

Lancaster Road
United Reformed Church



December 2025 &
January 2026
Newsletter

www.lurc.org.uk

Hello,

Firstly, I would like to take the opportunity to thank our magazine editors for all they have done for us through 2025. I would like to wish them all, on everyone's behalf, a very Happy Christmas and blessed New Year and especially a well-deserved rest for a month, as this is the bumper December/January edition.

Looking back over the year, so much has been achieved by our three churches. There have been highs and lows but that's life, isn't it? We have had to said goodbye to a few good friends from all three churches and communities, which has brought us times of sorrow. We pray that their loved ones will find some comfort in this first Christmas without them. However, there have been so many good things that have happened and have been achieved during 2025 too.

I was joking with someone that I am already thinking about well into next year; Good Friday has already been mentioned! Planning ahead of time and time management is essential in this role so that when the unexpected happens, there is a bit of give to be flexible. The trouble with this though means at times we do not sit in the moment and therefore do not soak in the present. Christmas time is a time when the activities can take over and we soon realise Christmas Day has come and gone without us enjoying it or worse still giving it a thought.

So much can take us away from thinking about the real reason we celebrate Christmas. There are Christmas markets, Christmas meals, festive light displays, ice skating, pantomimes, concerts, themed experiences, and the list can go on and on and then we are exhausted by Christmas Day, the real reason for the season.



There is a reason God has called us to obey his command of taking the Sabbath rest that he has provided for us. God himself rested on the seventh day. If we did this, we would be able to savour the moments we

are given, reboot our energies and most importantly have the time to spend with God.

‘There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God; for anyone who enters God’s rest also rests from their works, just as God did from his. Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one will perish by following their example of disobedience.’ (Hebrews 4:9-11 - New International Version)



More people are realising that there is too much materialism around this time of year. Martin Lewis (the financial expert) tells people on his website, ‘Don’t plan the perfect Christmas – first work out what you can afford’ and it is ‘time to ban unnecessary presents.’

He even goes as far to say that we should ‘consider not giving’ this Christmas. So many people go into debt because they feel they must buy presents for their whole family and friends and then worry going into the New Year about how to afford their incoming bills. God came into the world to free us from burden not to have us burden ourselves in traditions that make us worried and weary.



Jesus entered this world in the simplest of ways.

His first bed was a manger in a stable in Bethlehem, you cannot get lowlier than that?

He led a life that wasn’t burdened by earthly riches and then gave up his life for our benefit, so that he could defeat death and make us reconciled to God so that we can enjoy eternal life in his presence. This is the greatest gift we will ever receive if we choose to believe.

‘Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.’ (Matthew 11:29).

Suppers for those in Need

Our November meal was well supported with 29 guests enjoying a four course meal of soup, cottage pie, apple sponge and cheese/biscuits followed by tea/coffee. There was some lively conversation and our volunteers were kept busy; the evening was appreciated by everyone. Thankyou to our volunteers.

Our guests were informed in September that this was to be our last but one meal before we have our Christmas dinner on Saturday 3rd January which will bring to an end these events after some 30 years. Naturally, some are upset by this decision, others philosophical, but all grateful for the experiences shared with us. Some guests have been with us for a long time, others have only been coming recently, but they know they can visit the Food Hub on Wednesdays or the coffee mornings/light lunches on Fridays as a way of retaining a link with the church.

Please pray for all our guests during this festive season and beyond and for the preparations now being made for our Christmas meal in January.

Graham

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."

December

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
1 Toddlers 9.30-11.30 Small Hall	2 Bible Study Church Lounge 8.15pm	3 Food Hub 10.00-12pm Prayer at Home 9.30pm	4
8 Toddlers 9.30-11.30 Small Hall	9	10 Bible Study 9.45 Food Hub 10.00-12pm Prayer at Home 9.30pm	11
15 Toddlers 9.30-11.30 Small Hall	16 Bible Study Church Lounge 8.15pm	17 Food Hub 10.00-12pm Prayer at Home 9.30pm	18
22 Food Hub 10.00-12pm	23	24 Christmas Communion 9.30pm Revd Martin Legg	25 Christmas Day 10.30am Revd Martin Legg

2025

	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	5 Shoppers Coffee in the church With Lunch 10-2pm	6	7 Morning Communion 11.15am Mr Terry Silvey
	12 Shoppers Coffee in the church 10-12	13 Christmas tree Event Christ Church 10am to 45pm	14 Toy Service 11.15am Revd Ruth Dewis Evening service 9 Lesson & Carols 6pm St John's
	19 Shoppers Coffee in the church 10-11 Followed by Community Carols 11am	20	21 Morning service Christingle 11.15am Mrs Laura Marlow Evening Service Blue Christmas 4pm St John's
gg	26	27	28 Breakfast Service Christ Church 10.45am Revd Ruth Dewis

January

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
29	30	31	1
5 Toddlers 9.30-11.30 Small Hall	6	7 Bible Study 9.45 Food Hub 10.00-12pm Prayer at Home 9.30pm	8
12 Toddlers 9.30-11.30 Small Hall	13 Bible Study Church Lounge 8.15pm	14 Food Hub 10.00-12pm Prayer at Home 9.30pm	15
19 Toddlers 9.30-11.30 Small Hall Week of Prayer For Christian Unity	20	21 Food Hub Bible Study 9.45 10.00-12pm Prayer at Home 9.30pm	22
26 Toddlers 9.30-11.30 Small Hall	27 Bible Study Church Lounge 8.15pm	28 Food Hub 10.00-12pm Prayer at Home 9.30pm	29

2026

	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	2 Shoppers Coffee in the church 10-12	3	4 Morning Communion Epiphany 11.15am Revd Ruth Dewis
	9 Shoppers Coffee in the church With lunch 10-2pm	10	11 All Age service 11.15am Mrs Laura Marlow Evening service 6.30pm @ LR
	16 Shoppers Coffee in the church 10-12	17	18 Morning service 11.15am Revd Martin Legg Evening Worship Enfield Baptist Church 6.30pm
	23 Shoppers Coffee in the church With lunch 10-2pm	24	25 Morning Service 11.15am Mr Terry Silvey
	30 Shoppers Coffee in the church 10-12	31	1st Feb Morning Communion 11.15am Revd Martin Legg

Christmas @ Lancaster Road URC

You will receive a very warm welcome to any of our Christmas services and celebrations as we celebrate this season of Advent & Christmas together.

Sunday 7th December @ 11.15am

Communion Service

Sunday 14th December @ 11.15am

Family Toy Service.

We donate toys to support children and their families who attend the Cheviots Children's Service in Enfield

Friday 19th December @ 11 am

Community Carol Service

Come and join us to sing some favourite Christmas Carols followed by Mince Pies, coffee and tea.

Sunday 21st December @ 11.15am

Christingle Service

During the service we make a Christingle which represents the birth of Jesus and the Christian faith.

Wednesday 24th December @ 9.30pm

Christmas Communion Service

Christmas Morning @ 10.30 am

Celebrating the Gift of Christmas



Christmas Greetings

I wish you a Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.
May God's love be with you all.
Love Molly

Best wishes for Christmas and 2026.
It's been good to be back worshipping with you all face-to-face this year.
God Bless You All
From Marion

We wish you all a wonderful Christmas and a peaceful and very happy New Year.
Love Jon, Claire, Caitlyn and Benjamin

May God's blessings be with you and your families this Christmas and peace and good health for the New Year. Love from Clare and Tony

Psalm 98 v. 6b
Shout for joy to the Lord our King.
Christmas blessings to all
From Sue and Ken Hardy

Christmas Greetings and best wishes for a happy and peaceful New Year.
From Kate and family

To Our Church family.
Wishing you a blessed season of Advent a Happy Christmas and Peaceful New Year
The Legg Family

'May you all be blessed with a happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year,
With love from Laura, Chris and family
x'

Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas and a healthy and peaceful New Year.
Beryl and Paul

Wishing everyone a peaceful and enjoyable Christmas time
Marilyn and Graham

Wishing you all peace & joy at Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year
From Val & family x



Toy Service
December 14th @ 11.15am



Dear Friends,

We welcome you all to our 'All Age' Toy and Parade Service' which will be on Sunday December 14th at 11.15am and led by Rev'd Ruth Dewis.

Every year we hold a "Toy Service" when members of our Church and its organisations donate toys to support children and their families who are looked after by Cheviots School in Baker Street. These toys and gifts are always received with joy and thanks.

If you are able to donate this year, it would be greatly appreciated if the toys could be new or nearly new and preferably not soft toys. The children enjoy colourful, noisy, interactive toys and some of the older children enjoy gifts like hair ornaments and nail varnish.

Please leave them unwrapped so that the school can ensure that they are appropriate for the children's needs.

Thank you in advance, Clare

Further Adventures in Another European Extravaganza, part 6, aka Travels with My Daughter

The day had dawned to start to return to the UK, but first a long train journey, including an overnight stay, before Eurostar the following day.

Sam kindly gave Emma and I a lift to the nearest station for us to catch a train to Milan Porta Garibaldi, where we bought provisions to sustain us for a seven hour and forty minutes train journey to Paris. This route only reopened one day previously as it had been closed due to a landslide. A taxi, driven by a very friendly French speaking only Frenchman, took us to our self-contained Air BnB. Emma's eyes lit up at the sight of an Indian takeaway restaurant just around the corner. No such places where she is

living at present! The remainder of the provisions bought for our earlier train journey were enough for me! We spent a very comfortable night in accommodation that was the most expensive (and the best!) of our entire holiday. It was the only suitable apartment we could get, although Emma had been looking online for several days. But that's 'city life'. The holiday had been full of contrasts!

Not needing to rush in the morning, we found a boulangerie for those delicious French croissants – the French certainly know how to make them – and we enjoyed our last café au lait at a bistro close to the apartment. The most expensive coffees I have ever bought, but we were also paying for our 'very French' surroundings and atmospheric music, and it was the final morning of this 'European Extravaganza'! It was then time to collect our luggage and reluctantly walk to the Gare Du Nord for Eurostar to St Pancras where Chris met us for more coffees. Not the same as those in the Italian and French bistros, but good to see Chris again. On the underground, Chris and I had to say fond farewells/au revoir/arrivederci/ciao to Emma, who had to return to Italy that night!



Back home, I felt quite disorientated. In the last six months I had spent a month of 'learning curves' in France, Italy and Switzerland. I had great fun trying out my French (from schooldays) and lesser-known Italian languages (my efforts did seem to be appreciated by the locals!) I have seen sights and had experiences I never dreamed of! I cannot thank God enough for these privileges. They have all been a wonderful bonus. As for Paris – I enjoyed our evenings there more than the heightened activity of the days, and I did find it a very expensive city. Be prepared if you are visiting. Our taxi driver warned us that pickpockets are rife in the area!

Would I like to return to Europe and see more? The answer is 'yes' but I take nothing for granted. I thank God every morning that I am alive and know that He is with me. I try to take one day at a time, trusting in God and trying to make the best of every day.

Marion Burdett

Don't be scammed!

Here's some helpful tips for your internet and phone call safety.

NEVER give any details especially financial details over the phone – a bank/building society/government body will never ask for them.

- 1) Use strong passwords and avoid standard keyboard patterns. Use odd words and symbols for example: scrabble\$cow98*.
- 2) Guard personal information and be wary of unrealistic offers – if it sounds too good to be true it probably is.
- 3) Install reputable software. Never use someone's USB stick unless you know they are a reliable source.
- 4) Use privacy settings on social media sites and avoid posting personal information. Never share that you are on holiday for example, you could be telling the burglar you are away. Share your photos on your return when people know the house is no longer empty.
- 5) Be cautious of phishing scams – the ones that ask you to do something for them or appear to be from a utility company, for example.
- 6) Report cyber abuse – if you realise you have been scammed for money also ring your bank IMMEDIATELY.
- 7) Do not click on a link in emails from people you do not know. The links are how they spread computer viruses.
- 8) Ignore unsolicited phone calls and pop-up windows on the screen
- 9) Avoid buying and sharing information from/with unsecured sites
- 10) Consider using a password manager to keep your passwords safe.

ENFIELD AND EAST HERTFORDSHIRE LOCAL AREA GROUP

Elders' Training & 'Away Day'

URC Broxbourne

Saturday 15th November 2025

Led by Dr Alison Gray

"Opening our hands, hearts and minds to listen and learn from God and from one another."

23 Elders gathered at the URC Broxbourne representing all 10 churches in the LAG. There were 11 Elders present from our pastorate, 5 from our church.

The event is open to all serving and non-serving Elders. This was the fourth Elders event organised by the LAG. There were three sessions led by Dr Alison Gray. There was also a meditation led by Alison and the opportunity for some to enjoy a contemplative guided walk prepared by Alison. The aim of these events is bring Elders together from across the LAG to support, encourage and develop their ministry as leaders in the church. The event was supported by our Synod Training & Development Officer, Julian Templeton.

Below are some photos of the day.



Martin
Revd Martin Legg
Enfield & East Hertfordshire LAG

Let us in 2026 learn from Jesus rather than from all that the world throws at us. I would imagine most people will delight in the thought that we can find rest for our souls in this busy world we find ourselves in.

May I wish you a blessed Christmas time and that the New Year bring you good health. May the Lord pour fresh blessings on you and those you love this Christmas time. May He hold you in his loving arms so the plans he has for you in 2026 are fulfilled.

God bless, Ruth.

Dear all

Trinity are holding another Taize service on Thursday, 4th December, 7.30pm.

You are very welcome to attend this quiet service of song, silence and contemplation for the Advent season.

With all good wishes

Hilary Luckcock

Trinity Church

Duty Elders for January 2026

Date	11.15am	Notes	6.30pm	Notes
4 th 11 th	Clare/Graham Beryl	<i>Holy Communion All Age</i>		
18 th 25 th	Chris Graham			<i>@Enf. Baptist Church</i>

Flower Rota

December 7th Mary and Terry Dawson for their Wedding Anniversary

14th Brian Page in memory of Rudolph

21st -----

28th -----

January 2026

4th Marilyn and Graham Carlisle in memory of Norma

11th Jim Holliday for Mavis's birthday

18th -----

25th -----

**Youth & Childrens work Activities
In the Church Hall Armfield Road.**

Toddler group – 0-4 yrs

Monday morning 9.30 – 11.30am. Just come along, refreshments provided.

Boys Brigade and Girls Association (boys and girls) – 5 – 11 yrs.

Monday 6.15 – 7.30 pm.

Contact Vivienne Legg 1stenfieldbb@gmail.com

5th Enfield Rainbows - Girls 4-7y rs -

Thursday 5.30pm - 6.30pm :

Contact Sumita Biswas 5thenfieldrainbows@gmail.com

5th Enfield Brownies - Girls 7-10 yrs -

Thursday 6.15pm - 7.45pm

Contact Mary Dawson 5enfieldbrownies@googlemail.com

5th Enfield Guides - Girls 10-14 yrs

Thursday 7pm—8.30pm

Contact Allison Duggal guides5thenfield@hotmail.co.uk

5th Enfield Rangers - Girls 14-18 yrs

Thursday 7pm—8.30pm

Contact Nansi Ellis guides5thenfield@hotmail.co.uk

YPCF – 5 -11 yrs **Sunday 11.15 – 12.15 (in the church).**

Contact Chris Marlow ypcf@lrurc.org.uk

Who to Contact

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