruth

Front Cover note: 2nd May 1611 The Authorized Version of the Bible (King James Version) was first published, and became the standard English language Bible.

May

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
			1
5 No Toddlers May Day BH	6 Bible Study In the Church Lounge 8.15pm (see note)	7 Food Hub 10.00-12.00 Prayer at Home 9.30pm	8
12 Toddlers Large Hall 9.30-11am	13	14 Bible Study 9.45 Food Hub 10.00-12.00 Prayer at Home 9.30pm	15
19 Toddlers Large Hall 9.30-11am	20 Bible Study In the Church Lounge 8.15pm	21 Food Hub 10.00-12.00 Prayer at Home 9.30pm	22
26 NO Toddlers Spring Bank Holiday	27	28 Bible Study 9.45 Food Hub 10.00-12.00 Prayer at Home 9.30pm	29

2025

	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	2 Shoppers Coffee Morning followed by light lunch 10-2.30pm	3	4 Morning Communion service 11.15am Mrs Rosemary Milns & Revd Ruth Dewis
	9 Shoppers Coffee Morning 10.00-12.00	10	11 Morning service 11.15am Mr Terry Silvey Christian Aid Week
	16 Shoppers Coffee Morning 10.00-12.00	17 BB Coffee Morning Plant Sale In the church 10.00—12.00	18 Morning service 11.15am Mr Martin Wells Evening service 6.30pm @ LR
	23 Shoppers Coffee morning 10.00-12.00	24	25 Morning service 11.15am Mr Terry Silvey
	30 Shoppers Coffee Morning 10.00-12.00	31	1st June Morning Communion Service 11.15am Mrs Laura Marlow

Tuesday Evening Bible Discovery Group

The Tuesday evening Bible Discovery Group is to start a new study guide based on ***The Second Coming – Living in the Light of Jesus' Return.***

The meetings are held in the Church Lounge at 8.15pm - topics and dates for the new study guide are as follows:

Session	Topic	Dates for 2025
1	Basis of Belief in the Second Coming	May 6 th
2	Signs of the Times	May 20 th
3	The Presence of Christ	June 3 rd
4	Life after Death	June 17 th
5	The Second Coming of Christ	July 1 st
6	Living in the Light of His Coming	July 15 th
7	A Bride for God's Son	July 29 th

All are welcome to join us and please feel free to come to just a few dates if it is not possible to attend them all. The sessions are informal and are an ideal opportunity for us to develop our faith together.

If you require any further information please contact Terry D.

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

Christ Church are holding one of their monthly Lunchtime @ Christ Church events on Saturday 10th May from 12-2pm, which is a social occasion where lunch and refreshments will be available. There is no set charge but donations are accepted, which will go towards our collection for Christian Aid Week. All are welcome.

Further Adventures in Another European Extravaganza – aka Travels With My Daughter!

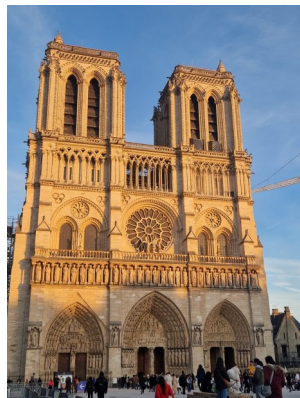
Stress, stress and more stress! And all self-inflicted! But why?! You may have guessed? Yes, I am planning another trip to Italy to stay with Emma and Sam. This time a different journey. Not the luxury of being driven all the way via Le Shuttle, but instead travelling by Eurostar, followed by trains for a further 7 ½ hours! (Have packed masks – immunity still not brilliant!) Another ‘learning curve’ ahead, another adventure, another privilege and bonus to my life to be (hopefully) enjoyed and embraced! A few extra complications this trip as I am not a light packer so trying very hard to restrict myself to one (not too heavy) suitcase and my backpack. Also, further health needs require yet more meds and trying desperately to arrange appointments and obtain them before I travel.

Aagh! Sigh of relief! I’m at St Pancras – but next step – passport control and security! “Hat off!” I am ordered before my suitcase, coat and rucksack all disappear from my view on an enlarged tea tray (no cup of tea, and already I’m thirsty!) Will I ever see them again? “Move along!” I am barked at again. Where? I wonder. A perspex screen separates me from where my luggage has gone. I gingerly go through a space in the middle and thankfully am reunited with my belongings. Another sigh of relief before finally boarding Eurostar.

I actually enjoyed a very smooth ride with the treat of a very tasty vegetarian light lunch and drink. The journey was far more scenic than I had envisaged, only being under the sea for around thirty minutes and passing through pleasant countryside in both Britain and France en route to Paris. Why was I panicking beforehand??!

A walk from Paris Gare Du Nord took us up many steps, followed by a steep stone spiral staircase to our fourth floor self-contained Air BnB overnight apartment. (Good job Emma is strong – my suitcase was NOT light!!) After checking in and thankfully leaving our luggage we strolled across the road to the large church opposite – L’Eglise St Bernard de la Chapelle – an exceptionally large, somewhat cathedral-like building.

From here we continued to walk to Notre Dame, looking resplendent in the evening sunlight after its repairs follows its fire in 2019. (Still signs of ongoing restorations)





Next 'port of call' was a fascinating evening walk along the banks of the River Seine. In the fading light, the pastel shades of red, white and blue (the tricolore) illuminating the turreted, curved, conical topped buildings, reminded me of the lines from the famous Grimm Brothers 'Rapunzel, Rapunzel, let down your hair...' I could imagine it all

taking place before my very eyes there!

Their reflections shimmered in the river. Then at 8pm the 'cabaret act' began! The Eiffel Tower sprang into light followed by a spectacular display of twinkling sparkler-like lights delicately illuminating the tower, the sky and the river. A treat to behold, and we were so fortunate to see it as although the tower remained lit up from head to foot, the sparkling lights only remain for a very limited time. A sight I had never dreamed of seeing – another bonus and privilege I thank God for. A lovely way to end the first evening of this, my next adventure ahead.



Marion Burdett



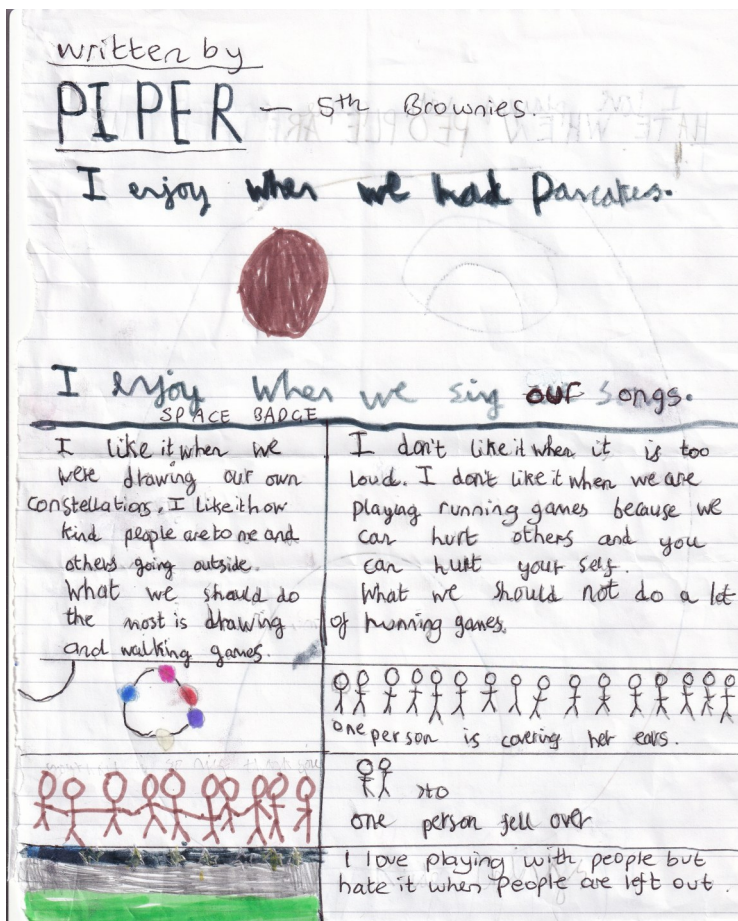
The Great Big Green Week – 'Together for good'

7 to 15 June, 2025

Do you have a passion to tackle climate change and protect nature?

Commitment for Life is a member of The Climate Coalition that brings people together to demand action on the climate. The Great Big Green Week will take place between 7 and 15 June.

A note from Piper—5th Enfield Brownies



Church Anniversary—Gift Day

Thank you to everyone who donated to the Anniversary Gift day.

The total raised was **£1,179** , for which we give thanks.

Philippians 4:19

Christian Aid Week – 11-17th May

Volunteers from our church will be delivering envelopes to homes in the local area between 11-17th May as part of Christian Aid Week 2025. They will then be returned to the church on **Saturday 17th May** (at the BB coffee morning/plant sale) or can be taken to church.



Every year, during this appeal, people across Britain and Ireland have 7 days to make a difference and raise funds for Christian Aid Week. We hope people will get behind our fundraising and support their global neighbours. Together, we can put the unstoppable power of hope into action, because a brighter, fairer future is possible. Money raised will enable Christian Aid and their trusted partners to support communities to find practical and sustainable ways out of poverty on their own terms.

This year's Christian Aid Week is focusing on Christian Aid's work in Guatemala, Central America, where the climate crisis is causing the seasons to intensify and shift erratically. As a result, farming communities have to battle devastating floods and intense heatwaves. Water sources are drying up and vital crops are failing, plunging farming families into hunger and poverty.

Amelia is a resourceful and determined 24-year-old farmer, and a mother of two, from the Alta Verapaz region. She said the situation is very worrying: 'In the past three years, we've been experiencing high heat and a lack of rain. One of the biggest issues is the lack of water ... my plantations have been dying ... and there is no food for my family.' Despite the challenges families like Amelia's are facing, the unstoppable power of hope drives people to look for ways to push back.

With training from Christian Aid's partner, Congcoop, Amelia's gaining the skills and knowledge to cultivate native seeds that are better suited to the changing climate. She's planning planting schedules that will deliver multiple harvests throughout the year, making her own organic fertiliser, and constructing rainwater collection systems.

Amelia's also a leader in her community, sharing her knowledge with other households, so that one day, no family will worry about their children going without food.

For 80 years, Christian Aid has been fighting poverty and injustice. We've partnered with communities and organisations across the world to support people of every faith and none. We know that eradicating poverty can seem like an impossible task. But over these 80 years, we've harnessed something formidable. Something so full of love that it can't be silenced. We call it the unstoppable power of hope. Hope has compelled us to stand up for communities in crisis and support people living in poverty. And right now, we need it more than ever. As tragic events unfold across the world, from Gaza to Ukraine and South Sudan, we need your support to offer hope to communities in crisis. Together we're unstoppable. Find out more at caid.org.uk.

If you are willing to deliver envelopes to homes in the area then please contact Laura Marlow or listen out for further information in the church notices.



The following are extracts from the APAP report from Beryl.

The day centre

Each year we continue running our day centre we are supporting more people who are either homeless or at risk of homelessness. In 2023 our total number of service visits was **2186** and in 2024 it was **2906**. This is a gradual increase of **720**. Our aim for 2025 is to continue to support people experiencing homelessness in Enfield and Haringey and to continue to provide bed spaces for some of the most vulnerable rough sleepers in the area

Not Here but Still Homeless

We would like to thank everyone who supported us with our winter campaign. Not only did we surpass our initial target of raising £12,000, as well as our stretch target of £16,000 - with your support we raised an unprecedented **£21,014!!**



Special mentions to Cogent for masterminding the campaign, the Southgate Scouts for braving the cold during their sleepout, the Community Sessions, Lancaster Road URC, St Pauls Winchmore Hill/Carols on the Green, Pymmes Park Parkrunners, The Kings Head Pub in Winchmore Hill and Curry Club

Following the campaign we are confident that we have not only the skills and resources, but also the



1st Enfield Company

Are holding a Plant Sale and Coffee Morning

At

Lancaster Road U R C



On

Saturday 17th May 2025, 10.00 – 12.00

Jigsaws, Bric a Brac, Books, Tombola



Committed to supporting our global partners BANGLADESH

Photo credit: Maydul Hassan. © Maydul Hassan – all rights reserved



When Maydul Hassan was first mugged, he thought he had hit rock bottom (see Al Jazeera, 4 March, 2025). But within a week, the 21-year-old student was battered and robbed again – this time in front of the police, who, according to Hassan, did

nothing. Hassan participated in the student-led uprising that helped to unseat long-time Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. But Hassan wonders what the country has become. “The nation is drowning in crime, no one seems to care.”

Hassan’s ordeal is not an isolated case. Over 170 million people call Bangladesh home, but the country is experiencing a terrible crime wave. Since the fall of Sheikh Hasina’s government, walking the streets has become extremely risky. According to Al Jazeera, in January 2025 alone the police reported 242 cases of mugging and robbery across Bangladesh – the highest number in six years. At least 294 murders were recorded. Robberies, muggings and abductions are all on the rise.

All the more reason for *Commitment for Life* to continue its work through its Christian Aid partners in Bangladesh. We assist some of the poorest communities, empowering them, even during this politically, environmentally, and economically fraught time.

Scan this QR Code with your phone camera to be taken straight to the *Commitment for Life* webpage.



Commitment
for Life

Life-giving Faith | Defiant Hope | Generous Love

Macular Degeneration Group Meeting at Trinity Methodist/URC

2nd Wednesday of every month in the church hall 10am to 12noon
(Enter by the blue door to the right of the Stag pub)

£2 includes tea coffee, speaker and raffle

e-mail mtgcam@hotmail.com

Church Hall – Building and Refurbishment Work

The works are progressing well. The small hall, excluding the annexe is now decorated. The annexe doors have been removed and will be replaced. The redecoration should be completed soon.

Redecoration of part of the corridor from the kitchen to the toilets has commenced. The new wall dividing the two halls is being constructed.

Work on the new kitchen, toilet and store is progressing well. Electrics and stud walling have been installed and built.

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

The building work has highlighted some areas requiring immediate repair and maintenance to the roof and dormer in the small hall and annex where the roof and gutters are leaking. This has caused some damaged to the newly painted areas.

It has also been decided to replace the old light fittings with new LED lighting where they still exist.

Many thanks for your understanding and continued support.

Duty Elders for May				
	11.15 a.m.	Notes	6:30 p.m.	Notes
4 th	Chris/Beryl	Holy Communion		
11 th 18 th	Clare Beryl	All Age Service	Graham	Joint Service
25 th	Janice			
Duty Elders for June				
	11.15 a.m.	Notes	6:30 p.m.	Notes
1 st	Graham/ Chris	Holy Communion		
8 th 15 th	Beryl Janice	All Age/Parade Serv. Father's Day	Clare	Joint Service
22 nd 29 th	Chris Graham	Joint Pastorate @ LR		

Flower Rota

May 4 Whitmell family

11 YPCF Anniversary

18 Brian Page in memory of Glynes and Arthur

25 -----

Thanks, Marilyn.

Who to Contact

Revd Ruth Dewis : minister@lancaster-road-urc.org.uk

Phone: 0759 2125027

Revd Martin Legg: martin@lancaster-road-urc.org.uk

Phone 07711 955985

secretary@lancaster-road-urc.org.uk

elders@lancaster-road-urc.org.uk

Newsletter: martin@lancaster-road-urc.org.uk

Lettings: Hall-Bookings@lancaster-road-urc.org.uk

Website: www.lancaster-road-urc.org.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/pg/LRURC/

Church Address Lancaster Rd, Enfield EN2 0BS

Church Hall 9, Armfield Rd, Enfield, EN2 0DH,